

# WE ARE ASTREA

## Astrea Awards 2019



Brilliantly compered by Benedick Ashmore-Short at the Cutler Hall, the awards were a glittering affair, and an opportunity to celebrate the brilliant talent that we have across all of our schools. The Mistress Cutler, Liz Cragg, welcomed guests to the evening and gave a short talk about the history of the building.

Guests were also treated to a wonderful performance of Shakespeare by Greengate Lane pupils.

We were delighted to have received so many nominations for each of the categories, and our judges had an extremely tough time picking winners as the nominations for each category were so strong. Awards were presented by our Chair, James Muir and VIP guests Sam Twiselton, Glen Fendley and Chris Rossier.

The winners are included in full below - our congratulations once again to everyone involved: you are all living and breathing our mission to inspire beyond measure!

- ★ **Primary Teacher of the Year:** Jen Baldwin Denaby Main Primary Academy
- ★ **Secondary Teacher of the Year:** Alexis Ivett Longsands Academy
- ★ **Commitment to Inclusion:** Hayley Harrison Astrea Academy Woodfields
- ★ **Community Impact:** Debbie Hughes Hartley Brook Primary Academy
- ★ **Outstanding New Teacher of the Year:** Nicole Skill Astrea Academy Woodfields
- ★ **Early Years Practitioner of the Year:** Stacey Ferguson Intake Primary Academy
- ★ **Teaching Assistant of the Year:** Allison Poyton Highgate Primary Academy
- ★ **Innovator of the Year:** Jasmine French Edenthorpe Hall Academy
- ★ **Volunteer of the Year:** Anne Moller The Centre School
- ★ **Support Staff Member of the Year (education):** Lisa Williams Edenthorpe Hall
- ★ **Support Staff Member of the Year (non-education):** Donna Bagnall Netherwood



Astrea Academy Trust  
INSPIRING BEYOND MEASURE



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# Astrea Conference 2019

Our Annual Conference and Awards took place at the end of June in Sheffield and we were delighted to have such a strong turnout from colleagues. The theme for the day was Leadership with Integrity: being an inclusive trust. Led by Nicola Crossley, delegates focused on the question of 'what education inclusion means' and explored the impact of an 'inclusive approach' in each of our academies. Adam Goldstein then lead a session on what it means to be an 'inclusive employer'.

Day two focused on the strategic landscape and what these external factors mean for us all at Astrea. There were also sessions on the Astrea Culture and school improvement strategies. A particular highlight was the exceptional vocal performance by our very own Mr Jim Garbutt.



## CEO WELCOME



Dear all,

As the school year draws to a close, there has been much to celebrate over the last term. Our record on Ofsted inspections continues, with 100% either retaining a Good judgement or improving – most recently with Lower Meadow securing their first “Good”, and Hatfield moving from “Inadequate” to “Requires Improvement”.

Our Key Stage 2 results are also a great measurement of the huge impact you are all having in your schools – this year’s results saw us improve yet again from a base of 32% back in 2016 to 57%. I am incredibly proud of this achievement, particularly so for Denaby Main, Kingfisher, The Hill and Waverley who all made improvement in every subject and all had an overall RWM increase of above 10%. Hillside and Hatfield both achieved significant increases in their overall RWM, achieving 19% and 20% respectively.

There have been so many positives of this year, many of which we celebrated at our Awards evening earlier this month. The evening was generously supported by YPO and Teaching Personnel – a big thank you to them!

I hope you all have a wonderful break over the holidays, having some time to rest and re-energise and be ready for what the new year brings us from September.

Libby

**Libby Nicholas**  
CEO, Astrea Academy Trust



Our primary schools continue to excel, and this year's Key Stage 2 results saw us improve yet again on what had already been an impressive rate of improvement. Since 2016, we have now seen a 25% point increase in results in terms of the proportion of children now meeting the expected national standards in reading, writing and maths.

This rate of improvement is more than double the national rate of improvement. Particular standout performances include Hillside improving from 33% to 69% since 2017 and Kingfisher who have gone from 35% to 65%.

In Ofsted terms, we have had seven Ofsted inspections this year, every one of which saw our academies that were previously struggling improve on their Ofsted grade, and for those who were already performing well, continuing to do so.

## A Successful First Year with Challenge Partners

This year saw Astrea join forces with Challenge Partners, an organisation that enables collaboration between schools to enhance the life chances of all young people, especially those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds. This mission clearly aligns with that of Astrea and so the decision to form an Astrea Hub within Challenge Partners was an easy one. It is fair to say this has been a highly successful year in our work with the organisation. This year all of our academies have experienced a QA Review, which

has involved a team of senior leaders from across the Challenge Partners network undertaking a detailed review of an academy. The process and report have both been highly useful and formative.

