

THE GOVERNORS EXCHANGE

2021 ISSUE #2



UPDATES FROM OUR BOARD

LEEDS COMMUNITY
SUPPORT GROUP
LAUNCHED

STAFF AND STUDENT
SPOTLIGHTS

TRUST WIDE PROJECTS

EMPOWERING YOUNG
PEOPLE TO LEAD
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION



OUR SHARED PURPOSE AS THE LUMINATE EDUCATION GROUP IS DEFINED THROUGH THE WORK OF ALL OUR STAFF EVERY DAY.

The White Rose Academies Trust is a member of Luminate Education Group. Together, the academies (Leeds City Academy, Leeds East Academy, Leeds West Academy and Alder Tree Primary) provide education to almost 4,000 4-16 year olds in Leeds. The Trust employs over 500 staff and has an annual turnover of £23 million.

Luminate Education Group also consists of Harrogate College, Keighley College, Leeds City College, Leeds Conservatoire, Leeds Sixth Form College and University Centre. It is one of the largest education providers in the Yorkshire region, with over 30,000 students and 2,000 staff members, offering education from Early Years through to Higher Education. The members work together to provide the best opportunities and experiences for students that are aligned to local needs and inclusive for all. The group has now established itself as 'a leading voice in education, training and community transformation'.

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WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD



HELENA PHILLIPS
Chair of the Board

A warm welcome to the second edition of the Governors Exchange.

Over the past two years, Governors have been largely limited to holding meetings online and working remotely. Thankfully, recent meetings have been in person with us emerging from behind our closed doors. We are hoping we will be able to visit our academies in the New Year to talk with students and teachers, as well as see some of the new developments on site.

An important activity for Governors and our leadership team is refreshing the Trust's strategic plan. Recently our Board took part in a strategy development session which reflected on the Trust's vision and Luminare Education Group's strategic plan and started to explore some initial thoughts about our high-level priorities. It is vital our plan reflects the ambitions and aspirations of our Trust and as a document, is clear in setting out our overall goals and what we need to do to achieve them. We will be engaging with our Governors, staff, students, and other stakeholders to capture their views and will share progress about the plan's development as it comes together.

In this issue we are promoting Governor opportunities. If you know anyone who is looking to take up a voluntary position and would like to join us, please do encourage them to get in touch to find out more. We are a vibrant and progressive Trust, and our Governors really benefit from the experience and personal development these roles provide.

Lastly, as we enter the festive season, I just wanted to wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

WHAT IS GOVERNANCE?

Strong and effective governance is a vital element in the running of any successful Trust and individual academies. Those governing at Trust Board (Directors) and local academy level (Governors) are informed and empowered to operate in a transparent and ethical environment.

Our Directors and Governors have the same three core responsibilities which are:

- overseeing financial performance and making sure money is well spent
- holding leaders to account for educational performance
- ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

THE OPPORTUNITY

We are seeking special individuals to join us, bringing their skills, experience and passion to contribute to the next stage of our extremely exciting and rewarding journey. We celebrate the diverse nature of our very special communities and are keen for our governance structures to reflect the communities in which our academies sit.

We are interested in hearing from people who:

- are self-motivated and organised;
- enjoy working as part of an inclusive and supportive team;
- are passionate about improving the life chances for young people.

You don't need any specific skills or experience to be a Director or Governor. You must be over 18, but you don't need to be a parent or have experience working in education. Often, it's the outside perspective you can bring that we need.

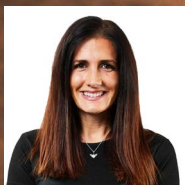
WANT TO BECOME A GOVERNOR?

Volunteering to be a Director or Governor is a challenging but hugely rewarding role. As a Director/Governor you have the ability to transform the lives of young people whilst developing further skills and widening your experience.

We are often looking for new Directors/Governors, so if you would like any further information or would like to be added onto our waiting list, please email info@whiteroseacademies.org.

THE ROLE OF A GOVERNANCE CLERK

Ever-increasing responsibility and freedom



SAM CORBETT
CLERK TO THE TRUST BOARD

A coupling of higher expectations for the role of governance in the education system, along with the DfE's vision that effective governance in every school and trust should be the first line of accountability, a governance clerk's remit has pivoted somewhat.

That pivot, strictly speaking, looks to move a clerk's focus from administration to that of a 'governance professional' – especially in the context of a Trust like ourselves.

So what is a governance professional and how do they sit within that Multi Academy Trust hierarchy? To deduce, they, in their own respective right, operate as leaders and offer a bridge between strategy and operations across all of the academies within the Trust.

An accessible and ever-visible figure, a governance clerk will position themselves as someone who has frequent dialogue with other members of the Trust's central team and the CEO, as well as the chair of trustees and academy committee chairs.

This is ultimately a role with great freedom and, at the same time, responsibility, given the impact a trust-wide governance professional can have when it comes to maintaining, but also enhancing the consistency of practice in each academy which is part of the White Rose Academies Trust family.





Q&A

WITH ANNIE MCMASTER

Annie McMaster serves as Chair of Governors at our newly launched Alder Tree Primary; the first primary to join our Trust.

