



# NEWSLETTER

SPRING EDITION 2023

## ST GILES: TRANSITION FESTIVAL

The Transition Festival, hosted by Wakefield School Sport Network was a non-competitive day where Year 6 children made new friends to help prepare them for high school. They also took part in small sided games.



## SANDAL MAGNA: YEAR 2 VISITS HEPWORTH MUSEUM

Year 2 have taken part in a special felting workshop at the Hepworth Museum.

They based the art pieces on nature as that is the inspiration for Barbara Hepworth. They used wool to help form their designs.



## ST BOTOLPHS: KS1 TRIP TO ABBEY HOUSE MUSEUM

In February, Key Stage 1 visited Abbey House in Leeds as part of our history topic "How have toys changed over time?"

The children loved finding out about the different types of toys and had great fun playing with them.

We also enjoyed a workshop where we even got to have a little play with some of the toys - who knew that a spinning top was so tricky to play with!



## DIAMOND WOOD: NEW PLAYGROUND OPENING

Our Eco Council were invited to help open the new local playground with the Mayor of Kirklees.

They had a wonderful time and the playground will be enjoyed by the local families.



## ST BOTOLPHS: ANTARTIC EXPLORER VISITS SCHOOL

In January we were lucky enough to have a visit from Al Sylvester MBE – an Antarctic explorer.

Al captivated the children with his story about how he travelled to Antarctica and reached the South Pole, despite later losing his thumbs to frostbite (the children especially loved the photos!)

Despite this, Al went on to achieve many great accomplishments – from his unsupported 881 mile walk between Land's End to John O' Groats in under 40 days to running two marathons back-to-back – oh and raising £28k in the process!

He truly was an inspiration – his words certainly struck a cord with all the children “ Never give up”.



## DIAMOND WOOD: MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

In February, we hosted another wonderful session with Elizabeth from the S2R mental health charity. Our parents enjoyed learning fire lighting skills alongside talking about #MentalHealthAwareness.

Our Year 1 children joined them to make folded pizzas and toasted starbursts! We talked about what makes us happy. Our parents and families really value the support of this group.



## DIAMOND WOOD: CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

On Friday 3 March, we held our seventh annual event to celebrate International Women's Day, which was attended by the Mayor of Kirklees.

We invited parents and family into the school where they were greeted by personnel from over 40 agencies who provided information about the support, which was on offer within the local community.

The Mayor of Kirklees opened the event for us this year and talked about women, aspirations and being who you want to be.

The event was organised by the school's safeguarding and well-being officer, Mandy Farrar.



## SANDAL MAGNA: WORLD BOOK DAY



Over the last term, Sandal Magna have been developing our creative talents as well as our academic.

World Book Day is one of our favourite days of the year and gives us even more of an excuse to enjoy books.

We spent the morning investigating some books in our classes and then completed a class swap in the afternoon.

The whole school focused on the book 'Once upon a raindrop' and created many different pieces of work based on this stimulus.



## ALL SAINTS: WORLD BOOK DAY

Year 2 were making the most of the new cushioned seating in their library. It is great to see children having a love for reading in school. The forest themed cushions create a lovely setting and scene to enjoy books in.



## ST HELENS CELEBRATES OFSTED INSPECTION

St Helen's CE Primary were recently visited by Ofsted and judged to be 'good' in all Ofsted's areas. This is the first time in the school's recent history that it has received this judgement and is a testament to the hard work all staff and the school community have put in! We are extremely proud!

Some of the comments found in the report:

St Helen's Church of England Primary School broadens pupils horizons and ignites their curiosity in learning from the youngest to the oldest pupils in school all are welcomed into the family that is St Helen's. Pupils are enthusiastic and want to learn. The high ambition staff have for all pupils is clear to see in lessons.

If you are a pupil at St. Helens then you are a reader. Reading is part of the DNA of the school. Reading begins in the first days of school in the early years and is never left behind as pupil progress to the end of Year 6. Through a well informed and considered approach leaders and staff have cultivated a passion for reading in the school.

Leaders have designed a curriculum that is broad, balanced and relevant to the their pupils. The essential knowledge and important vocabulary in different subjects is clear. Teachers have strong subject knowledge.



## ALL SAINTS: ROBINWOOD RESIDENTIAL



In January, the Year 5 pupils at Featherstone All Saints had a fantastic time at Robinwood Activity Centre in Todmorden, Lancashire on their three-day residential.

They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were a credit to school.



## ST GILES: CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to the children who qualified and represented St Giles at the West Yorkshire Cross Country Competition at Temple Newsam.



## CHRIST CHURCH: WORLD BOOK DAY

Children at Christ Church celebrated World Book Day this year with their annual costume parade, they were poets, authors and illustrators for the day.

The Year 5 children were given the exciting opportunity to visit their local library and meet Nyanda Foday, a poet.