In addition to our academies having their own QA Review, over 50 senior leaders from Astrea academies have been part of review teams across the country looking at other schools. This opportunity to work across a wider network is one of the enormous advantages

of being part of an organisation like Challenge Partners, providing some exceptional professional development opportunities for those involved. For 2019/20 the aim is for even more Astrea colleagues to take part in QA Reviews across the country.



## Challenge Partners MAT review

In addition to individual school reviews and collaboration, Astrea has been involved in a pioneering Trust Review conducted by a senior team from Challenge Partners. As MATs increasingly shape the educational landscape, so the role they play is of heightened interest. In March, a large team from Challenge Partners spent three days looking at the role of Astrea in its school improvement mission. The process was immensely thorough and an invaluable experience for all concerned.

The work that we do as a Trust was recognised in the final report.

Astrea was recognised as a 'next generation' MAT. Quotes from the report give a flavour of the outcomes:

**"This ethical trust has a strong moral purpose to serve the needs of children and young people from disadvantaged communities. Its focus is on social regeneration, seeing education as an investment back into its communities. The CEO is clear about the service role of trustees and executives; in her own words 'we serve the leaders and the schools'.**

**"The trust demonstrates its commitment to school improvement and the development of academies as true learning organisations through the provision of the high quality central education services at no extra cost to the schools beyond the 6.5% of GAG contribution. This is excellent value for money for the schools."**

Many thanks to all colleagues who have engaged with our Challenge Partners work this year. We are looking forward to the opportunities that continued work with the organisation will provide next year.