Q: Annie, can you tell us why you chose to serve as a Governor and why did you choose the White Rose Academies Trust?

A: I had just retired, and I was asked if I was interested in getting involved. Having been asked, I then tried to find out more about the WRAT and the more I learnt the more I liked. I was apprehensive about taking on the chair role as I don't have an education background. However, I do have other skills that I thought could be useful and I fervently believe that if we get education right for our children then it can set them up for life and make a real difference to them, their family, their community, and our society.

Q: Have you served on other charity boards and what experience did this enable you to bring to the White Rose Academies Trust?

A: I have previously chaired the Board at PATH Yorkshire which is a fantastic organisation promoting employment for people from BAME communities. I'm currently a non-executive director for Leeds and Yorkshire Housing Association – another amazing organisation which provides social housing, mainly in Leeds. Finally, I am an active member of the Leeds Club of Soroptimist International – an amazing organisation that works to improve the position for women across the world. Between all of these you can see that I have a passion for equity, and believe fairness, housing and education will solve everything!

Q: Our community would love to read about your career to date and how you use this experience on the board.

A: My early background is in HR working for both large (BT) and small organisations (Full Employ). In the 90's I started work with Leeds City Council in HR and moved into more performance management and service development. These roles covered a very wide variety of topics including, among other things, risk management, complaints, safeguarding, and equality. Just before I retired, I led an aspect of the work to ensure that those effected by the Covid-19 pandemic were supported. All these experiences are useful for the board, as is having a can do and flexible approach. I am used to turning my hand to most things and always try to learn and listen to others.

Q: Can you describe your memories of school and the value you place, personally, on formal education?

A: I hated school! I was at an all girl's grammar, had to study Latin and other, to me, irrelevant subjects. I now appreciate Latin is useful in many ways, and I envy other people's ability to understand language, firmly rooted in knowledge of Latin and grasp of grammar. Hindsight is a wonderful thing.

I think the value of education is not so much in the formal subjects taught but in the softer skills, around behaviours, about valuing and respecting others; understanding how the world works and how to navigate that. If we can instil social intelligence, emotional intelligence, and resilience in our children then life will be much more fulfilling and everyone, from all walks of life, will have a better opportunity to achieve their personal potential.

Q: What do you enjoy about serving as a Governor?

A: I am enjoying learning about a new sector and getting to know all the people involved – all are passionate about what they do and keen to make a difference in the lives of young people. It is great to feel a part of that.

Q: Annie, what hobbies do you have?

A: I am very proud of my Welsh heritage and have done, and keep doing, lots of work to try and better understand my ancestry. It's fascinating learning about past lives, how people lived and what might have been.

Retirement has seen me looking at my garden, particularly as Covid has put paid to my ambitions to travel. I went to Japan a few years ago, and as I can't travel there at the moment; I have constructed what is loosely a Japanese garden. Clearly, doing what a retiree is supposed to do – gardening.

Q: Finally, why do you believe that other professionals, should seek to serve on an education board or local school governing body?

A: I don't think that this is something that only people who consider themselves as professionals should consider. Lots of people have significant skills and experiences that are important to helping us get the best for our children. I would encourage anyone, however they would describe themselves, to think about joining. We need to have people from a wide variety of backgrounds to get involved so that we are more innovative and creative and representative of society as a whole. I don't believe it is necessarily about a profession or educational qualifications, but more about being curious so that you can ask questions and be committed to improving things for our children.

ANNIE MCMASTER

Chair of Governors at Alder Tree Primary

THE FIRST TERM OF 2021/2022

The first term of the 2021/22 academic year has been very successful and we owe this to the fantastic attitudes of our staff and students who have adapted so well to being back in our academies full time. The first term has seen:

- our Year 6 pupils at Alder Tree Primary attend an exciting residential to the Lake District.
- our Leeds City Academy students amaze and inspire their peers and staff members as they showcased their incredible Black History Month performance.
- Leeds East Academy opened their doors to the community as they hosted their core values (Resilience, Integrity, Trust and Ambition) launch event.
- the expansion of Leeds West Academy is well under way which will increase the potential capacity of the academy to over 1,500 places and subsequently making LWA one of the biggest 11-16 secondary academies in Leeds.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?



Our Empower cohorts from LCA, LWA and LEA came together to take part in another inspirational session, which was led by transformation specialist, Charlotte De Curtis!



Neil from High Performance Learning visited both LEA and LCA to deliver the term one, session one of HPL to Middle Leaders and Drive Teams. He spent two full days at each academy meeting with teachers, conducting lesson observations and facilitating twilight sessions. Thank you, Neil!



It was fantastic to see so many faces at our Leeds Community Support Group Networking Forum! We are excited to hear how the organisations who were in attendance will be working together to ensure the community of Leeds can thrive and grow.



STAFF AND STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

It was a pleasure to meet with Grace and Love, Alumni Members, at Leeds City Academy. Mr Whitaker, CEO, and Mr Chattoe, LCA Principal, loved to hear of Grace and Love's accomplishments and their successful start to their post-16 studies.



We sent our congratulations to the Chair of the Luminate Education Group, Dr Shaid Mahmood, who has secured a role as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) at Durham University! All the best, Shaid.



