

# Spring Term



# 2024-25



SHAPING POSITIVE FUTURES

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Cottingham



Hessle



Howden



Croxby



Holderness



Keyingham



# Welcome from our CEO

Welcome to the Spring edition of our **Shaping Positive Futures** newsletter, which showcases just some of the highlights of the last term.

We continue to enrich the lives of our learners in so many ways, including through the many exciting visits taking place (both locally and further afield), supporting the work of charities and creating memorable performances. At the heart of our mission is our commitment to putting our learners first and I continue to be inspired by the work we do together and the impact we create. Our values of **aspiration, respect, integrity** and **responsibility** reflect who we are and how we work, and create a positive culture for our whole community. This newsletter captures, and celebrates, our values in action. I am delighted to read about the opportunities we are delivering for our learners and whatever the role you play in this, thank you for your continued commitment, support and hard work as we deliver lasting impact for all our learners. Wishing you all a Happy Easter!

Lizann Lawson  
CEO



Peshurst



Wolfreton



Winifred Holtby



Consortium Sixth Form

Raising aspirations.



SHAPING POSITIVE FUTURES

LEARNER

CONFERENCE



UNIVERSITY  
of HULL

Each year we invite a group of our learners from across the Trust to attend a conference, held at the University of Hull.

A different cohort of learners is invited each year and this year the theme was **aspiration**.

Working collaboratively with the on-site teams from the **Children's University** and the **Humber Outreach Programme**,

the day delivered a fantastic blend of activities. A particular highlight for the learners was the chance to **tour the university campus**, with stopping off points including the **library, sports arena, students' union** and **student accommodation**.

They visited a number of different faculty areas, were able to experience sessions delivered in the university's **lecture theatres** and had the opportunity to ask as many questions as they could think of! One of the workshops was based around **student finance**, learning vital budgeting skills that they would need for life as a university student.

"I love that your life can change when you turn something round. The Children's University let us know that we could be whatever we want when we are older."

Croxby Primary learner



# FEEDBACK

"...it made me more certain that I want to be a midwife and study at Hull University, as their medical department is amazing."

"Our Keyingham children really enjoyed the day and especially liked the tour of the university. It gave them the chance to see how big it was and what it might feel like if they go to university one day. The keynote speaker helped them to think about how they can help themselves achieve what they would like to do when they grow up and it also stopped them from having as much doubt about what they can achieve."

"I just wanted to say a huge thank you on behalf of Wolfreton. These are some of our most vulnerable young people and it was a great opportunity for them to be involved in. They absolutely loved the day and have asked if they can do it every year!"

**Feedback from both learners and staff was extremely positive:**

**CEO Lizann Lowson**

**summed the day up:** "Each year our learner conference is excellent, with our young people leaving happy and inspired and this year was no different. This year, the tours of the university in particular were a big hit for all ages and inspired our learners to aim high and follow their dreams."

**The last word goes to a learner from Winifred Holtby who said:**

"I found the history of the university interesting but I also came away feeling that, even if I'm not there yet, I can achieve my dream job which is to become a Zoologist."



# SUCCESS EVENTS

**Two Year 11 Success Events took place in January, with a focus on raising attainment in English and mathematics through targeted revision and intervention.**

Both days included a number of bespoke workshops, delivered by expert subject specialists from across the Trust. Year 11 learners from across the Trust's secondary schools

worked collaboratively and were fully committed to each day's packed programme. Top revision tips and strategies were shared, and focused sessions were delivered by highly committed staff with the aim of ensuring everyone has the best chance to reach their potential.

Feedback from the learners was overwhelmingly positive and the inspiring venue of the **University of Hull** provided a brilliant environment which set an aspirational tone for the sessions.

*"It was wonderful to see learners working collaboratively across all of our secondary schools, building confidence by working together as they approach exam season."*

- Jamie O'Brien, Director of Curriculum and Standards



Maths session underway.



Learners  
engaging in  
an English  
session.

