



University
Academy
Keighley

Name _____

December 2018

An Update from the Principal



Fire Service Experience Day



Students from the academy spent a day at Keighley Fire Station on a special awareness day in early November.

The day was designed to offer youngsters a better understanding of the fire service and highlight the issues faced by the fire service. Students are to become ambassadors for positivity – sharing the safety messages with their peers.

The mixture of boys and girls from years 8 to 10 started the day with a tour of the station, the fire engines, appliances and equipment and completed a fire safety and awareness quiz.

Students then got kitted out in protective clothing to take part in practical exercises using the hoses and equipment and trying a rescue scenario for themselves.



Academy Lead for Behaviour and Attendance, Phill Allen said of the day: *"The most memorable part of the day for the students was the rescue scenario. Their engagement in the activity was amazing, they were a credit to UAK. Students represented the community positively and their commitment to taking the message to others is commendable. Everyone found the day very insightful and brought a deeper understanding and respect for the Fire and Rescue Service."*

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Opportunities for 'Tomorrow's Engineers'

12 students from the academy gained themselves a place at a special 'Engineering Extravaganza' in early November. The STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) event was hosted by The Science and Media Museum, Bradford as part of 'Tomorrow's Engineers Week'.

With only 12 places available, selection was made after all students in years 8 and 9 were given the opportunity to write a personal statement explaining why they should attend the event. It appears that we have a host of budding engineers with 63 students submitting a statement - the places could have been filled 4 times over.

Year 9 student, Eshaan Vaheed was one of the students chosen after he wrote: *"I am really passionate about engineering and technology. In my spare time I like to research what's new and what affects us every day and how we are still here. Technology and engineering has made a huge impact to the environment and I'm determined to increase my knowledge."* Fellow student Alyan Ibrar, who was also chosen, stated: *"I am interested in engineering I also love learning how things work and why they work like that. The experience could be a great contribution to my learning, it will also be a fun way to learn new things."*

At the 'Extravaganza' students engaged in fun engineering projects - such as creating an air-powered model of the Bloodhound car, which is hoping to raise the World Land Speed Record. There were also hands-on challenges to teach them about the world of materials and engineering. Students had to use their problem solving skills to design and model a high rise structure in Lego that would be able to withstand the forces of nature and engineer a container that would withstand the forces of a cargo drop and keep it contents safe. They also watched Imax movie 'Big Dream: Engineering Our World' and attended a fascinating lecture on current and future materials used in medicine, textiles and construction. Following the event students also gave a presentation about their experience to a staff assembly.



Mrs Arana, Teacher of Technology and Science, who organised the trip said: *"The students were a credit to the school and impressed everyone with their enthusiasm and tenacity. The activities were inspiring and based on real life situations that tomorrow's engineers will be encountering. They had lots of fun whilst gaining a deeper knowledge of engineering and project management."*

UAK, 'Burberry Inspire' and the Leeds Playhouse

We are extremely pleased and excited to have been announced as one of the eight schools selected to take part in the four year 'Burberry Inspire' Programme!

The 'Burberry Inspire' programme has been created in partnership with the Ideas Foundation and The Burberry Foundation and is the first in-school arts and culture programme to study the impact of arts education on young people's lives.

The programme is to be delivered in eight schools across Yorkshire and will be run by four eminent, local organisations across theatre, film, dance and art: Leeds Playhouse, Leeds Young Film, Northern Ballet and The Hepworth Wakefield.

We are very pleased to be working with Leeds Playhouse in the first instance. They have provided a dedicated Artist in Residence, Amy Lancelot, who is also the Creative Education Manager at Leeds Playhouse.

Amy is now working with teachers and students at the academy on a weekly basis to co-create drama and performance events, there is also opportunity for students to join a drama and performance club.

An outreach programme of visits and cultural experience is already underway for all of KS3 students.

The first of such events was a performance of the radio play 'Partition' written by Keighley-born playwright Nick Ahad. Cast members from Leeds Playhouse presented the story in the format of a radio play which gave students a valuable insight into the behind the scenes opportunities for creative jobs as well as acting roles.

