

SPRING 2023

# NEWSLETTER

Lighting the Way Forward in Education



## Introduction

As Spring forges forward and the temperatures rise, it is a good moment to pause and to celebrate all the wide-ranging learning activities offered by our Trust Partnership schools, over the last term.

Our Trust Strategy 2025, places environmental sustainability and inclusive education firmly at the centre of our Trust ethos with a compelling vision to nurture learning in a sustainable environment so that our whole community can thrive, aspire, and succeed. Our Spring Newsletter certainly shows the commitment of every one of our schools to this vision, from the Farm Twinning experiences to our partnership with RHS and to the professional development that staff are benefiting from working with the organisation Learning through Landscapes.

We were absolutely delighted to hear that Northern Star Academies Trust has been shortlisted as a national finalist for the Environmental Trust of the Year Award 2023 and await the outcome of the awards later in the summer. If as a parent you'd like to get involved in our sustainability work please get in touch with Dr Lizzie Oliver (Director of Governance) at [governance@nsat.org.uk](mailto:governance@nsat.org.uk) or your school's Headteacher.

Finally, with the exam and assessment season on the horizon may we wish all pupils, students, and their families much success – **Summer is just around the corner.**

Jenn Plews  
Trust Leader (CEO)

## Teacher Training

Our Northern Lights trainees are now on the final stages of their training – with only two months to go before gaining their PGCEs and looking ahead to their new employing schools.

The teacher training team are now recruiting for next year – so if you know anyone who could train to make a difference for your children – send them to our door!

The school and teacher training team are also readying themselves for our internship programme. For three weeks in June and July we will welcome 10 undergraduates in Maths, computer science, physics, chemistry and modern foreign languages. They will be funded by the Department for Education and will work in a placement school and with our teacher training teams to find out what training to be a teacher is like. We would hope, then that inspired, they will apply to become teachers when their degrees are finished.



We are proud to be shortlisted for a

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AWARD

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## Science Learning Partnership

What an exciting term we have had – particularly working with primary colleagues – a textile workshop delivered by our very own Zara Clarke in the university STEM centre raised children’s awareness of the science and engineering in textiles and also in career opportunities. Our team have also run STEM clubs in local schools. This is in addition to the normal core business of providing high quality Science professional development from Early Years to A level.



## RHS £1 Garden Entry

RHS offers low income households £1 entry to its gardens in new Access for All scheme.

Starting on 1 April 2023, the brand new Access for All scheme will afford visitors in receipt of Universal or Pension Credit the opportunity to access all RHS Gardens for a reduced ticket price of just £1, and will run all year round.

Access for All will make RHS Bridgewater, RHS Harlow Carr, RHS Hyde Hall, RHS Rosemoor and RHS Wisley accessible to a wider and more diverse audience and builds on existing offers whereby free entry to gardens is granted to a number of groups. These include carers with a disabled visitor, school children on guided and self-guided school visits, and Under 5s, affiliated horticultural societies and community groups supported by the RHS Community Outreach programme.