## FEEDBACK

**Feedback from learners was positive, with requests for additional sessions:**



### What did our learners find particularly helpful?

- Being taught how to analyse the text and how to use connotations properly
- The transactional writing section helped as well
- Insight from people who mark GCSEs
- Different ways to solve certain maths problems
- The environment and the overall approach was different and practical



### What can we improve for future events?

- Make the sessions longer
- Have more time for workshops
- More specific focus
- Smaller groups so that there's more chance to ask questions
- Include sessions on additional subjects e.g. science

**ASPIRATION**


**RESPECT**

**INTEGRITY**

**RESPONSIBILITY**

**SHAPING  
POSITIVE  
FUTURES**

# ASPIRATION

 We are ambitious - we aim high for ourselves and for others and we believe that we can make a real difference.

## Our Sixth Form Spanish A Level learners visited Barcelona for three nights and four very full days!

The trip was a first for some of the learners and included a number of stop-offs for traditional local delicacies such as **tapas**, as well as visits to the iconic sights of this **cultural mecca**.

Highlights included: the **Picasso museum**, the amazing **Sagrada Familia** and **Park Guell**, a guided tour of the **cathedral**, the **Ramblas** and the **Boqueria market**, the **National Museum of Catalan Art** and the **Poble Espanyol**. The real highlight of the day, possibly the weekend, was the evening **flamenco show** - it's a topic studied as part of the A Level course and was such an opportunity to see.

Along the way were pockets of shopping opportunities, giving the learners the chance to fully immerse themselves in the language – brilliant preparation for forthcoming examinations.

Sixth Form learners visit Barcelona's Arc de Triomf.



## Cottingham STEM Club learners are building a go kart, taking part in an immersive educational initiative which aims to transform traditional learning by fostering practical skills and a passion for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

The **STEM On Track programme** allows learners to engage in a hands-on learning experience week by week as they construct their own karts, fostering real-world skills along the way. Cottingham's first race takes place in early May and preparations have been a big team effort with teaching and support staff working together with learners to prepare their kart, which is now resplendent in its 2025 racing livery. The grand final takes place in June and we wish the team the best of luck.

"...a big team effort with teaching and support staff working with our learners..."

Go Kart resplendent in its 2025 racing livery thanks to team work.





Hessle High learners perform Grease to sell out audiences.

**Hessle High learners took on the roles of the working-class students of Rydell High, navigating their way through the complexities of peer pressure, politics, personal core values and love in a school production of Grease.**

Audiences were wowed by the performances which ran over three weeks to sell-out crowds.

**Learners from Keyingham have had an array of educational visits this term.**

Foundation learners were excited by the **Fire Brigade's** visit to the school. Year 1 learners travelled to the **Streetlife Museum** where they took part in a transport workshop. The Year 5 visit to the **Yorvik Museum** gave the learners the chance to explore the **DIG museum** and take part in the **Roman town workshop**. These opportunities bring the curriculum to life and lead to interesting conversations when back in the classroom, where the learners can delve deeper into the topics, armed with the insights these trips provide them.

Visits bringing the curriculum to life for Keyingham learners.





**Winifred Holtby Academy's latest sports tour was an experience to remember, as learners and staff embarked on an exciting trip to Manchester for a day packed with football history, interactive challenges, and live-action drama.**



Winifred Holtby learners explore the rich history of the beautiful game.