We asked staff from across the White Rose Academies Trust to give us their views on what Black History Month means to them.

SOCIAL SETTING



WHITE ROSE YEAR 11 STUDENT MOVES ON TO FURTHER ACADEMIC ASPIRATIONS

It was a joy to meet with Fredlin, Alumni Member, at Leeds City Academy. Mr Whitaker, CEO, and Mr Chattoe, Principal, loved to hear of Fredlin's accomplishments as they presented him with a gift to support him with his post-16 studies at GSAL.



IMMERSIVE INDUSTRIAL PLACEMENT PROGRAMME

2018 saw the White Rose Academies Trust introduce their Internship Programme, enabling university students to work within the Central Trust Team on their Industrial Placement year.

The placement is an invaluable opportunity which immerses students into a professional working environment, enabling them to gain practical experience in their future career field before graduating from university.

Throughout the year, each Industrial Placement student learns about, and has significant impact on, a variety of specialist projects and improvements, supporting the future generation of students within the Trust to receive an outstanding education.

Emily Hare and Hannah Moore (photographed) celebrated as they graduated from university with first-class degrees following their industrial placement with the White Rose Academies Trust.



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GREENING THE CURRICULUM

In November 2021, the UK hosted an event many believed to be the world's best and last chance to get runaway climate change under control.

At Alder Tree Primary Academy, we felt inspired and compelled to take action; to ensure that our children are capable of taking on the 21st century challenges of global warming and climate change, social inequities, unsustainable lifestyles, and the urgent need to switch to a renewable energy-based economy.

To support us in achieving this aim, Alder Tree Primary reached out to Eco-Schools to register interest and start its journey to achieving Green Flag status. Eco-Schools began in 1994 and it is the largest educational programme on the planet (there are currently 70 countries delivering the Eco-Schools Programme around the world). The Eco-Schools Programme focuses on empowering young people to lead environmental education and action in their school, local community and beyond. It does this by providing a simple, seven-step framework that turns pupils into forward-thinking, decision-making planet-protectors.

There are multiple reasons why we have decided to embark on the journey to Eco-Schools Green Flag. Firstly, our planet (and all life on it) is already beginning to feel the catastrophic effects of climate change, plastic pollution, biodiversity loss and a myriad of other environmental challenges. We want our pupils to be aware of the challenges our planet faces and will continue to face throughout their lifetimes. We don't want our pupils to avoid or shy-away from these challenges: we want to engage young people in conversations about them and

we want to provide them with the skills needed to tackle these challenges directly. Our hope is that by doing this we will empower our pupils with the passion and skills to protect our planet now and throughout their lifetimes, including as they grow to become leaders, decision-makers, and educators themselves. Alongside benefitting our planet, we also hope it will benefit our pupils - independent research has found that pupil participation in the Eco-Schools Programme leads to: increased confidence, development of leadership skills, improved behaviour and greater motivation at school. We also anticipate it will help our school, it is proven Eco-Schools consume less water, use less energy, and produce less waste, creating financial savings for schools which can then be spent on important educational resources.

We are very excited to begin our journey in becoming a Green Flag school. On the 26th November we appealed to the children of Alder Tree Primary to join the Eco-Committee so that they can take ownership of not only their schools' eco-footprint, but also in protecting our planet in years to come.



RACHEL SHARPLES
Trust Vice Principal





FANTASTIC RESPONSE TO RECENT LEEDS CITY ACADEMY OPEN EVENING!



Wednesday 20th October saw us host a very successful and prosperous open evening here at Leeds City Academy.

As always, it is our students, parents, carers and wider school community that make these events what they are, and we thank you for your continued support.

Reflecting on the evening, where we heard from Principal, Richard Chattoe, as well as seeing our fantastic student ambassadors being on hand to offer help to visitors, we have nothing but positivity to share.

It's great to hear that so many of you garnered so much from the evening and we have picked out some parental feedback that best encapsulates the mood amongst those who attended.

“Brilliant – such wonderful and engaged staff. Thank you!”

• • • • •

“It was wonderful. Thank you all very, very much!”

• • • • •

“I am speechless about how organised the evening was!”

• • • • •

“The Principal’s address to parents and students was fabulous. As a carer I have attended many open evenings, and I must say this is one of the best and most reassuring I have attended. His talks were focused on our children and not stats and reports.”

• • • • •

“The student ambassadors were fantastic. Well done!”



LCSG



LEEDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP NETWORKING FORUM LAUNCHED!



The Leeds Community Support Group was initially set up by the White Rose Academies Trust during the first lockdown, as a way of virtually bringing charities together to ensure they were receiving the support they required in order to, in turn, support our students, their families and our local communities, such as with food hampers, rent payments and so on.

The group was also used as a platform to ensure that not all the charities were providing the same service – we did hear that many families were receiving food hampers from three or four different organisations so were inundated with food but were unable to pay their rent and therefore at risk of becoming homeless.

With over twenty charities becoming members of the Group, it was decided that meeting face to face would be more beneficial. Tuesday 23rd November saw the launch of the Leeds Community Support Group Networking Forum. The Forum will meet termly each year and will bring the charities and businesses of Leeds together for presentations, lunch and networking.