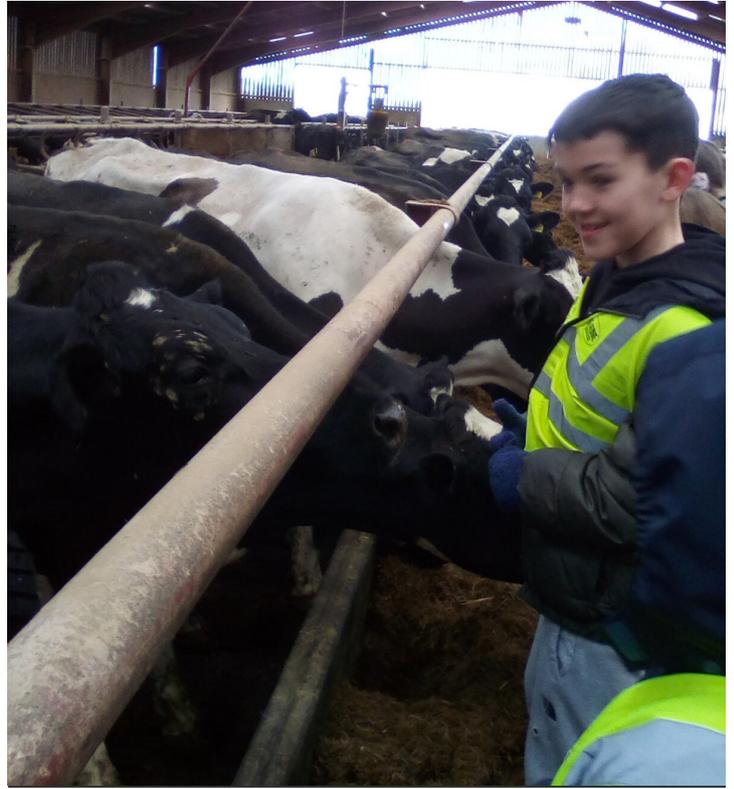


# Willow Tree Primary School



## Educational Farm Visits

In March we began our visits to the NSAT twinned farms. Our children visited the fantastic Little Seed Farm, Ripon, as well as the amazing planetarium at Lime Tree Farm, Ripon. A massive thank you to the volunteers that led the sessions who made the visits out of this world! All the children loved linking their science learning outside the classroom.



## Hot Wheels

How else would Reception learn about wheels? With the arrival of a Lamborghini of course! Key Stage 1 also loved the experience. Thank you to Redline Specialist Cars, Knaresborough for providing the experience.



## Our New Playground

This morning was the official opening of our new FS playground play equipment. A massive thank you to PTFA and everybody who donated to provide such a wonderfully fun environment for our children to explore.



## Wheelchair Awareness Workshop

Our Year 5s took part in a fantastic wheelchair awareness workshop. The children were able to look at the difficulties children in wheelchairs face, ways to overcome them and how to be supportive to those who are in a wheelchair.



# Hookstone Chase Primary School



## Eco Club

Eco Club led a section of our Celebration Assembly last week, including information about the animal homes and thermal imaging cameras we have purchased through a grant to support local wildlife. Such a bright future when children speak so passionately about **#Sustainability**



## Walk to School Event

The turnout at the W2S event at Hookstone Chase Primary School was phenomenal!!! Thank you to everyone who attended the event. Harry Gator was thrilled to meet and greet you all. **#ZeroCarbonHarrogate**



# Learning Through Landscapes

Some of the staff team enjoyed a great session with Claire from Learning through Landscapes - activities with wriggly worms, tree measuring, poet-tree and very sustainable seed planting.  
**#Sustainability #BeAdventurous**



## Tree Planting with RHS

A HUGE thank you to our parent/carer volunteers and pupils who made short work of planting 16 apple and pear trees, ably guided by Alison from RHS - Royal Horticultural Society using trees donated to us by The Conservation Volunteers and stakes donated by Homebase.

**#BeTogether #BeAdventurous**



# Starbeck Primary Academy



## Rock Pool Wonders

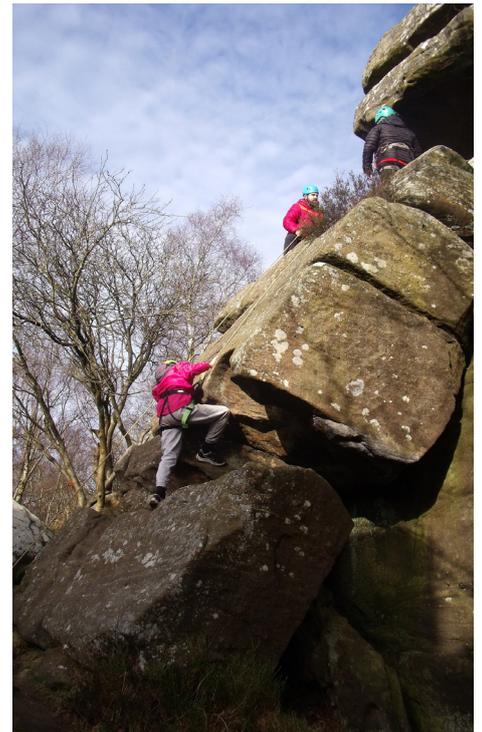


Year 5 have had another brilliant day discovering the wonders of rock pools, walking along the beach to Boggle Hole (with a very chilly paddle along the way) and looking at coastal erosion and defences as we explored the coastal path.