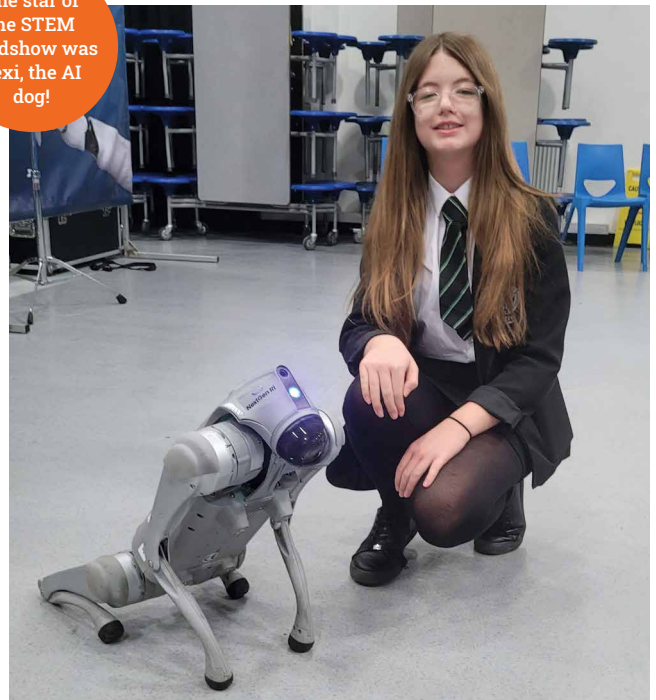
The tour kicked off with a visit to the **National Football Museum**, and a chance to explore the rich history of the beautiful game. From legendary moments to iconic memorabilia, they immersed themselves in the sport's evolution and even put their own skills to the test through a series of interactive challenges.

Next, the group made their way to the **Etihad Stadium** for a thrilling Champions League clash between **Manchester City and Club Brugge**. As if the day couldn't get any better, learners were lucky enough to meet some famous footballing faces, including **Jill Scott** and **Rio Ferdinand**. It was an incredible moment for aspiring young athletes to engage with legends of the game.

**Wolfreton's Year 7s and 8s had an exciting opportunity to attend the STEM Roadshow, a dynamic event that partners with BAE Systems, the Navy, and the RAF, to bring cutting-edge science and technology directly to learners.**

This year's theme was **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** - a topic that is increasingly shaping the future and influencing countless aspects of our daily lives. The presentation introduced AI as a powerful tool that we can harness to solve complex problems, but it also highlighted an important message: human skills are essential to ensure AI is used to its full potential. The star of the show, however, was none other than **Lexi the AI dog!** Lexi stole the spotlight with her impressive range of tricks, showcasing the fun and fascinating side of AI. Her playful tricks were not only entertaining but also helped demonstrate how AI can be integrated into real-world applications, making technology accessible and enjoyable.

The star of the STEM Roadshow was Lexi, the AI dog!



**The STEM Roadshow** gave the learners a unique opportunity to learn about the rapidly advancing world of AI and sparked excitement about the endless possibilities technology holds for the future.

Celebrating  
the Holi  
Festival of  
Colour.



# RESPECT



We respect ourselves and each other. We respect our diverse environment and community.

**Learners at Croxby Primary celebrated the annual Holi Festival of Colour which marks the end of winter and welcomes the spring.**

**Holi** is a major Hindu festival celebrated as the festival of Colours, Love, Equality and Spring. Learners in Early Years Foundation Stage to Year 6, learned about the Hindu traditions and the typically British rain held off just long enough for everyone to celebrate the joy of spring by throwing colourful powder known as 'gulaal'.



**Learners at Penshurst Primary engaged in a variety of hands-on activities during British Science Week, from online workshops and live lessons, to creating their very own balloon rockets, making ice cream, and even their own butter!**

It was a wonderful way for the learners to explore the wonders of science in an interactive and enjoyable way. Year 5 learners also had an out-of-this-world experience with the **Planetarium workshop** held in school. The children were fascinated by the wonders of space, learning about stars, planets, and galaxies. It was a fantastic educational experience that sparked curiosity and excitement about the universe.



Exploring the  
wonders of  
science.



Enhancing knowledge beyond the classroom.

## Wolreton learners embarked on two enriching educational trips, exploring different aspects of the world through the lenses of Geography and History.

The geography trip to **Tropical World** was a hands-on opportunity to further their understanding of ecosystems and extreme environments, directly linking classroom learning to real-world experiences. They explored a range of biomes in the living exhibition, from tropical rainforests to arid desert landscapes. In addition, learners visited **Roundhay Park** to apply their fieldwork skills. Here, they assessed various sites in the park, focusing on the quality of the environment and the human impact on the natural surroundings.