Our first event was attended by over 70 people including the Lord Mayor of Leeds, the CEO of Leeds Bradford Airport, and many other businesses and charities who discussed how they could work together to better support the community of Leeds. Attendees enjoyed lunch which was served by Deeva Indian restaurant. The next event will take place on 10th March 2022 from 12.15pm until 3pm and we look forward to seeing this forum grow and flourish over the coming months. If you would like more information or would like to become a charity or business member, please email Alice Ryan, Project Lead at Ryan.A@whiteroseacademies.org.

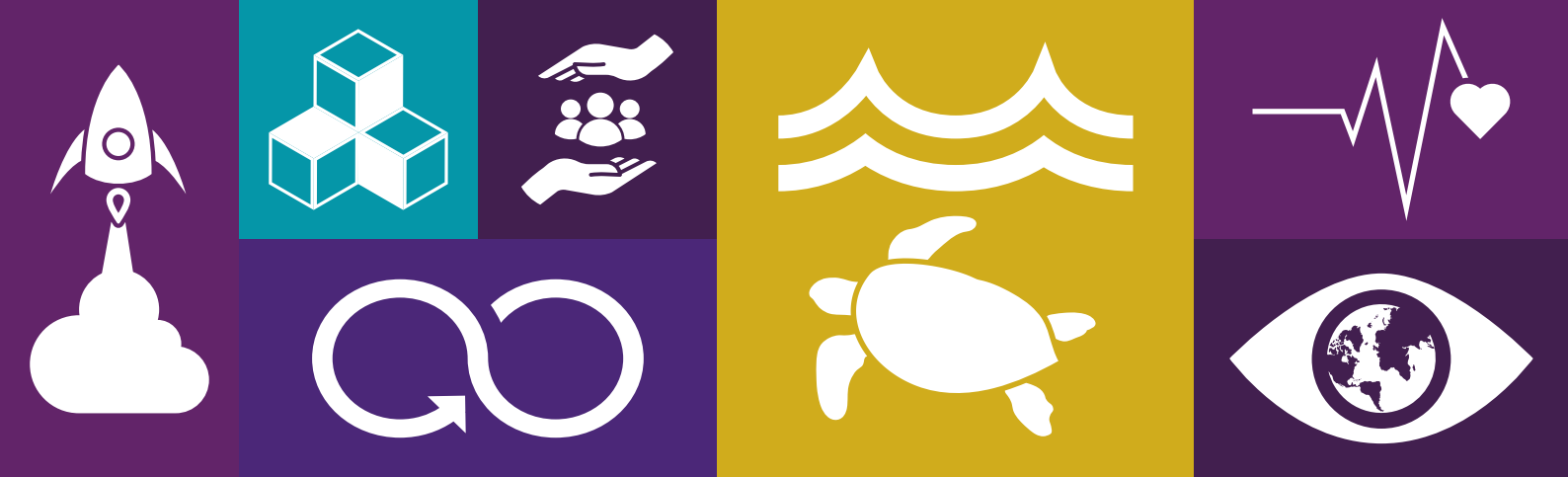




CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AT THE WHITE ROSE ACADEMIES TRUST

ABBY NEVE
Trust Project Officer





Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is something that has entered mainstream business strategy planning in recent years, and this was certainly amplified by the pandemic. At the White Rose Academies Trust, I think it is fair to say that the nature of our work means that we have always understood the importance of social action. The very essence of the work we do is centred around improving the lives of our young people, who often face many challenges.

Earlier this year we appointed a team to lead our CSR Action Plan. This was an important decision: while we always understood the importance of our social responsibility, we also recognise that we can always do more to help our students, our staff, our communities, and our planet. As a Multi-Academy Trust, we are in a unique position of influence over our communities, educating over 3500 students. With representatives from the Trust and each of our academies, the team are working together to emulate the best practices and great initiatives that are happening already across the Trust.

Our students often face many hardships: around 50% of our students are pupil premium. Therefore, we have a responsibility as the educators of these students to ensure that their all-round wellbeing

is taken care of. This means supporting the organisations that support their families. We have worked alongside both Hamara and Vulnerable Citizen Support to stock the food banks supporting our communities and worked in partnership with other local charities and businesses.

Set up during the pandemic, our Leeds Community Support Group is something that we are proud of, with over 20 member charities working together to support the communities in Leeds.

In light of COP26, we found that we had a responsibility to act and to improve our environmental impact. Our team identified our green strategy as one of our weaknesses. We are working to devise a solid and extensive plan on how to reduce our carbon emissions and reach Net Zero as soon as possible. We are introducing new content into our curriculums, teaching students about sustainability. We have planted trees, created sustainable shops and gardens, and engaged in debate. But we still have a long way to go.

This is an exciting time for CSR in the Trust. From combatting period poverty to collecting clothes for refugees, we are proud of the work happening in our schools.



LEEDS WEST ACADEMY'S EXPANSION

Leeds West Academy in Rodley to build new classrooms and facilities as it increases capacity to 1,500 students.

Leeds West Academy, part of the White Rose Academies Trust, has seen a surge in terms of its popularity in recent years, following a year-on-year improvement in results and 'Good' judgement from Ofsted in May 2019.