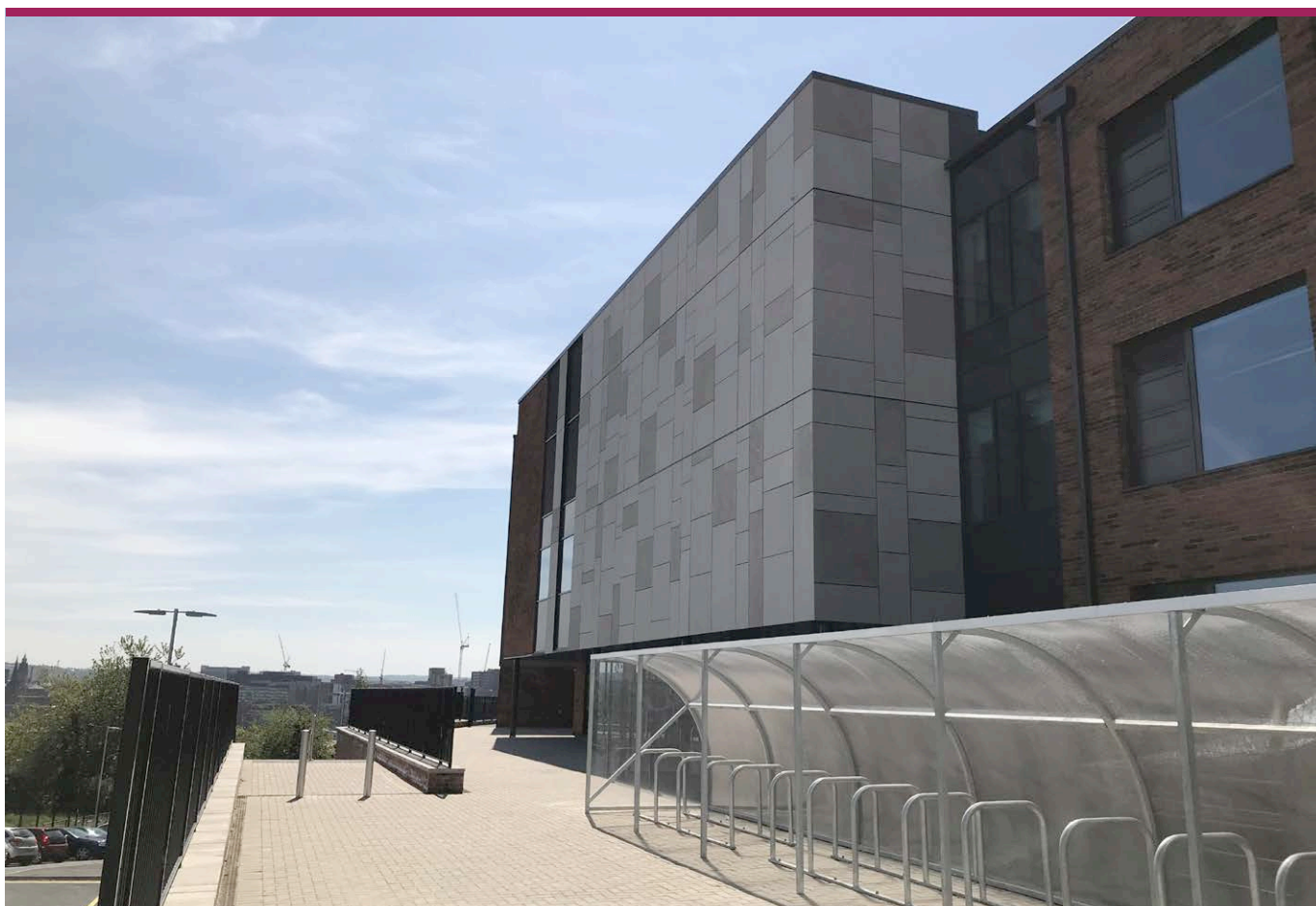
# Astrea Academy Sheffield

On Tuesday 23rd April, Astrea Academy Sheffield opened its doors to the brand-new senior building. The £25 million senior school is a true beacon of excellence which boasts facilities such as state-of-the-art laboratories for science and technology, a 4G pitch, a lecture theatre and an outside amphitheatre.

Staff and year 7 students are delighted about the opportunities that this building lends them and are hugely grateful to the Astrea staff who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to get the building open.

The schools pre-prep students remain in their listed building just across the street. The building has been nominated for this year's RICS award for the fantastic conservation work done. Pre-prep staff have welcomed an out-door learning expert to their team and look forward to expanding their curriculum into their forest school this term.

By Charlotte Reed



# Astrea Olympics 2019

We had 2 fabulous days at the English Institute of Sport in Sheffield on 25th and 26th June where children from across the Astrea family competed for the titles of KS1 and KS2 Astrea Active Olympic Champions.

With an opening ceremony parade around the track, Olympic oath taking by pupils from Intake and Highgate and a packed programme of events, 420 children and their staff had an action-packed 2 days of competition.

Eventual winners at KS1 were Hartley Brook, with Gooseacre taking second and Castle in the bronze medal position.

KS2 Champions were Gooseacre, with Intake in silver medal position and Highgate taking up the third place position on the EIS podium. To watch a video of PE Coordinator feedback click this [link](#) (or search "Astrea Active Olympics" in YouTube).



# Astrea Active Awards Evening 2019

We held our annual Sports Awards at Netherwood Academy on 3rd July and with over 70 nominations it was always going to be a star-studded event. With 3 finalists for each award (and 8 for the "Sports Girl of the Year" and "Sports Boy of the Year"), as well as "School Sports Champion", "Supporter of the Year", "Team of the Year" and five other titles up for grabs, pupils, their

families and teachers were on the edges of their seats as the winners were announced.

A fantastic time was had by all, especially the finalists and winners who all went home with a certificate, and some with a trophy!

Guest speaker for the evening was the inspiring Mrs Graham

from Hatfield, who not only plays international Masters-level Basketball but was the winner of the Astrea Active Ambassador Award too!

What an inspiring family full of sporting talents we have.



# Finance Team News

During the first quarter of 2019 the Central Finance team has been reorganised into two distinct, but cohesive teams – Trust Finance and Academies Finance.

The Trust Finance team will be responsible for the development, implementation and monitoring of robust trust-wide financial processes and procedures which are best practice for a MAT.

Ann-Marie Jones has been appointed as Head of Academies

Finance. This ensures continuity in setting and monitoring academy budgets at this extremely busy time in the financial calendar. Ann-Marie is an experienced Business Manager and has been working with the Principals and SBMs for the last three years.

The team would also like to welcome two new Finance Managers into the Academies Finance team – Theresa Chung and Amanda Hallford. Theresa is responsible for the Doncaster

primaries and Amanda for the Northern secondaries.

The team is also working collaboratively with external specialist consultant, Chris Sheasby, on multiple new processes and procedures designed to strengthen the financial and governance controls in place across the Trust.

By Joanne Meadows

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## Astrea LPD 2019-20

Planning for the 2019/20 LPD offer is now complete. The LPD brochure will be circulated to Academies during w/c 22nd July. <https://www.astrealearning.org/cpd/portal.asp>

We have some great new courses this year, including Essentials in Fundraising, ran by our very own Head of Fundraising, Fran Lightfoot; Curriculum Led Financial Planning training, ran by Lisa Thompson and Dyscalculia Training ran by Viv Preece, to name but a few – be sure to check out the brochure for full course details on these and many, many more fantastic training opportunities for all staff.

Schools who are yet to be added to the Astrea Learning system are St Ivo, Astrea Academy Dearne and Astrea Academy Woodfield, please see below expected completion dates of user accounts for those academies.

- **St Ivo Academy - Monday 3rd June 2019**
- **Astrea Academy Woodfield - Monday 22nd July 2019**
- **Astrea Academy Dearne - Monday 2nd September 2019**

Until this time, these schools can continue to book via [events@astreaacademytrust.org](mailto:events@astreaacademytrust.org) and contact the course leads or Lindsey Wilkinson at the Hub for further information.