The children were intrigued by her poetry and asked thoughtful and poignant questions. Inspired by her work, all pupils then had the opportunity to write their own poetry focusing on different emotions.

The children's poetry showed imagination and flare. A special thank-you to Miss Williams for organising!



## OVERTHORPE: ZOO VISIT

Overthorpe had a whole school zoo visit to launch science week. We took 236 to Blackpool Zoo.

We learnt about animals habitats and food chains. Our classes are named after endangered animals, so we learnt about why they are endangered and we met some of the animals that we are named after.

It provided an opportunity to really develop our language and vocabulary and was a very enjoyable start to our science week!



## OVERTHORPE: WORLD BOOK DAY

For World Book day this year at Overthorpe, all staff and children were invited to dress as their favourite book character.

In the morning before school, we invited parents and carers to come into school early with their children for Book and a Bacon Butty. The children loved reading with their grown ups whilst enjoying a slice or two of toast and a glass of juice.

We then spent the day talking about wonderful books and reading together, whilst a team from our Year 6 class represented the school at the Kirklees World Book Day Quiz!

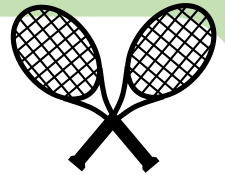


## OVERTHORPE: TENNIS SUPERSTARS

Here at Overthorpe we are very lucky to have two Tennis superstars with us!

Max Hodgkinson in Year 5 has been asked to travel to Rotterdam and France to represent Team GB in tennis this month. We are extremely proud of his achievements and wish him lots of luck and safe travels.

His sister Thea, is following hot on his heels and is also playing in an important tennis competition in March!



## LEPTON: WELLNESS WARRIORS

During this spring term, we have been busy creating and training a group of pupil 'Wellness Warriors'. The initiative began when we decided to expand the role of our school councillors. Our school council now has four teams within it; charity, journalism, eco and wellness. At the heart of each team are our children.

Our Wellness Warriors comprise of Key Stage 2 children, elected by their respective classes. Before beginning their new role, the Mental Health Support Team came into school and ran two afternoons of emotion and role play based training with the children. Our Wellness Warriors are now able to resolve minor friendship issues out in the playground, lead calm and creative activities in our Wellness Club and generally assist with children who may need extra help during break times. The warriors are identifiable by their blue hi-vis jackets and lanyards!

Already noticeable is the positive effect the warriors are having within our school. Children are always very excited to interact with them and we have received encouraging feedback from parents.



## CAPA: CONNECT AND REFLECT

CONNECT and REFLECT is the unique tutorial programme at CAPA College. The programme is tailored to be relevant to the creative and performing industries and is designed to truly prepare students for the next steps in their chosen field.

In addition to weekly small group sessions with a tutor, who is able to check in on students' wellbeing, aspirations attendance, achievement and behaviour, students participate in CONNECT and REFLECT sessions with their tutor or year group. CONNECT and REFLECT tutorials cover everything from current affairs, equality and diversity to maintaining healthy lifestyles, relationships and body image.

One unique element of the CONNECT and REFLECT programme is the 'student takeovers' where students are actively encouraged to take part in designing the syllabus and leading group sessions. Recent examples have included the Student Leadership Team designing a 'Guide to Remote Learning' and students nominating and sharing their heroes for LGBTQ+ History Month.

During Black History Month both staff and students were given the opportunity to reflect on, share, and understand the impact of black heritage and culture. Tutorials were organised, offering a forum for discussion of key topics, which allowed students across all pathways to collaborate and to organise and lead tutorials themselves. Topics included racial identity, how we can learn from Black History to make a better future, and what we can do to support our peers from the black community who identify as LGBTQIA+.

In addition to tutorials, students were given the opportunity to study and attend plays by British black playwrights.

One play was *My Voice Was Heard But It Was Ignored* by Nana-Kofi Kufuor, which focuses on systemic racism in a UK context and explores issues around overt police brutality. The play was inspired by Nana-Kofi's own experiences as a young British-Ghanaian man growing up in Stockport. To complement the CONNECT and REFLECT programme, Red Ladder Theatre Company performed the play specifically for CAPA College students in The Mulberry Playhouse.

Some of our Year 2 students also visited the Leeds Playhouse to see a performance of *Nine Night* by Natasha Gordon. This was part of Jamaica Society Leeds' Out of Many Festival, an extensive Leeds-based festival to celebrate 60 years of Jamaican independence.

To round off the month, all students were invited to watch the premiere of *PLEDGE* in The Yorkshire Picture House at CAPA College. Funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire, *PLEDGE* is a powerful new film about the impact of racism that was created by CAPA College students and a team of professional artists. This original piece of work is a celebration of how much our young people are open to questioning their own experiences and understanding of racism and was complemented by a tour to local secondary schools to further the discussion about hate crime in West Yorkshire.