## Brimham Rocks

Year 6 have had the most amazing day at Brimham Rocks - climbing, abseiling, scrambling and bouldering. Everybody pushed themselves and had an exhilarating day. Very proud of them all!



## Easter Traditions

In a tradition going back many, many decades for Starbeck Primary Academy, our Reception and Key Stage 1 children took to the High Street to parade wonderful Easter bonnets. They then found shelter at Starbeck Methodist Church from the unseasonal drizzle and to sing songs and hear about the Easter story. Thank you to the many parents, carers and friends of our school, who turned out to clap the stars of the show.



## Knaresborough Visit

Year 3 had a fantastic visit to Knaresborough recently, linking to their art and geography learning. They enjoyed collecting natural objects from the forest floor and creating wild art. They did some map work, exploring the human features of the river and climbed up to the castle to enjoy the views. The public were very impressed with the children's behaviour and manners at all times.



## Woodland Adventure

Year 5 had a great time exploring the environment and learning about the different types of trees on their well-being woodland adventure. The weather was stunning and the children played Pooh sticks, made animal enclosures and toasted marshmallows. 

They will be participating in 3 more weeks of forest schools - thank you NSAT for funding the project.



# New Park Primary Academy



## Fantastic Frogs

Pond dipping at Little Seed Farm, Ripon was brilliant fun, even in the rain - look at the fantastic frogs we found!



## New Phonics Library

We put the finishing touches on our new phonics library recently; repurposed room-dividers, new shelves and a fresh coat of paint! A huge thank you to Mr Corbett for working so hard on them - it looks brilliant and the children loved it.



## Recycling Boxes

Today the school council worked together to decorate the new class recycling boxes. The children have re-used paper boxes and will give on to each class to recycle whiteboard pens!



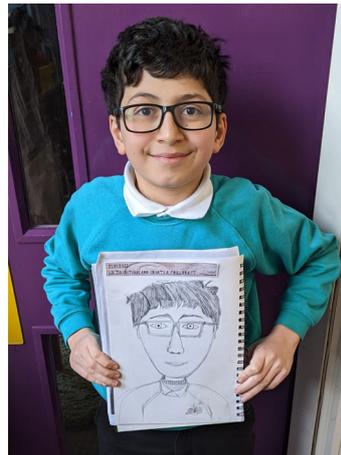
## Texture and Form in Art

Year 3/4 have been looking at texture and form in art. The children have been studying the work of Andy Goldsworthy and collected natural materials to make art work in Goldsworthy's style.



## Self Portraits

Year 5/6 have spent the last few weeks working on their self-portraits and using the redrafting process to continually improve their artwork!



# Eastwood Community School



## Care Home Visit

Year 6 had a fantastic time visiting Herncliffe Care Home. They enjoyed playing board games and singing songs with the residents.

#BrighterFuturesWeek



## Next Gen Leaders Programme

We've been delighted to host the Next Gen Leaders Programme with students from Carlton Keighley. They led our assembly and shared their project to support homeless people in improving their literacy to help them secure future employment. #community #care



## National Trust Tree Planting

Year 5 supported our local National Trust property at East Riddlesden Hall by planting Hazel and Hawthorn trees and removing tree guards from the more established ones.

Well done to our students!

#ecowarriors #brighterfuturesweek #plantmoretrees



# Allotment Planting

It was weeding time recently at our school allotment, making way for our newly planted apple, pear and cherry trees - thanks to The Tree Council.

#OutdoorLearning  
#CaringForOurEnvironment



# Caring for our Local Streets

Year 4 have been busy cleaning up our local Keighley streets with the support of Asda.