# Hartley Brook TV Superstars



On two recent occasions Hartley Brook has been prominent on national television.

On the first occasion Hartley Brook Primary Academy was privileged to welcome Magid Magid the Lord Mayor of Sheffield to the school. Magid was being filmed for a television programme and he chose Hartley Brook as the school to visit.

Magid was given a wonderful reception by the children at the gate and they welcomed the Lord Mayor in his limousine and chains. The young people were impeccable and represented all that Hartley Brook and Astrea stand for.

Magid then attended a Key stage 1 assembly and was serenaded by the entire key stage, all of which is captured on film for Calendar and is on the school's website. He

then faced a series of gruelling questions from the young people such as 'How long did it take you to become the king?' and 'Do you live in a Castle?' However, Magid inspired the young people by saying he just lived in an ordinary house, had been a refugee, and attended a normal school and he became Lord Mayor. He said that anyone of them could be Lord Mayor and should go for it. Inspirational.

Magid then went to Key stage 2 where he attended a singing class, singing 'High Hopes' and then a dance class where he really showed his moves. Following this he attended a Key stage 2 assembly where the young journalists interviewed him and he then took questions from the audience. Again he inspired our young people to achieve.

This was a fabulous visit from a dedicated and caring Lord Mayor. He stayed much longer than expected and found Hartley Brook to be a wonderful environment for learning. We were so privileged.

The school's second appearance on TV was for 'World Book Day' when Calendar came in to film the assembly and interview staff and children. Once again, the singing, dancing and costumes showed the incredible effort and commitment of the adults and young people. It was a wonderful day.

The presenters from Calendar were 'blown away' with everything they saw. They interviewed the young people and they were inspirational and said wonderful things, it was hard to imagine that they were key stage 1.

The staff represented Hartley Brook and Astrea superbly and showed what value and enrichment we add to the young peoples' lives and what a superb place it is to work. Both videos can be found on the school's website and take time to watch them, they show the delight in the young people's faces and the passionate commitment of the adults.

By Jim Garbutt

## Castle

Huge congratulations to Mrs Cope on passing the practical element of the Level 3 Forest School Lead Practitioner. Castle Academy can't wait for hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows around the campfire!





## News From Atlas Academy

Early Years have begun to develop an 'Atlas Allotment' where we are planting lots of tasty vegetables and beautiful flowers.

The photo shows children in EYFS planting potatoes to harvest for soup later in the year.

F2 visited the Cast theatre to take part in an interactive concert by Music in the Round. The school revisited the story of Giddy Goat by Jamie Rix through storytelling, songs, actions and music. Going to the theatre was a 'first' for most of the children and they were immediately hooked, coming back to school asking when we could go again and wondering what else the theatre has to offer!

Children from Atlas Academy are getting to meet famous authors and illustrators at Doncaster Book Award events. Year 5 pupils, here pictured with illustrator of the 'Horrible Histories' illustrator Martin Brown, are gaining exclusive backstage access with Atlas teacher Mr Sheppard who organises the events. Other authors to inspire the children include 'Spy Dog' creator Andy Cope, 'Mr Gum' author Andy Stanton and David Solomons, who has written the latest 'Dr Who' novel.

Year 2 children from Atlas Academy have won a prize in the national, 'Show Racism the Red Card'

competition with a video they made to promote multiculturalism. Their film, called 'The Magnificent Tree', is based on a story the children wrote together and features their artwork, animations and narration. The children were invited to a glittering awards ceremony at Manchester City Football Stadium to celebrate alongside famous faces from the world of football and other winners from around the country.

Atlas Academy children played a key role in a campaign to buy a copy of a new book 'The Lost Words' for every primary school in Doncaster. The children made a video in which they performed

poems from the book and discussed its illustrations. This was used to head a crowd-funding campaign which raised over £700 towards the cause.

'The Lost Words' is a very special book of poems which aim to reinstate words such as 'conker', 'bramble' and 'kingfisher' which had famously been removed from the Oxford Children's Dictionary. The author and illustrator of the book were highly complementary about the Atlas children's efforts.

By Julie Parry



## CVC's chemists achieve greatness at the Festival of Chemistry, University of Cambridge

Students at Cottenham Village College were invited to take part in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry held at the University of Cambridge on Thursday 28th March 2019. Cottenham was represented by Marta, Patrick, Sam & Sophia who are in years 7 and 8. They were required to

undertake experiments to analyse unknown chemicals using the technique of Chromatography. This was completed in the University Chemistry Laboratory under the supervision of postgraduates. There was tough competition from many schools and they were competing against 18 teams in

total. The school are pleased and proud to announce that Marta, Patrick, Sam and Sophia came first! Congratulations to them all! A huge achievement!