As a community-focused organisation, Leeds West Academy have developed expansion plans through active engagement with the community.

Year groups which, five years ago, had under 200 pupils, now have around 300 and, with over 650 preferences for the 300 Year 7 places last year, the popularity of the academy continues to soar. As a result of this demand for places, Leeds City Council agreed to increase the capacity of each respective year group from 240 to 300 and have agreed to invest in a £5 million expansion. This investment will create a new extended canteen to accommodate up to 900 students, as well as six new classrooms and an additional science lab.

“Leeds West Academy is a school whose successes are always built upon the strength of our community. and we are delighted that to support our increasing popularity, we are able to add further additions to our facilities.”

Dan Whieldon, Principal



Alongside the expansion of the academy's already first-class facilities, there is also a proposal for an all-weather floodlit pitch to support all year-round outdoor curriculum delivery as well as provide an exciting letting facility to support local community teams and groups.

Commenting on the expansion, Dan Whieldon, Leeds West Academy Principal said: "Leeds West Academy is a school whose successes are always built upon the strength of our community and we are delighted that to support our increasing popularity, we are able to add further additions to our facilities."

The expansion work is due to be complete by Summer 2022 – increasing the potential capacity of the academy to over 1,500 places and subsequently making Leeds West Academy one of the biggest 11-16 secondary academies in Leeds.



EPIC LAKE DISTRICT ADVENTURE FOR YEAR 6 PUPILS



Immediately following the Autumn half term break, Alder Tree Primary's Year 6 pupils embarked upon an epic adventure in the Lake District. Staying at the Ghyll Head Outdoor Activity Centre on the banks of Lake Windermere, the group of two classes and seven staff spent five days taking on a multitude of exciting challenges (including whose turn it was to wash up from meals!). The students had the entire complex to themselves and acquitted Alder Tree Primary excellently, with feedback from the centre's own staff being extremely complimentary.

Activities were wide in variety and wowed students and staff at every turn, especially as the weather decided to co-operate, which made a big difference. Students tried their hand at canoeing across Lake Windermere, fell-walking - up and across the mountains, river walking (a big favourite),

coasteering around Humphrey Head overlooking Morecambe Bay, zip-wiring, climbing, orienteering, caving and much more. In the evenings, the adventure was toned down a little, with students found sitting around a camp fire, exploring the woods or engaging in a talent contest.

Needless to say, the whole experience was transformative - with students still basking in the glow of the trip some weeks later. One student commenting that he had asked his Mum if he could go back to Ghyll Head for his birthday! The hope now is that the planned units of study in Year 6 (Rivers and Swallows and Amazons) can be accessed with much more context since the students have been to the Lakes and seen it all for themselves! Lucky them!



EMPOWER
own your future

EMPOWER PROGRAMME OFF TO A GREAT START!

Launched fully in September 2021, Empower is a programme that will enable our young women to be strong-minded, brave, influential leaders who are proud of who they are.

The programme's first term has been an overwhelming success, and we can't wait to reap the benefits moving forward.



ALICIA MANNERS
Empower Lead

It is such an honor to lead on the Empower programme and watch the confidence of our young women continue to grow. Providing a platform for them to freely talk about the worries and issues they face as young women is so important to them, but it is also rewarding to be able to put this in place and listen to them voice their opinions on the challenges that society can bring. As a leader of this programme, I endeavor to provide as many experiences as I can for our girls. I am excited to be collaborating with the Luminate Education Group and putting plans in place as part of this experience, so watch this space!



Leeds City Academy

CARYS WOODS
Leeds City Empower Delivery Team

Over the first half-term, the LCA Empower cohort have tackled a huge range of issues including self-esteem, gender inequality, challenging stereotypes and sexual harassment, alongside many more. To see the passion these students have to fight the inequalities and challenges women face has been incredibly humbling and to see their confidence grow alongside this has been wonderful. Many of these students joined Empower with little confidence to answer questions in lessons or even compliment themselves.



Leeds East Academy

SARAH STEEL

Leeds East Empower Delivery Team

It has been incredible watching the cohorts engage and enjoy the different sessions across the three academies. Female empowerment is an important issue and one that would ensure all females can guarantee they have the life skills to be successful in their future. Each session has focused on issues that females face and through discussion work they have developed confidence to trust each other and become a strong team. They have recently been featured on Look North and BBC's Radio 5 Live for their work on period poverty and they are becoming strong leaders who are quickly developing into empowering young ladies!



Leeds West Academy

KELLY PEARCE

Leeds West Empower Delivery Team

It has been incredible to be part of the Empower team here at LWA, and to see the huge improvements in the students' confidence and self-esteem has been so heartwarming. Our sessions have been a safe space for many of the girls to attend and share their views on a range of difficult topics. As a cohort we have been able to tackle many negative female stereotypes and share ideas of good practice on how to overcome adversities in a safe and positive way, such as challenging harassment and ideas surrounding self-esteem and body image. I cannot wait to see the continued progress of our students from Empower, as they are turning into empowered and empowering, strong young women.

CORE VALUES LAUNCH AT LEEDS EAST ACADEMY

Leeds East Academy's Core Values Launch a Resounding Success!

November saw us host our Core Values Launch at Leeds East Academy, with the event proving to be extremely popular amongst students, parents and all attendees.