#LoveYourCommunity #Care #Cleanup



# Holycroft Primary School and Nursery



## Business Enterprise

Our Year 5 pupils have been involved in a business enterprise alongside the charity Rethink Food and Asda supermarket. The children have designed their own business name, logo and slogan. It's fantastic that we can help our local community by giving back surplus supermarket food.



## Commando Joe's

We launched our exciting Commando Joe's Character Education project recently. The children's first mission was to cross the Amazon and collect medicine for a tribe. The children had to work together to avoid the perils of the dangerous river!

#commandojoes #teamwork



## Rewilding Project

We are so pleased that our Rewilding project has gained us the Wildlife Gardening Award 2023



# Harrogate High School



## Rotary Technology Tournament

Eight of our students participated in the Harrogate Rotary Technology Tournament hosted at St Aidan's School. At the start of the day students were given a small supply of materials and components to complete a hidden challenge. Their task was to design and build a vehicle that could transport supplies over a 'river'. Students were presented with a suspended string for their vehicle to travel across.

Throughout the tournament our students demonstrated exemplary teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship. The students thoroughly enjoyed the tournament, embraced the competitive spirit, and made their teachers at Harrogate High School extremely proud. Well done to everyone who took part!



## Team Modeshift Campaign

Our Year 7 and 8 student leaders have been busy preparing an active travel presentation for a Modeshift initiative at County Hall in Northallerton.

They travelled by train, kindly sponsored by Northern Rail and TransPennine Express to the venue. The group have worked hard and delivered their presentation very successfully. We are delighted to announce that they were awarded the fund prize of £250. The money will go towards an active travel event that the whole school can benefit from. They presented in front of a panel of judges and other schools in a very formal setting. Congratulations and well done to everyone who took part!



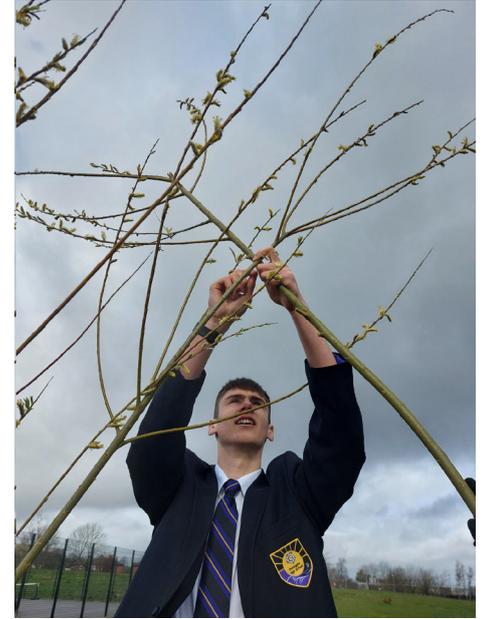
# Willow Plantation

As part of our drive for sustainability, to continue to develop a love of outdoor learning and ways to engage students with outdoor experiences, we have started to work with willow on the school grounds.

With the help of the RHS this week, students planted a willow plantation, created a tunnel leading up to this area and created an arbour which will be a well-being seating area students will be able to use.

Willow is a fast growing crop that is great for biodiversity. Our hope is that in the future we will harvest the willow and students will be able to create items to sell made from willow as an enterprise project.

As a follow on from the experience this week, our Next Generation Board students, Freddie and Max, who were shown how to create these living willow sculptures, will take their knowledge and share it with the other schools in the Trust to help develop their school sites.



# Skipton Girls' High School

Skipton Girls' High School

## Lego League Robotics Regional Finals

SGHS robotics team ventured across the border to take part in the Lancashire Regional Finals of the worldwide Lego League Robotics Tournament. This year, with 40 competitors, we had too many teams to enter the Yorkshire tournament venue, but with making up 90% of the female competitors in the regional competition, we remained determined that we would take all our teams and were warmly welcomed at the new venue.