By Helen Cassady

# St Ivo National Champions!

Both of St Ivo's under 15 and under 16 girls' football teams won through to the National Final of their respective ESFA National Cup. The finals took place in May. First up were the under 16s playing at the prestigious Manchester City Academy Stadium against Horizon Community College, Barnsley. The match was won very decisively with an amazing score of 12-1. A couple

of weeks later, the under 15s played at West Bromwich Albion FC in an extremely tight match which St Ivo sadly lost 6-5 on penalties.

Over the past few years St Ivo has enjoyed multiple successes in girls' football. We enter teams to national competitions at every possible age group, all of which are coached by one of our PE teachers, Lisa

Trigg. These were our 10th and 11th national finals in six years. St Ivo teams have also been invited to play in the British Isles tournament (the top teams from the home nations) and participated in the Youth World Cup.

By Anthony Wood



# St Ivo Spring Showcase

St Ivo Academy's Dance Department recently had its annual Spring Showcase event where students from all year groups performed their latest work. Approximately 100 students performed dances they had learned as part of our extra-curricular clubs, our BTEC Level 2 and 3 classes as well as dances they had created

themselves especially for the event. The school is incredibly lucky to have such talented and dedicated students who love to create, learn and perform a range of dance styles, it's always a pleasure to work with them!

In the Summer Term, our clubs and BTEC classes will be working

towards our next production of "Ivolution", our largest event of the year held in the Burgess Hall from 19-21 November 2019. This event typically sees around 180 students perform around 30 dances!

By Lindsay McAdam



## Year 6 Maths Convention

Ten of Edenthorpe's top performing Year 6 mathematicians travelled to Netherwood Academy for a Greater Depth Maths convention.

The children competed against students from all of the other 17 Astrea South Yorkshire primary Academies. They showed great resilience, communication skills,

enthusiasm, commitment and teamwork as they undertook a series of challenges in four different workshops. This provided them with lots of opportunities for reasoning and problem solving whilst using number, algebra, shape and space and measures. They also had the chance to try out some sample GCSE Maths

questions which proved to be well within their reach.

The children who took part – Katie, Muhammad, Kearan, Malak, Max, Sam, Finlay, Isabelle, Evan and Vale – all received a certificate in a celebration assembly.

## Year 5 Scholars Programme

A group of Edenthorpe's Year 5 children have embarked on the Scholars Programme which is an initiative run by the Brilliant Club.

This is providing them with an opportunity to take part in a project with an undergraduate from

Leeds University on a humanities project. The aim is to raise the children's aspirations with regards to university and future career opportunities.

They commenced the programme with a day's visit to see the Leeds

University campus and meet the undergraduate who will be working with them throughout the Summer term. They have started work in their project books.



## Year 10 Computer Scientists visited Bletchley Park

Forty Year 10 Longsands Computer Scientists visited Bletchley Park recently to enhance their knowledge of Cyber Security whilst learning about Britain's history in developing the early computer systems that led us to the technology we use everyday.

The visit included

- The opportunity to hear about the history of Bletchley during a guided tour.
- Experience the new immersive cinematic experience exploring

Bletchley Park's secret D-Day role 75 years on.

- Take part in a Cyber Security workshop, which included the opportunity to explore a real German Enigma machine and decode messages (the same machine used in the Imitation Game film) as well as identifying current day cyber security threats. In addition, students made the most of self-guided time to explore the huts, house and exhibitions.



## Woodfield Year 11 boys' Semi-final Football News

An excellent game of football from two schools who represented their respective schools with maturity and pride. The game started slowly for Woodfields and STW took full advantage taking an early lead after some defensive confusion in the box. Woodfields began to grow into the game towards the end of the first half and Ahmet Tasci converted an excellent through ball from midfield, lobbing the keeper moving the Half time score to 1-1.

During the second half both sets of players played some excellent football resulting in some fantastic saves being made by both keepers and Woodfields hitting the post three times in quick succession. It was to be STW who dealt a significant blow to Woodfields 7 minutes from time when they again

took the lead to make it 2-1.

With time running out Woodfields looked destined to fall at the final hurdle, but the attitude of the Woodfields players ensured that this wasn't going to be straight forward for STW, with 2 minutes left Ryan Shepard picked the ball up on the right wing and drove at the STW defence finishing with an excellent strike into the bottom corner tying the game up at 2-2 which took us into extra time.