The evening commenced with a ceremony to celebrate those eighty students who have achieved their Resilience Award, before parents and students were given the opportunity to meet with local charities, community support groups and businesses.

In addition, Vice Principal, Lisa Clark also spoke about the subject of teenage brain development, in a presentation which placed an emphasis on teenage mental health and how parents and children can support each other during this important part in their development.

As a school, we were delighted to see so many happy faces, and we want to thank everyone who attended and each individual who supported us with this wonderful and purposeful event.

Below, we've picked out a selection of comments from those parents who attended



"The best day ever"

"The event was very educational and I had an amazing experience. The goody bags were a nice touch."

"The services were informative and the information given was supportive. The presentation was amazing and helped students to understand rules."



WHITE ROSE ACADEMIES

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO CHILDREN'S EDUCATION?

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The White Rose Academies
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Education Group

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MESSAGE FROM THE LAB CLERK

On behalf of the LCA LAB, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the second edition of the newsletter. We have many exciting updates from the academy to share, so without further ado, why don't we use this as a chance to reflect on a hugely successful and prosperous term for Leeds City Academy.

In October, we were delighted to host a very successful open evening, where parents and students alike, came together to celebrate our academy's unique ethos' and values.

More recently, the Leeds Community Support Group Networking Forum held its inaugural event at our academy and, we could not be happier to have had so many auspicious guests in attendance, including the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Councillor Asghar Khan.

November also saw us welcome Councillors: Al Garthwaite, Jonathan Pryor and Neil Walshaw to Leeds City Academy. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students, who felt fortunate to have the opportunity for their voices to be heard, and we would like to extend our thanks to all three respective Councillors who took their time to visit!

I am sure you will share my optimism as we enter 2022 and, I can't wait to see the continuous development which persists amongst both our student and staff bodies.

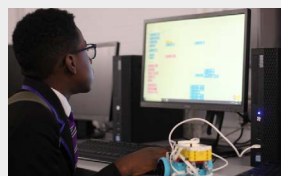
VICKI REYNOLDS

Clerk to the Local Accountability Board (LAB)
for Leeds City Academy

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?



We welcomed our LCA bus leaders. They have been setting the standard for all our students on our buses and ensuring our high expectations are met!



In Peak Performance, students in Lego Robotics have been using coding and building their own robots!



Our 'Raising Aspirations' students got to celebrate and reflect on all the hard work they put in for their 'Raising Aspirations' project last year.



STAFF AND STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to Jana, who has received the 'Year Manager Award' for Year 7.



Congratulations to Junior, who has received the 'Year Manager Award' for Year 10.



It was wonderful to see our staff dressed in yellow to support Young Minds UK on #WorldMentalHealthDay!



SOCIAL SETTING



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Year 10 produced an amazing piece of work for their #BlackHistoryMonth performance, sharing important messages in celebration of black history.



LEEDS CITY COLLEGE WORKSHOPS

Leeds City Academy students had the opportunity to take part in practical workshops hosted by Leeds City College.



UK PARLIAMENT VISIT LEEDS CITY ACADEMY

Lynn Hobson – Senior Community Outreach and Engagement Officer for the Houses of Parliament visited Leeds City Academy, and ran a session with students focusing on UK Parliament!



MESSAGE FROM THE LAB CHAIR

I have just started my third year as Chair of Governors and while the role is challenging it is greatly rewarding.

In my day job I have a huge focus on diversity and inclusion and my passion for this extends into the academy, where I firmly believe we are all individuals with our own strengths to be nurtured and developed.

My aim is to help and support the academy in providing the resources and teaching to allow all our students to become the best version of themselves.

Now there is no doubt that the past 18 months of lockdown have presented very new and different challenges. It has been a learning curve discovering the needs of some of our young people and ensuring the correct measures are in place to ensure safeguarding of everyone involved with the academy.

During the past year I have taken time to meet individually with the other members of the governing body; staff, parents, and local business representatives to understand all views and ensure every voice is heard.

I am looking forward to getting back into the academy more in the upcoming months to be able to meet with our students and hear how they have coped during lockdown and what we can learn from the experience to improve going forward.

MARGARET PARKES

Chair of the Local Accountability Board (LAB) for Leeds East Academy
Board Director, White Rose Academies Trust

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?



Team Integrity won the recent inter-house basketball tournament. They scored the most hoops and came top of the leader board!



To help the community over the festive period we launched the 'Christmas Appeal' and asked for donations such as toys, hygiene products, scarves and gloves, so that we can provide gifts to those in need at Christmas.



Students and staff played their part in BBC Children in Need by fundraising and also sharing happiness through the writing of postcards!



STAFF AND STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



A huge congratulations to our students who came second in the Goldsmiths' Community Engagement Award!



Well done to the eighty students who received the #Resilience Award at our recent Core Values Launch event!



Our Maths department have been looking at ways to introduce the Sustainable Development Goals into their lessons to support our journey to becoming a Global School.



SOCIAL SETTING



HALLOWSCREAM

We want to send a huge well done to those students who achieved 100% attendance, with them being subsequently rewarded with a HallowScream event.



