

The Laurel Academy

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER



Proud

TERM 1



Every Thursday, we celebrate Proud Thursday, a special opportunity to recognise the fantastic effort our students put into their work every single day. Students are nominated by their teachers for demonstrating dedication and pride in their learning, and those selected are presented with certificates in recognition of their achievements. Proud Thursday is a key part of our enduring commitment to creating a positive culture of praise, reward, and celebration across the academy, where effort is valued and success is shared.

Charity

TERM 1



At The Laurel, we are proud of our strong commitment to supporting charities and helping those in need, both locally and nationally. Throughout the year, pupils and staff come together to raise awareness and funds for a range of important causes. We have proudly raised money for Macmillan Cancer Support through a bake sale that was enjoyed by all. On Remembrance Day, we took part in the Poppy Appeal, helping pupils understand the importance of remembrance while supporting veterans and their families. We also enthusiastically supported Children in Need, joining in with fundraising events that highlight the importance of helping young people across the UK. These opportunities help our pupils develop empathy, responsibility and a strong sense of community.

Ambition

TERM 1



Our Ambition Programme is a key part of our cultural capital provision, designed to inspire students to raise their aspirations and prepare for life beyond the academy. Through a wide range of activities — including careers-focused visits, employer encounters and practical experiences — students are supported to explore future pathways and develop important skills for success. From Year 7 careers trips to sessions on different industries, to Year 9 visits to further education providers and opportunities linked to post-16 options, the programme helps broaden students' horizons and build confidence in their next steps. These experiences are carefully integrated with our wider curriculum to support pupils in making informed choices about their futures and achieving their full potential.

Hornsea

SEPTEMBER



In September, our Year 10 GCSE Geography students took part in a fieldwork trip to Hornsea, providing a valuable opportunity to apply their classroom learning in a real coastal environment. During the visit, students investigated coastal processes, landforms and management strategies, collecting primary data to support their exam studies. They developed important geographical skills such as observation, data collection and analysis, while also gaining a deeper understanding of the challenges facing coastal communities. The trip was an engaging and enriching experience that helped to build students' confidence and prepare them for their GCSE examinations.

Leadership

OCTOBER



We were incredibly proud of Alex, in Year 11, who recently spoke at the House of Parliament as part of his work with the Doncaster Youth Council. This was a fantastic achievement and a powerful example of how young people can have a voice and influence positive change beyond the academy. His confidence, commitment and willingness to represent the views of others truly reflected our values. We are equally proud of all our students who take on leadership responsibilities, whether within the academy or in the wider community, and who work hard to improve the lives of others through service, dedication and ambition.

Student Leadership

OCTOBER



We actively encourage leadership within the curriculum by empowering students to place themselves in decision-making roles and take responsibility for others. Recently, this was demonstrated through a competition across the English department, where students volunteered to act as leaders in a fictional scenario in which a city was facing a natural disaster. Students were challenged to make difficult choices, communicate clearly and consider the impact of their decisions on others. All of the winners displayed incredible courage, inspiration and strong leadership qualities, showcasing confidence, empathy and resilience in the face of challenge.

Laureates

OCTOBER

DELTA **Inked @ The Laurel** @DeltaTheLaurel

SPOTLIGHT ON STORIES!

Read. Reflect. Respond

Each week, this newspaper brings you a theme to think about, debate, and discuss. From important issues like bullying and charity to big national events such as Comic Relief, we'll explore how reading, stories, and non-fiction texts connect to the world around us. The aim is simple: to spark curiosity, encourage conversation, and give you fresh perspectives.

1 World Mental Health Day
10th October 2022

All Day

The Laurel Academy,
Wiggle Road,
Walsborough

Mental health is our brain, thoughts, and emotions. Every 10th October, we celebrate our mental health as it is just as important as our physical health. We need to keep it healthy and social. All of these affect our mental health equally. This day spreads awareness and reduces the stigma that surrounds us.

Leisure by W.H Davies

WHAT is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?—
No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep and cows;
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass;
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night;
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance;
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began?
A poor life this if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

Do you think the poet is willing to make us feel uncomfortable?