At this point both sets of players were looking fatigued it was going to go to the team that could dig the deepest, early in the 1st half of extra time STW were awarded a penalty after a clumsy foul in the box from some tired defending, fortunately for Woodfields Andre made himself look big and STW

pulled the penalty wide, a let off for Woodfields but could they capitalise. With one minute to go at the end of the first half of extra time Ethan Thorpe received the ball inside the STW 18 yard box and converted a one touch turn and volley into the top corner of the STW goal sending the players and crowd in raptures. From this point it was down to Woodfields to protect what they had earned, eventually the Woodfields team secured a superb and memorable 3-2 victory, progressing to the final of the Doncaster Schools cup.

Congratulations and well played.

By Mr McClune

# Debate Winners

A small team of Year 5s and 6s from Hatfield Academy took part in Sheffield's 'Our Voice Matters' Debate on Friday 29th May at Sheffield Town Hall. They won their debate with an amazing score of 40 to 17!

## Kingfisher Philosophy for Children



Year 5 students at Kingfisher Primary have put together the following information to outline what P4C means to them. Examples of what they've studied, include a video on bullying 'For The Birds', where they discussed the question, "Should we treat everyone the same?"; discussions around Banksy's artwork on migration and crime, with the question, "Should people be allowed to come into our country?"; and the question, "Can women do the same job as men?" prompted by an interview of a footballer who used to do ballet.

### What is P4C?

'P4C stands for Philosophy for Children' **Zofia Wink**

'Sit in a circle on the floor, choose ideas for the class to talk about, listen to opinions and share our own' **Katie Pickering**

'Watch or read a stimulus with the whole class, share our feelings and

talk about them with the class' **Kashaan Hussain**

'One session a week, where we can just sit and discuss our own opinions - no work, just listening to each other' **Lucy Kelly**

### What have you done in P4C?

'Learned about why we have to be safe online and if we should tell people about private conversations' **Erin Hanson**

'We had a really good debate on whether or not pupils' should be paid to come to school, since teachers do' **Aatazaz Abbasi**

'During our migration topic, we talked about if it's fair that governments in different countries stop certain people from being allowed to live there' **Hadi Hasan**

'In class, we shared our opinions about excluding people because of their skin colour' **Katrina Kaur**

### How has it helped you?

'It has helped me understand why we (and other countries) have certain laws about migrants' **Jasmine Miller**

'I can talk about my feelings in a safe place, where no-one will tell me I'm wrong' **Demi-Leigh Slater**

'It helps you understand how other people are feeling' **Taylor Johnson**

### What do you enjoy about P4C

'We get to share whatever is on our minds' **Simay Karakoc**

'If you don't agree with someone else, you can share your opinion and have like a little debate' **Brooke Pickering**

'I like that everyone gets involved and no-one is left out' **Bastian Graham**

'I just enjoy everything about it' **Nikola Grigane**

## Woodfield Year 7s visit to York University

On 1st May, 29 of our Year 7 students visited the University of York as part of the Shine programme. The University of York Shine Programme supports students from schools across Yorkshire, the Humber and the North East to reach their full potential. The programme aims to inspire, motivate and encourage

students to achieve academic success and raise their aspirations towards higher education. At Woodfields we have 110 students in Years 7-11 participate in Shine.

Year 7 students on their visit took part in a range of activities and experiences to learn more about higher education and the University

itself. In the morning students completed group activities about progression to higher education and went on a tour of the campus. In the afternoon students completed other activities about researching universities and writing personal statements.

By Andrew Marshall

## University of Oxford Flash Fiction Winner



A Longsands student was recently named as a runner-up by the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages at the University of Oxford in the Year 7-11 category of this year's Oxford University Flash Fiction competition.

The Principal was delighted to present Maddie with her certificate and to talk to her about her story. Mrs Swainston, Madidie's French Teacher, is incredibly proud of her achievement.

The University of Oxford wrote that, "the judges were very impressed by the overall standard of entries, but felt that Maddie's story deserved particular credit, commenting that it was a 'perfectly formed narrative that will make the reader smile; a story that particularly outstanding in imagination and creativity, as well as enthusiastic engagement with the target language.'"

## St Ivo Students Adventure at Camp Suisse



This June, 138 Year 8 students from St Ivo travelled to the Swiss alps for a week of adventure. This is a very popular visit which the academy has run for many years.

Activities included rock climbing, high ropes, mountain roller coaster and husky dog sledging on Glacier 3000, banana boating in Lake Geneva and gorge scrambling.

A truly once in a lifetime experience for the students, many of whom were visiting abroad without their parents for the first time.

# Astrea Times Tables Rock Star competition



After weeks of rehearsals and eager anticipation the afternoon finally arrived for the Astrea TTRS battle of the bands.

With representatives from 8 Astrea primary academies the competition was fierce. Children from Year 2 to Year 6 competed against each other in individual tests of speed and accuracy with much encouragement from their teams and teachers. Fancy dress was optional but many really got into the spirit of the event with full sleeve tattoos, make up and wigs, it was a sight to behold!