The day did not disappoint. The University of Central Lancashire provided a stunning and inspirational backdrop for our students. Our 4 teams had to not only design, build and program robots to compete in the various challenges on the day, but also competed in other categories including: The Innovation Project and Core Team Values.

As always, Skipton Girls' students didn't fail to pull out all the stops. From inflatable caterpillar costumes, lego-built sustainable theme parks, dramatic performances, green screen adaptations and professional level presentations on profit and loss. Fran Ward, in his 30th Year of organising national robotics tournaments, said, "in all my time, I have never experienced one school with so many diverse, innovative and exciting ideas that have been presented in the most extraordinary and creative ways".



## CyberFirst Finals

Year 8 students ventured to Sheffield Hallam University to compete in the national finals of the Cyber First Girls Competition.

To get to this stage of the competition the team had successfully seen off competition from thousands of challengers in the 2023 CyberFirst Competition, which is run by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), a part of GCHQ.

The competition aims to inspire girls aged 12 and 13 to pursue their interests in technology and pursue a career in cyber security, where women make up just 22% of the workforce.

Overall, the team ended up in fifth place. They worked incredibly hard in preparation for the finals and all throughout the original rounds of the competition. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and achievement.



# Morocco 2023

## Preparation is Well Underway

The Sixth Form Team that are going to Morocco in the summer with the Outlook Expedition Team had a trial weekend in the Peak District to put their camping and cooking skills to the test. All students were absolutely superb and a real credit to themselves during a very cold, blustery and damp weekend. Staff were super impressed with the creativity in cooking and providing food for the whole team along with the challenge of cooking on a Trangia stove.

Well done to all students that took part and even though this was a very different experience to the one ahead, the students worked well as a team and the support for each other was outstanding. Morocco here we come!!



## Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing

The Skipton Shadows (our Y7-10 prize-shadowing group) have got off to a great start with reading their way through the seven shortlisted books. In the week since the shortlist was announced, some shadowers are already on their third book! Their reviews are coming in thick and fast (you can read them here): [yotocarnegies.co.uk/reading-group/skipton-shadows](https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/reading-group/skipton-shadows)

Our weekly book-club meetings are lively and well attended. Right are Olivia and Ella (Year 8) co-reading *The Eternal Return of Clara Hart* by Louise Finch, a time-loop novel that is particularly favoured by the group.



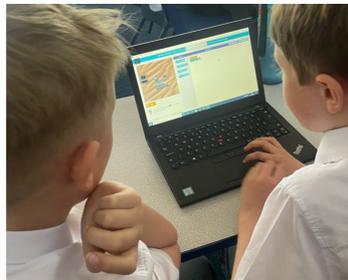
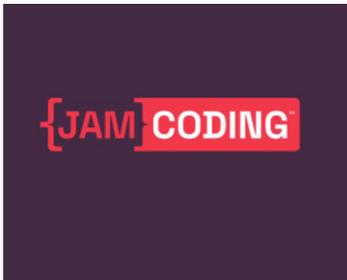
# Greatwood Community Primary & Nursery School



## Character Coding

Our Year 2, 3 and 4 children have started their coding after school club tonight alongside Jam Coding, one of the largest providers of Computing Education in the UK. They have been learning how to make different code lines to make characters move. We are already looking forward to the next session.

#coding #gamedevelopment



## Navigating the Waterways

Our EYFS children have had a superb end to their time learning about transport. They boated up and down the canal next to school and finished with a pizza party at Calico Jacks, Skipton. What a fantastic way to learn!

#memories #experiences #opportunities



# Outdoor Education

Our Outdoor-Ed curriculum lies at the heart of Greatwood School. Linked carefully to enhance our year group curriculum offer. Here's a snapshot of some of the things that our current Year 4 children have experienced. **#opportunities #outdoors**



# Incredible Edible

We are having a brilliant time with the volunteers from Incredible Edible in Skipton. Planting seeds as part of the RHS Big Seed Sow.

**#RHSBigSeedSow #greentrust #seeds #plants #gardeningtrust**