Pre performance workshops delivered by Leeds Playhouse also helped students understanding of the context behind the story.

Each organisation will work with two schools per year, with all eight schools working with all four organisations by the end of the four-year programme. What an amazing and inspirational opportunity for all our learners!



Burberry Inspire and Leeds Playhouse

DRAMA CLUB

AFTER SCHOOL DRAMA & PERFORMANCE CLUB

for students in Years 7, 8 and 9

Every Friday in the Auditorium 3pm - 4pm
(starting 2nd November)

No experience needed, just enthusiasm and a willingness to join in!

Please see Miss Perrings for further details or if you have any questions.

Fun and games for our future students

Students in year 5 from six local primary schools around Keighley attended a special pre-transition activity afternoon, hosted by the academy, in November.

The youngsters took part in a number of challenging team games designed to get them working and co-operating with each other. The team building games also helped boost their confidence by introducing them to fellow students from different primary schools and unfamiliar staff and older students.

For many of the young visitors it was the first time that they have been to such a large school. So the day had double importance by helping them get used to a big secondary school ahead of the end of their primary years.



On hand to help guide the youngsters through the challenges were 12 of the academy's Student Ambassadors and Family and Community Worker Nadia Majid, all of whom had as much fun as the youngsters!

We hope to see much more of the primary students in future transition events over the next two years as they prepare for the move to 'big school'.



Letters to the past from 'thankful' students

Students from year 7 are among youngsters from only six schools to have their work chosen for a National Literacy Trust case study on behalf of The Royal British Legion's 'Thank You' campaign.



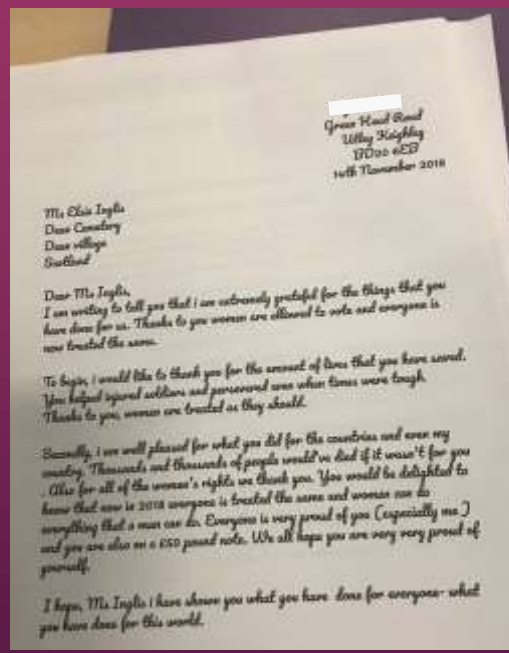
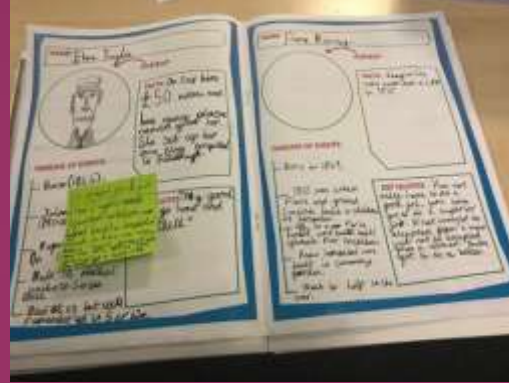
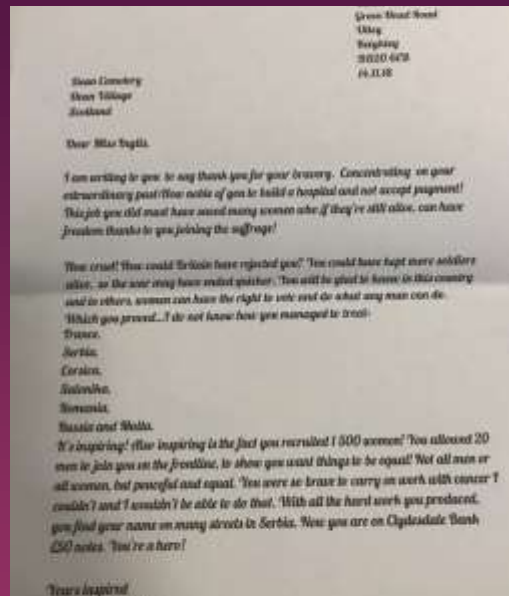
The 'Thank You' project, which took part during a special weekly English lesson, focused on people whose contribution to the First World War effort is not usually recognised. Students chose to study female surgeons Louisa Anderson, Flora Murray and Elsie Inglis. Using National Literacy Trust and The Royal British Legion resources they studied the life stories of these women to understand and celebrate their actions and achievements, and ultimately write thank you letters to them.