Organised by Jo Upton, the event went off without any technical issues although pulses were raised early in the day at the sound check

when the Wi-Fi failed. As with all good organisers a solution was found and all went to plan.

After the interval of pink prosecco and canapés - AKA juice and Rocky bars - the expectant crowd was treated to an air guitar dance off for pupils and teachers. The enthusiasm of Mrs Johnson from Waverley had them all cheering and applauding. All pupils truly entered into the spirit of the event and although an overall winner, Tom, was selected the decision was tough. Well done to Intake for 2 pupils in the final 3. Full marks for enthusiasm everyone.

Time for the main event and 3 pupils from each year group competed for the overall winner

and winning school. They were welcomed into the hall like the heroes they are with cheering, shouting and many high 5s. After a well fought final battle the overall winner was Liam Sanderson from Gooseacre and the winning team of Liam, Kristupas, Ethan, Dempsey and Tahlia was also Gooseacre. The speed at which the pupils were able to answer the questions was staggering and put many a maths lead to shame! Just not the TTRS that we once were I guess. Certainly an annual event to add to the Astrea Calendar and Gooseacre the school to beat in 2020. But you have to be in it to win it so get practising everyone.

## Dearne in Barcelona

This May, our Y7 and Y8 students have had the opportunity to visit Barcelona and were true examples of resilience and can do attitude from ordering food in Spanish to climbing up to Parc Guell, they did it all with a smile on their faces!

They made their MFL teachers proud and loved putting their skills to good use! We can't wait for our next adventure!



# The Centre School Battlefields Trip

The Centre School Battlefields trips have been running since 2013, and they came about following a comment from one of my students in a History lesson. We were looking at an image of preserved trenches (Sanctuary Wood / Hill 62, near Ypres); he was fascinated and asked if we could go there. We do a lot of learning outside the classroom anyway, so I started thinking about it. I was fairly new to the school, and to SEMH pupils, and such a trip had never been tried before. We settled on the only three students (at the time) that we thought could cope with the travelling, being together for that length of time, and were sufficiently interested, and we planned a day-trip to Ypres in Belgium. It worked spectacularly well; we finished the day at the Menin Gate to lay a wreath at their daily Act of Remembrance. I had expected to be laying it myself; but after a day in cemeteries and trenches walking in the boot-prints of the Tommies, all three students wanted to pay their respects. In front of hundreds of people,

our three lads marched out, and reduced me to a proud, sniffing wreck.

So now we knew that, with the right students, the right visits, the right preparation, we could make this work. The next year we made it a residential, staying overnight in a B and B near Ypres who welcome us with open arms year after year. We moved from two days to three, extended down to Vimy Ridge, the Somme and this year to Cambrai, and we are currently running the trip twice a year.

The pool of students who are good candidates for the trip grows all the time; the relationships created while travelling and experiencing together pays dividends when back in school. We still keep the group small and our itinerary flexible, and the visits are tailored to the students. They all have a dog-tag with their name, and a number - at some point they will find themselves standing in front of a headstone of a soldier with their

name (or as close as I can find!) and whose regimental number matches the number on their dog-tag. This is their Tommy - and meeting him is often a highlight of the trip.

Every trip is different, with changing themes and visits; but they are always memorable, emotional, educational, and tremendous fun. We are out again in November - and the students are talking about it already.



# Dearne Duke of Edinburgh Award

This year has seen Astrea Academy Dearne's first ever Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards completed! It has been a very exciting year packed with expeditions to the Peak District, weekly volunteering activities, new skills learnt and physical abilities strengthened. The Silver Award has challenged and stretched our students beyond measure and we are over the moon to say that they have completed their awards.

In January this year a brilliant group of students accepted the challenging of completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. Again the students have learnt new skills, taken part in weekly physical activities and volunteered within their personal communities. To complete their award, the students have taken part in navigation training, equipment evenings, a tough practice expedition and an epic assessed expedition. We are really proud of all the students that have worked so hard to pass their award.



**Congratulations!**



# St Ivo Iceland Visit

Early in July, 67 students from St Ivo Academy (spread across two trips) visited the 'land of fire and ice' - Iceland for their 13th annual visit. Students got to experience the amazing physical geography that has shaped this fascinating country, including visiting the fissures which mark the point where the North American and Eurasian plate are tearing apart.