GREENER CAREERS

We were delighted to attend an exciting event to promote careers in the green sector with Ahead Partnership and Leeds City Council, which took place to coincide with the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26).



Q&A WITH LOCAL MP

Our Student Parliament had a question-and-answer session with their local MP, Richard Burgon. They discussed their manifestos, how to launch effective petitions as well as important issues that we need to tackle in the community.



MESSAGE FROM THE LAB CHAIR

Welcome to this second edition of the newsletter. I can't believe how quickly the time has gone and how much has happened in the academy since the last edition. Firstly, I would like to congratulate our students on great results this year despite the challenges for both staff and students who, because of the pandemic, experienced very different ways of learning and assessing last summer.

I am very proud of our GCSE students in particular and governors will want to know how well they are doing in the next step of their education and working journey.

Plans are progressing for the extension of Leeds West Academy, to welcome additional students next September, and which will include new classrooms, a new science lab, extended dining arrangements and a new sports pitch for use by the local community as well as the academy.

The LWA governors have had their first meeting of the academic year. Myself and Natasha Armitage-Evans remain as Chair and Vice Chair, and we have governors with special responsibilities in place for Safeguarding, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, Careers, Quality of Education, Closing the Gap, High Performance Learning, Leadership and Management, Health and Safety, and Personal Development. You can find us all on the website, so do get in touch if you would like more information, if you have questions, or if you want to have a discussion about anything.

CAROLINE GRUEN

Chair of the Local Accountability Board (LAB) for Leeds West Academy.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?



Two groups of Year 10 Photography students visited leading video production company and photography studio, Powerhouse. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and gained a lot of valuable knowledge!



Staff came together and wore pink to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month.



Students showed immense passion throughout rehearsals for our 'Rock of Ages' school musical!



STAFF AND STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Congratulations to Abdallah, Year 7, who was recognised as Student of the Week.



A huge congratulations to our Year 11 Rugby Team, who won the Year 11 Leeds and Hunslet Schools Plate!



We are very proud of Mr Kelly, who recently received the Employee of the Month award.



SOCIAL SETTING



LEEDS MODERNIANS SPONSORSHIP

The White Rose Academies Trust and Leeds West Academy are delighted to be sponsoring Leeds Modernians U10 Boys Football Team!



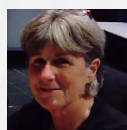
SHAWN MARIE HARDY INSPIRED ARTWORK

In Art, Year 8 students have been focusing on artist Shawn Marie Hardy, who has ADHD. Students discussed how creating art can be difficult for people with ADHD as well as everyday struggles and created a collage dreamscape piece inspired by Shawn.



KAGAN STRUCTURES

Students have been demonstrating great empathy skills through Kagan Structures in lessons and extra-curricular clubs.



MESSAGE FROM THE LAB CHAIR

I am continually delighted each time I go into school and see the children learning and enjoying their experience. There are always new challenges that Mrs Burton, as the Principal, and staff are all rising to which will improve outcomes and meet the individual needs of all children in the school.

We came together as a governing body in January this year. We continue to get to know each other better and are pleased to be welcoming two new members on to the governing body in December. Together we will make a strong team that will challenge, support, and benefit the school.

ANNIE MCMASTER

Chair of the Local Accountability Board (LAB) for Alder Tree Primary

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?



Children and staff spent Green Jumper Day thinking about the environment and what we can do to protect our planet.



Reception had an amazing time at their trip to Ledston! We built little houses for our pebble people and went on a trail to discover which animal stole the nut from the squirrel.



Nursery made chocolate apples ahead of Bonfire Night!



STAFF AND STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



We wanted to thank Mrs Goody for all that she does, after she recently was recognised with our Staff Star of the Week award!



Jacob in Year 3 won four trophies at the #UKADance Premier Festival at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool. Well done Jacob, we are so proud of you!

To mark the start of #AntiBullyingWeek, pupils and staff mixed up their socks as part of #OddSocksDay!

SOCIAL SETTING



CANDLELIGHTERS

We are delighted to announce that our chosen charity for the year is Candlelighters; a Yorkshire children's cancer charity who do life-changing work to support families through the most unimaginably challenging time.



HALLOWEEN FAIR

As part of their learning, our Year 3 children created food and games stalls, before inviting children and parents to their fair. The Year 3 children worked the stalls and everybody loved it. Well done!



HILL TOP PARK VISIT

The golden learners got to plant some daffodil bulbs at the new play area in Hill Top Park. We had a great time planting and even had hot chocolate, as well as testing out the new play area!



EDUCATION NATION



GCSE AND A-LEVEL GRADES KEY DATES AND GUIDANCE

Here is a summary of the key dates related to the grading of GCSE's and A-Levels:

18 AUGUST:

Results Day: A/AS Levels and relevant other Level 3.

25 AUGUST:

Results Day: GCSE and relevant other Level 2.

You can also find a summary of the government guidance on assessed grades at:

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/gcses-and-a-levels-2021-8-things-you-need-to-know-from-grades-guidance/>





8TH FEBRUARY 2022
SAFER INTERNET DAY:
Safer Internet Day promotes both the positive use of digital technology, as well as the potential dangers children and young people need to look out for.