What do you think the poet wants readers to notice or think about?

How does this poem make you feel when you read or hear it?

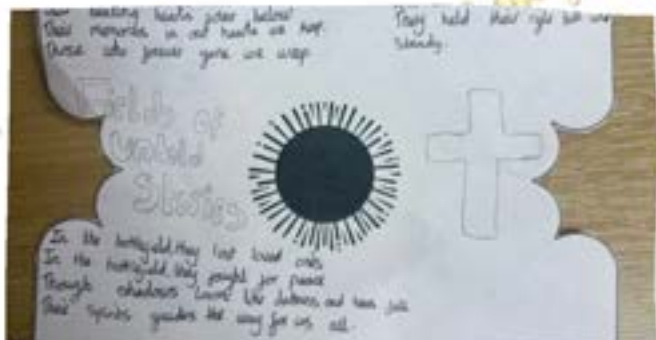
If you could ask the poet one question, what would it be?

Reading Comprehension

We challenge our students to apply their skills beyond the academic curriculum by offering a wide range of enrichment opportunities, including our Reading Laureates Club. This initiative provides our strongest readers with the opportunity to develop their creativity and leadership by writing engaging articles linked to our Personal Development Calendar. These pieces are shared weekly in the dining hall, allowing students to showcase their talents while encouraging a love of reading and reflection across the academy. The club not only celebrates literacy but also empowers students to inspire their peers and contribute positively to the wider school community.

Remembrance

NOVEMBER



As a school community, we came together to mark Remembrance Day with respect and reflection. Students and staff took time to learn about the significance of the day and to honour those who have served and sacrificed in conflicts past and present. Through assemblies, tutor activities and a shared moment of silence, we demonstrated our collective commitment to remembrance and gratitude. The wearing of poppies and thoughtful discussions helped reinforce the importance of remembering the impact of war and the value of peace, uniting our school in a meaningful act of commemoration.

Football

NOVEMBER



This term, our girls' football teams have achieved fantastic success, consistently demonstrating exceptional determination, skill, and resilience in every match they play. They continue to represent the academy with pride, showing outstanding teamwork and commitment both on and off the pitch. A recent highlight was a visit to Doncaster Rovers Football Club, where the teams took part in a competitive event, gaining valuable experience and inspiration in a professional sporting environment. Their achievements reflect not only their sporting talent but also their positive attitudes and dedication.

Dark Nights

NOVEMBER

We are deeply committed to safeguarding our students both within and beyond the academy gates. Through our curriculum, dedicated assembly time, and the support of external agencies, we provide students with regular opportunities to learn about personal safety and the potential risks they may face in the wider community. An example of this is the Dark Nights production, which delivers an impactful, interactive performance and workshop that helps students understand real-life dangers and develop strategies to keep themselves safe. By reinforcing these messages in a variety of engaging ways, we empower our students with the knowledge, confidence, and awareness needed to make safe choices in their everyday lives.



Sheffield Cathedral

NOVEMBER



As part of their learning and enrichment experience, our Year 7 students took part in a visit to Sheffield Cathedral. The trip provided students with the opportunity to explore a significant local landmark, deepen their understanding of its history and cultural importance, and reflect on its role within the wider community. Through guided activities and discussion, students were able to engage thoughtfully with the space, supporting their learning while also encouraging curiosity, respect, and a sense of connection to the city around them.

GCHQ

NOVEMBER



Our Year 9 language students recently took part in an exciting and top secret session delivered by GCHQ, giving them a unique insight into how the skills they develop in their languages lessons can lead to a wide range of fascinating careers. The session highlighted the real-world importance of communication, problem-solving and analytical thinking, showing students how languages can play a vital role in national security and intelligence work. Students found the experience both challenging and inspirational, leaving with a greater understanding of future career possibilities and a renewed enthusiasm for their language studies.

Rewards

TERM 1



Each half term, we celebrate the fantastic efforts of our students through dedicated rewards events for each year group. These events are greatly enjoyed by our students and provide a valuable opportunity to come together as a school community to recognise achievement. By celebrating success in this way, we continue to build a positive, collaborative culture of recognition and reward, ensuring that achievement is a meaningful part of our students' everyday experience at The Laurel Academy.