## CAPA COLLEGE PERFORMANCES

This year is shaping up to be one of the most successful in the history of Wakefield's acclaimed CAPA College with students taking part in a whopping FIVE prestigious national events already this year, with first and second-year dance, drama and musical theatre students taking to the stage in Leeds, Liverpool, Sheffield and London over recent months.

First up, CAPA College students appeared on the Main Stage at the ACC Liverpool with their phenomenal performance of On Your Feet for the prestigious Can You Dance? Super Convention. Combining explosive choreography from teachers and performers Alex Bowen and Amelia-Rose Fielding with incredible movement, pizzazz and infectious energy from CAPA College's incredibly-talented students, On Your Feet transported audiences to the world of Latin rhythm and funk with the music of Gloria and Emilio Estefan.

Next was a spectacular celebration of all things musical theatre as CAPA College took to the stage for three spectacular performances at Musical Con at the ExCeL London. Bombshell was a three-minute homage to Marilyn Monroe, blending powerful vocals and intricate harmonies with dynamic movement and iconic high-glamour costumes. Next CAPA College students showed off their powerhouse vocals with Let it ROCK! - a celebration of some of the best rock songs of all time.

CAPA College then had the exclusive privilege of closing the inaugural Musical Con exhibition as our students shared the limelight with some of the biggest names in the West End (including Layton Williams, Trevor Dion Nicholas and Shanay Holmes) for a spectacular medley of hits from the shows.

A particular highlight of the year was seeing 21 of CAPA College's most talented male dancers perform in Leeds City Centre for the official Rugby League World Cup celebrations. Choreographed and performed alongside the acclaimed Southpaw Dance Company, the boys appeared in two spectacular pieces celebrating the origins of the sport and inclusivity within rugby league.

In March 2023, CAPA College returned to Move It 2023 - the world's biggest dance event - at ExCeL London with a range of sensational student performances and incredible classes led by CAPA College staff. The weekend included Don't Look Back (a visceral contemporary and commercial dance fusion), Judas (a jazz tribute to Lady Gaga's iconic song) and She's Like the Wind (a stunning lyrical ensemble set to the Patrick Swayze classic ballad) on the Main Stage. PLUS, All Shook Up (a rock and roll musical theatre arrangement with killer vocals), You Say (all female vocalists presenting a dynamic version of the Lauren Daigle hit song) and a selection of classes in commercial, jazz and breakin' dance.

Finally, CAPA College's acclaimed Momentum Dancers (some of the College's most gifted and talented students) were curtain raisers (and roof raisers!) for Dance Live in Sheffield on Monday 13th March and wow, what a performance. Students took the venue by storm, leaving a lasting impression on audience who had gathered to celebrate all aspects of youth dance.

With plenty more performances, projects and events on the horizon next term, this is just the beginning for the talented students of CAPA College.



## OVERTHORPE: TT ROCKSTARS & ROCKSTAR DISCO

In February we had our annual TT Rockstars Day at Overthorpe, where all staff and children were invited to dress up like a Rockstar for the day!

Throughout the day, children took part in lots of maths related activities such as playing Numbots in Key Stage 1 and TT Rockstars for Key Stage 2, where they tried to beat their teacher's scores! There were lots of prizes and special badges given out during the day.

After school our PTA organised a Rockstar disco for the Children. I think you can agree the children all looked fantastic!



## CHRIST CHURCH: ENJOYING THE WEATHER

After learning about the weather in their geography lessons, Year 2 children were delighted to be able to experience and get their hands on some snow during one of their morning playtimes.



Thank you to everyone for their continued support this term.

We hope you have an enjoyable Easter.



# SOCIAL MEDIA ACROSS THE TRUST



WOW! What a performance. We are super proud of the cast of All Shook Up ... they knocked it out of the park.

We loved performing All Shook Up yesterday and loved that we got to do it all over again today. 🎤🎶

#CAPACollege #MOVEIT #MOVEIT23



St Giles Academy Pontefract  
@stgilesacademy

Year 5 have had an absolutely fabulous afternoon. Making lava lamps, ice-cream, catapults and more. Thankyou to the students and teachers of New College who made this possible.

#newcollegepontefract #Britishscienceassociation #BritishScienceWeek2023 #stgilesscience



Y1SandalMagnaCA  
@Y1SandalMagnaCA

This afternoon, we had a visit from the school nurse. We learned about Hand Hygiene and keeping our teeth clean and healthy. The children were shown the best way to brush, how often to see the dentist and the best way to wash our hands to remove germs 😊



St Helen's CE Primary School  
@StHelCEPrimary

Looking forward to sharing these and celebrating some of the wonderful learning that goes on @StHelCEPrimary ❤️

Who is going to get the first one?

#lookingforwardinfaith



St. Michael's  
@st\_michaels\_ce

Our 100% attendance winner this year is Max from year 3! Well done Max, we hope you enjoy your pizza night 🍕