3RD MARCH 2022
WORLD BOOK DAY:
Books have a huge part to play in our lives and World Book Day is the perfect time to celebrate those stories that mean the most to us.



11TH - 20TH MARCH 2022
BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK:
British Science Week gives our children and young people the opportunity to explore the wonders of Science.



FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL FEEDS FOR ALL THE IMPORTANT UPDATES





CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Christmas is nearly here! Why not spend the festive season doing something fun? We have picked out some activities in the local area.

11 NOV - 31 DEC

Chow Down Winter Village

13 NOV - 03 JAN

Christmas at Harewood

19 NOV - 01 JAN

Leeds Wheel of Light

20 NOV - 24 DEC

Christmas at Mother Shipton's

13 NOV - 03 JAN

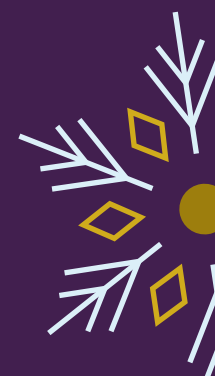
Castle Howard – Christmas in Narnia

18 NOV - 23 DEC

York Christmas Festival



19 NOV - 09 JAN	Yorkshire's Winter Wonderland, York Designer Outlet
20 NOV - 23 DEC	Lightwater Valley Alice in Winterland
20 NOV - 04 JAN	Stockeld Park Christmas Adventure
22 NOV - 22 JAN	Peter Pan and Wendy (Leeds Playhouse)
26 NOV - 24 DEC	Ice Rink in Millennium Square
26 NOV - 02 JAN	Christmas Illuminations at Temple Newsam
26 NOV - 09 JAN	Beauty & the Beast Rock 'n' Roll Panto (City Varieties)
26 NOV - 09 JAN	Aladdin (Carriageworks Theatre)
27 NOV - 02 JAN	Lotherton Hall's Christmas Experience
27 NOV - 23 DEC	Spilman's Farm at Christmas
30 NOV - 28 DEC	The Night Before Christmas (Leeds Playhouse)



UPCOMING EVENTS

There is always plenty going on at each of our academies.
Find out what's coming up in the New Year.



ALDER TREE PRIMARY

BELIEVE - BELONG - BECOME

SAT 08 JAN	Early Years Open Morning
THUR 17 FEB	Peace Art Exhibition
TUE 14 JUNE	Alice in Wonderland Performance
MON 20 - WED 22 JUNE	Year 4 Nell Bank Residential
MON 04 - TUE 05 JULY	Scarborough
W/C MON 11 JULY	Sports Week



Leeds City Academy

WED 19 JAN	Year 9 Live Options Evening
THUR 23 JUNE	Summer Showcase Performance
TUE 12 - THUR 14 JULY	White Rose Performance Festival



Leeds East Academy

W/C MON 14 MAR

Colour Run

W/C MON 13 JUNE

Pride Festival

W/C MON 18 JULY

House Celebration Event

Leeds West Academy



THUR 03 FEB

Engage Event, Year 9 Options

TUE 08 - SAT 12 FEB

Whole School Show, Rock of Ages

MON 07 MAR

Year 11 Engage Evening

THUR 24 MAR

Dance Show

THUR 26 MAY

Specialism Show

FRI 10 JUNE

Year 7 Graduation at the University of Leeds

W/C MON 11 JULY

White Rose Performance Festival

WORK FOR A SUPPORTIVE MULTI- ACADEMY TRUST

JOIN OUR TEAM

WWW.WHITEROSEACADEMIES.ORG/CAREERS



SCAN FOR MORE
INFORMATION



BECOMING A GOVERNOR WITHIN AN ACADEMIES TRUST

A governance role is rewarding and challenging and provides much scope for the personal and professional development of the appointee (whom I describe as the "Director").

Board roles within a Trust are voluntary. The Director is able to apply their skills and experience to the development of the Trust's strategy, and to supervision of the executives' management of the academies. In this way a Director can make a real and valuable contribution to the education and wellbeing of young people, and to the advancement of the communities in which they live.

Boards are run professionally (usually by a qualified clerk) and the information and processes are similar to those one would encounter in a large private or small public company. All board members are made aware of their duties and responsibilities and take these seriously. A Director sits on the board alongside colleagues from different backgrounds and sectors, but all with an interest in education and a commitment to high standards of governance and business management.

Quite apart from the personal satisfaction one gains from involvement in an Academy Trust and supporting its activities, the Director can learn much about supervising and running an organisation, and how a board should respond to challenges of a financial, operational and strategic nature.

A Director can make a real and valuable contribution to the education and wellbeing of young people, and to the advancement of the communities in which they live.

I encourage people who wish both to contribute to an educational body and to develop their own professional career to consider applying to become a Director. Undoubtedly the experience a Director gains benefits both the individual and the business in which they work. Outside experience on a Trust board improves and enriches the contribution an individual makes in their "day job".



DAVID STRACHAN
Director
White Rose Academies Trust

ANYTHING FOR OUR NEXT ISSUE?

We hope you have enjoyed our edition of this newsletter.

If you would like to share any ideas of what you would like to see in our future newsletters, please email:

 marketing@whiteroseacademies.org