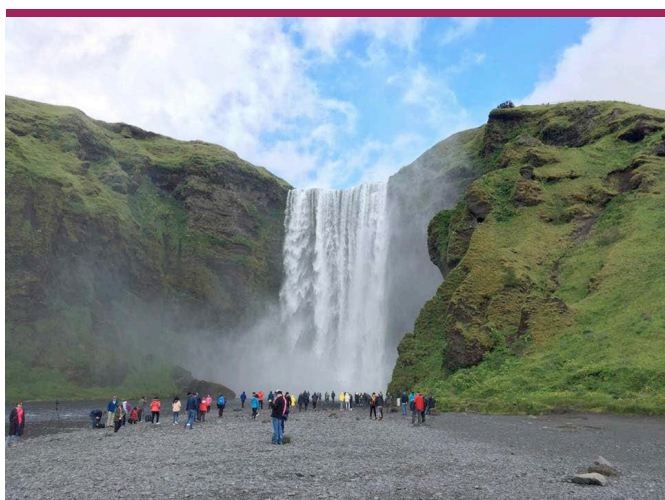
Students explored the power of water in shaping landscapes, visiting spectacular waterfalls such

as Gullfoss and Skogafoss and the rugged coastline of South Iceland with its arches, stacks and stumps eroded by the powerful waves of the North Atlantic. They visited Sólheimajökull glacier where they were given an introduction to the power of ice and glacial processes and even climbed an active volcano (Eldfell) on the Island of Heimaey (which last erupted in 1973).

Visits to the lava and Eldheimar museums, as well as active geothermal and volcanic sites,

enabled students to also explore first hand Iceland's tectonic heritage, including visits to geysers and boiling pools and the opportunity to relax in the stunning geothermally heated healing waters of the Blue Lagoon.

Students had an amazing time and their adventures are documented in full on the Geography department website [www.geobytes.org.uk/iceland19](http://www.geobytes.org.uk/iceland19)



# The Astrea Shakespeare Festival 2019

On Tuesday 4th June 2019 315 pupils from across 14 Astrea academies joined together at the Merlin Theatre in Sheffield to celebrate the life and work of William Shakespeare and perform a selection of his plays. The Astrea Shakespeare Festival was officially opened with some welcoming words from Libby Nicholas.

Each academy brought a group of students from KS2 to share their 15 minute performance with the audience. Performances included: Romeo and Juliet, Macbeth, The Tempest, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Twelfth Night, Hamlet.

Performances also included impressive props, costumes, multi-media and sound and lighting effects, all created by the pupils. It was a fantastic experience for our pupils to not only visit a theatre, but perform on a theatre stage in front of a large audience. This also fulfilled one of our Astrea Promises. Each academy also displayed a range of work and photos from the projects and preparation they did back at their own school.

The academies that took part were: Edenthorpe, Carrfield, Gooseacre, The Hill, Hatfield, Hartley Brook, Highgate, Kingfisher, Castle, Atlas,

Greengate Lane, Lower Meadow, Waverley and Intake.

The Merlin Theatre in Sheffield was a super venue and the staff were incredibly supportive. The venue work closely with Freeman College who provided the refreshments including 350 cupcakes! They also praised the talent and behaviour of our students.

We are already planning the 2020 festival to be even bigger and better with an additional awards ceremony at the end.



# Ad Astra recruitment – 2019/20



Astrea Academy Trust invites applications for our Ad Astra team. These exciting roles, which have already had a huge impact over since the trust formed, are to establish exceptional leadership, teaching and coaching across both our primary and secondary academies.

Astrea Academy Trust seeks applications from outstanding colleagues within the trust with the highest aspirations for the children and communities we serve. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to work with the Executive team and National Subject Leaders to set the standard for future development of their specialism. These roles are academy based and you will have the opportunity to work, for an agreed amount of time, across other academies within the Trust. We would warmly welcome applications in from the following specialisms;

- Maths & English (both phases)
- Science
- MFL
- EYFS
- Safeguarding & Attendance
- Inclusion / SEND / PP
- Data

Astrea Academy Trust is committed to high quality professional development and career opportunities for all staff and specialist training will be provided to support staff in these roles. The role will require a high level of coaching competence and training will be provided to support this.

These unique and crucial roles provide a fantastic opportunity to join a dynamic team working across the family of academies to raise achievement. Successful candidates will be dedicated, enthusiastic and motivated in developing the life chances of our young people through inspirational and successful teaching.

## Process

Applicant should write a one-page letter to Libby Nicholas outlining how why they should be considered and how they will have an impact in role as an Ad Astra. Please send all letters to [recruitment@astreaacademytrust.org](mailto:recruitment@astreaacademytrust.org).

# ***NEWSFLASH!***

**ASTREA LEARNING, 2019/20 LPD BROCHURE  
NOW AVAILABLE.**

Log on at <https://www.astrealearning.org>  
to secure your next development opportunity.

## ***SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS STORIES & EVENTS!***

Do you have a good news story or an upcoming event that you would like to share?  
If so, we'd like to hear from you for our next issue.

Please email: [Lucy.Betteridge@astreaacademytrust.org](mailto:Lucy.Betteridge@astreaacademytrust.org) with your submissions.