Primary Liason

TERM 1



Our primary liaison programme plays a vital role in supporting students as they prepare for the transition from primary to secondary education. Throughout the year, we host a wide range of events that invite primary pupils into the academy, giving them valuable opportunities to experience our environment, meet staff and students, and become familiar with daily life at The Laurel Academy. These experiences help to build confidence, resilience, and positive relationships, while also raising aspirations and excitement ahead of this important next step in their educational journey.

Reading

TERM 1



Our bespoke reading programme is designed to inspire a love of reading while ensuring every student receives the support they need to succeed. We place a strong emphasis on student engagement in the library, where pupils are encouraged to explore a wide range of texts and develop reading for leisure and pleasure. Alongside this, we offer targeted intervention pathways to support students who require additional help with reading, ensuring progress and confidence are built over time. Students' dedication to reading is celebrated through a range of rewards and recognition, reinforcing the value we place on reading as a key foundation for learning and lifelong enjoyment.

College Visits

TERM 1



Raising aspirations is a key focus of our careers curriculum, and we are committed to providing students with meaningful experiences that help them understand the wide range of opportunities available to them. This term, students have taken part in visits to further education providers, including Dearne Valley College and Rotherham College, giving them first-hand insight into post-16 pathways and future career options. These visits support informed decision-making, broaden horizons, and motivate students to set ambitious goals as they progress through their education.

Christmas Show

DECEMBER



In December, our students had the opportunity to showcase their talents in the performing arts through a truly mesmerising Christmas showcase. The performances highlighted the creativity, confidence, and dedication of our gifted students and were thoroughly enjoyed by students, staff, and members of the wider community. We were delighted to welcome families and visitors into the academy to support and celebrate these achievements, making the event a memorable and uplifting celebration of talent and hard work.

Dallowgill

DECEMBER



Our Year 11 students recently visited our residential centre at Dallowgill, where they took part in a unique and enriching revision experience. During their stay, students revised key science concepts through outdoor sessions, allowing them to see science in action and better understand how scientific principles apply to real-world scenarios. This hands-on approach proved both inspirational and supportive of deeper learning. Adding to the experience, students were even treated to a festive Christmas dinner on the first night, making the visit both academically rewarding and thoroughly memorable.

Student Bake-Off

DECEMBER



Our students enthusiastically took part in a Christmas-themed Bake Off competition, showcasing their creativity, enthusiasm, and love of baking. The impressive range of festive bakes highlighted not only students' culinary talents but also their ability to plan, problem-solve, and work with precision. Activities such as this form an important part of our commitment to aligning the curriculum with real-world skills, helping students to develop practical life skills, independence, and confidence that will support them well beyond their time at the academy.

Aladdin

DECEMBER



Our Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed a trip to the theatre to watch a lively production of Aladdin. The experience introduced students to the magic of live performance, from music and drama to set design and storytelling, capturing their imagination and enthusiasm. Visits such as this reflect our commitment to providing the richest possible cultural experiences, inspiring creativity and fostering a love of the creative arts that we hope will last a lifetime.

Trafford Centre Trip

DECEMBER



Just before Christmas, our Year 11 students were rewarded with a well-deserved trip to the Trafford Centre in recognition of the fantastic effort they put into their recent trial examinations. The visit provided students with an opportunity to relax, socialise, and enjoy time together after a demanding period of hard work and focus. This rewards trip not only celebrated their commitment and resilience, but also reinforced the importance of balancing ambition with wellbeing as they continue their journey towards their final exams.

Christmas Dinner

DECEMBER



In the lead-up to Christmas, staff and students have embraced the festive spirit across the academy. The celebrations included joyful carol singing along the Blue Line, creating a warm and uplifting atmosphere for everyone involved. This was followed by a fabulous Christmas dinner enjoyed together, complete with turkey and all the trimmings, Christmas crackers, festive music, and a dining hall beautifully decorated with true Christmas spirit. These shared moments brought our community together and captured the joy and togetherness of the season.