The history trip was an incredible opportunity to step back in time and explore **Lincoln Castle** and **Lincoln Cathedral**. This trip, designed to complement the learners' history curriculum, provided an exciting experience that brought their studies of **Medieval life, religion, and the Magna Carta** to life. It provided the opportunity for learners to see history up close, engage with experts, and connect the events they are studying in the classroom to real-world locations and artefacts.



Poetry for all ages and abilities.



## To celebrate World Poetry Day, Cottingham's learners took part in a poetry competition around the theme of 'peace and inclusion.'

Year 7 and 8 took part in a workshop with **Paul Cookson**, national poetry ambassador and performer, who believes that everyone can write poems. Staff inspired learners by displaying their favourite poems on their classroom doors ahead of the competition. A distinct favourite was an anonymous entry highlighting the school's history and embodying the ethos of Cottingham High.

"In '55, the records show, 297 students on Cott High's roll. A 'modern' school for 'modern times', steel construction, playground lines. The Old Block stood, a whole school site, 'til '76 where numbers might have caused a squeeze. So our school grew, and so they built a block called '**New**'. A swimming pool and Sixth Form Centre, woodland creatures, learning mentors. The site has changed but at our heart, we help give learners a brilliant start. Believe in your brilliance every day. Achieve your goals, don't just stay. At the start of your journey. We want to see, you succeeding in becoming who you should be."

# INTEGRITY



We are honest with ourselves and each other. We do things for the right reasons.

Growing in confidence and developing skills.



**Holderness Academy were one of nine schools in the country to be selected to host a National Apprenticeship Week event.**

This included a series of employer events focused on enabling many of the school's Key Stage 3 SEND learners to learn about the progression opportunities which apprenticeships can provide. Learners explored hands-on activities, heard inspiring stories, and learned about diverse career pathways from business leaders, educators, and apprenticeship ambassadors. The school also ran a session for parents, where they discovered what their children had learned from the week and heard a presentation from local employer **Cranswick** about local opportunities. The CEO of Cranswick opened the new dedicated careers space situated at the heart of the school which aims to raise the awareness of the careers support provided for all learners.

**Hessle learners recently completed their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award practice expedition which involves a minimum of two days and one night, with six hours of planned activity each day.**

The **DofE** inspires hundreds of thousands of young people, from all walks of life, to explore who they are, grow in confidence and develop the skills they need to successfully navigate life. Teacher Miss Moore, who runs the Hessle DofE programme, said "It's always lovely when members of the public come up to you and comment on how beautifully behaved your group are. They were a credit to themselves and exemplified the behaviours and values of the Trust, the school and the DofE programme."

Learning about diverse career pathways.



Learners host  
Howden Memory  
café in school  
canteen.



## Penshurst learners were excited to welcome the Humber Forest team.

The **Humber Forest** isn't a single 'forest' covering an area. It's the combined greatness of all the trees, woodlands and hedgerows growing in Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire. The team from Humber Forest helps organisations, including schools, to plant trees in the easiest and most effective way possible, at no cost. The aim is to increase the tree canopy cover across the Humber Forest, to significantly reduce the impact of climate change on the area, and make our region a place where people, businesses and wildlife can flourish on every level. Children from **Eco Club**, **Forest School** and **Gardening Club** were willing helpers.

Learners  
planting trees  
to reduce the  
impact of climate  
change.



## Howden is the only school in Yorkshire taking part in the Future Foundations CanTeam initiative, which delivers award winning, life changing programmes to young people, creating a network of young people making social change.

As social spaces such as high streets diminish, the "CanTeam" aim is to turn school canteens into community hubs that operate beyond school hours, hosting a range of local community groups. Learners chose to invite members of the **Howden Memory café** (which supports adults with dementia). They created a two-course menu, went out and purchased the ingredients and then prepped, cooked, served and cleaned for a group of 28 people. They even had time to create a quiz at the end and award a prize to the winning team!