English teacher, Farhat Alam, who headed the sessions said: "It's honestly been a brilliant experience! The students really got stuck into the biographies and did some beautiful work. In class we had some really engaging conversations about what it was like for women before the war and what it's like now because of the work of people like Elsie Inglis and Flora Murray.

I think it was useful for the students to think about Remembrance in a slightly different way because they all know that lots of soldiers fought but it's harder to make that link back to their own lives and why we are still thinking about them 100 years on. Using the experience of the surgeons, we were able to put that traditional idea of remembrance into a broader context. It helped them see it in a different way, especially the girls."

Students have been truly inspired by what they learnt about these women one student commenting: "These women are so inspirational, I hadn't heard of these surgeons- Elsie Inglis was quite amazing, and Flora and Louisa too! In my letter I thanked them for the bravery they showed, about how they joined the suffrage and always fought for what they believed, how they helped willingly and always persevered and finally how they did what was right!"

The letters now form part of a case study produced by The National literacy Trust, it is also hoped that the letters will go on to be published in a remembrance collection. The Trust visited a number of schools across the country and selected six schools for the case study.



Centenary Recognition of British-Indian Army

Students have had the opportunity to view a special exhibition that explored the contribution made by people from the Indian sub-continent in the First World War.

The exhibition gave students a fascinating insight into the British-Indian Army and its contribution to the war, in which 75,000 of its soldiers, all volunteers, died.

The exhibition also links with curriculum subjects: History, English and PHSE (Personal, Social and Health Education). It is hoped that the exhibition has also helped to ground subject knowledge by providing students with a cultural connection to the conflict.



The exhibition came about through collaboration with academy English teacher, Stuart Irving, Kirklees Interfaith Forum, Kirklees Faith Network and Waseem Riaz.

Mr Irving said of the exhibition: *"It's important for community cohesion to raise awareness of the contribution made by people from the Indian sub-continent. On the back of the exhibition we have also discovered a number of staff with connection to WW1, which we are hoping to share with students to give them a more personal association."*

Deadly Distractions

It's that time of year again with dark mornings and afternoons so Year 7 were given a timely reminder about road safety.

Deadly Distractions was presented by The Riot Act theatre group to highlight the importance of being focused and alert when walking on or near roads.

Following the play students took part in a workshop to make sure they had understood the vital message behind the story. It was great to see everyone really engaged and focused.

The event was staged as part of a national Road Safety Week organised by the charity Brake and supported by Bradford Council, the Police and West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service.



Children in Need

Students raised £980 for Children in Need this year through a non uniform day and events around school. Students organised a bake sale and a penalty shoot out. During form-time students also took part in The BBC Annual Duck Race Sweepstake.

Coming Up

UAK is closed from 2.55pm on Friday, 21st December and will re-open on Monday, 7th January 2019.

Parents' Evening for Year 11: Thursday 17th January 2019, 4.00pm-7.00pm.

We have lots of news and stories to share with you and to find out more you can visit our website www.uak.org.uk

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Seasons Greetings



from everyone at UAK!