# RESPONSIBILITY



We take responsibility for everything we do and see mistakes as an opportunity to improve and to get things right next time.

**Team Croxby are collaborating with MyGroup on a SchoolCycled scheme which is designed to educate the next generation about recycling, fragile ecosystems and sustainability.**

As part of the Trust's sustainability initiative, learners and staff are working together **collecting plastic bottle tops and lids** to exchange for sustainable outdoor tables and chairs. For every kilogram of bottle tops collected, the school earns 250 Earth Tokens which can be exchanged for recycled plastic items. Croxby have so far achieved **11,300 Earth Tokens** since the last collection and will be continuing their bottle top collection to help build up their recycled Outdoor Play and Learning furniture and equipment for learners.

Croxby learners bottle top recycling initiative.



**Three Year 10 Howden learners travelled to London for the Children's Food Awards 2025.**

Young Changemakers of the Year.

All three were nominated in the **Young Changemaker of the Year** category following their three-day long campaign covering the quality of school food last summer. During the event, the **learners met with MPs** and company executives as they took part in a number of workshops before the awards ceremony took place. We are delighted to say that, despite incredibly strong competition in their category, our learners scooped the top prize! They should be incredibly proud of themselves, and just to top things off, the trio have also been invited back to **London** later this year to share their views in parliament when the issue is next raised by MPs.





Exploring Post-16 options.

## Year 12 learners took the lead at recent Post-16 subject fairs at Hessle and Wolfreton sixth form campuses.

Year 10 learners from the two schools were invited to the events which highlighted the post-GCSE courses available to them at The Consortium Sixth Form College. The event offered the Year 10 learners the chance to speak to those

## Active Travel Ambassadors from a number of our schools travelled to County Hall, Beverley to pitch their ideas to secure funds of £450 to help run campaigns in their own schools to promote active and sustainable travel, aiming to change travel behaviours amongst their peers.

The day was split into two sessions with **Holderness**, **Howden** and **Hessle** all pitching in the morning session, followed by **Cottingham** and **Wolfreton** in the afternoon. All our schools were commended for their confident presentations and awarded funding by the expert panel to turn their pitch into reality.

currently studying in the Sixth Form and allowed them to get first-hand knowledge of what is on offer. Each subject had a stall manned by a current Year 12, allowing Year 10s to ask any questions about the particular subjects they are interested in, including what topics are covered in the course, how they are assessed and what they like about the subject. This was also a great opportunity to look around the facilities at each campus and experience a flavour of life at The Consortium Sixth Form College.

Trust schools, including Howden, pitch their ideas at County Hall.





# SHAPING POSITIVE FUTURES

**On World Down Syndrome Day learners at two of our Trust schools raised money for Downright Special, a local charity offering specialist support for people with Down syndrome.**

The charity, which offers emotional, practical, educational and health support in all aspects of the care and development of people with Down syndrome, delivered a schedule of assemblies where learners found out more about living with Down syndrome. Learners were encouraged to wear odd socks to raise awareness and celebrate the

uniqueness of individuals with Down syndrome.

**At Hessle, Mia and Lara** had a fantastic time raising money by holding a bake sale for Downright Special, their House charity. **At Holderness, Dylan** was supported by his brother **Oliver**, as well as his Head of Year and Teaching Assistant, and they raised more than **£200** with their chocolate tombola. Mia, Lara and Dylan were widely praised for their efforts by their respective schools. Downright Special said "These donations will help us deliver our range of support to families in Hull and East Yorkshire. This includes specialist groups for babies and young children with Down syndrome, as well as an outreach education service supporting inclusion in schools and social events for all ages."



"These donations will help us deliver our range of support to families in Hull and East Yorkshire. This includes specialist groups for babies and young children with Down Syndrome, as well as an outreach education service supporting inclusion in schools and social events for all ages." - Downright Special



# SHAPING POSITIVE FUTURES

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