

Lighthouse News

Christmas 2021



A Message from the Principal:

Dear all,

We had a great start to the new academic year with the lift of many restrictions for students and staff. It was liberating to be able to deliver the curriculum in the way we know is most effective, and be together as one community. Students have really enjoyed being able to spend time with their friends from other year groups and all students have benefitted from community activities that can now be delivered in the community! Key Stage 5 students have been expanding their skills on work related activities; it is great to see the increased resilience and confidence in the students as a result of these opportunities. The School continues to make investments in the facilities for students and as a result the new Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) is absolutely a hit with the whole student body.

It has been great to welcome a small number of parents in school, supporting students to access vaccines, attending EHCP meetings in person and the new year 7 and 8 parents who up until now had not been onsite. We were planning to be able to open up school more in December to families, but unfortunately due to the changing circumstances this has not been able to happen. We do hope that we will be able to do this very soon.

School have introduced a new two-week timetable to support students to access a wider curriculum and have made changes to the way we deliver life skills, EHCP specific target interventions, and health and relationship education. This approach enables each student in school to have a further personalised education programme. We have had a number of new staff join the team and all staff have benefitted from a range of training already including The Autism Show webinars, Food Hygiene, SaLT, Behaviour Management and Support Strategies, Team Teach refresher, Supporting Students with Anxiety and outdoor learning with the Royal Forestry Society.

Christmas is well under way at Lighthouse with Christmas Shine Parties, Talent Shows, Compass House Christmas Market stall, Christmas dinner and lots of other festive treats.

I wish you all a Happy and Safe Christmas.

Emma Sullivan
Principal

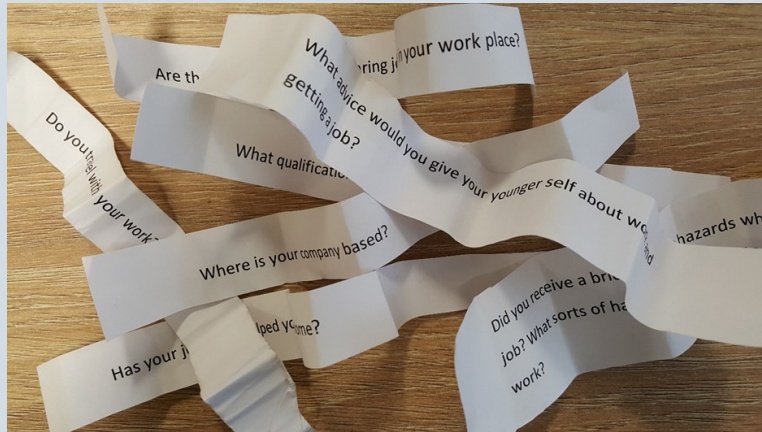
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Computing

Our Key Stage 4 & 5 Computing group welcomed a colleague from AND Digital to the school during Leeds Digital Festival week in November. The students really enjoyed having a visitor in school and learnt a lot about the digital sector, the company, and the different routes our qualifications, experiences, and hobbies can take us on our career journeys!



Bee Creative!

This term we've launched a fantastic aspiration raising project funded by the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and supported by the Burberry Foundation which aims to develop our students' understanding of the local creative sector, explore creative careers and develop creative skills.

The 'Bee Creative' project has secured funding for the school to purchase a number of high-quality sewing machines, which staff were thrilled to see delivered into school in November. We've partnered with the School of Sew at Sunny Bank Mills who are delivering staff and student sewing workshops and we will be going on all sorts of creative adventures over the coming months!

The 'Bee Creative' project logo was designed by our own Sixth Former Harry, using his fantastic digital creative skills!



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Work Experience

Every week this term groups of Sixth Formers have been having a brilliant time taking part in various work experience activities.

Eleven students have been working hard at Temple Newsam Farm, with the Leeds City College team undertaking a range of farm jobs, including: feeding the animals, cleaning out the duck pond, and clearing the sheep and duck enclosures of the nettles and weeds. They've been learning all about caring for the animals, including the ducks, geese and hens, goats, guinea pigs, cows, sheep and pigs - and their fast-growing piglets!

On the Branching Out placement at Lotherton Hall, our intrepid team of six students have been settling in with the staff from Lighthouse Futures Trust and the Leeds City Council Parks and Countryside Service undertaking a range of gardening and outdoor maintenance duties. They've also been doing health and safety training and spending time enjoying the glorious grounds and wildlife world.

Meanwhile on the World of Work ('WoW') programme with Lighthouse Futures Trust at their Headingley campus, nine students have been honing their baristas skills and trying out different sector-based roles in a range of areas. The WoW programme has been effective in supporting children and young people with additional needs in the United States for 30 years (where it is known as 'PAES').

We are delighted that Lighthouse Futures Trust has been selected as their partner to tailor this for the UK market and that our students are some of the first to experience it. The programme is based on the concept of sector-based learning and our students operate as employees whilst on site. It encompasses key sectors where skills gaps in the region have been identified and allows for students to develop an enhanced understanding of their own strengths, weaknesses and preferences in the workplace.



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Student Council

What is Student Council?

The Student Council provides opportunities for students to take on leadership roles, promote the voice of their peers, problem solve, and impact their community. The Student Council serves as the voice for the entire student body and actively works with a wide range of staff members in school to promote a safe and inclusive environment for all. Student feedback is regularly collected through a range of opportunities, such as a suggestion box, emails, and communication that is appropriate for their peers. Student Council meet fortnightly to initiate, implement, and complete projects and activities which will be beneficial to the school and the students at Lighthouse.



What did we achieve last year?

Student Council were able to improve break and lunches for all, through a variety of ways. We were able to get more picnic benches for students to enjoy their lunches outside. A giant chess set to be used outside, along with new board games for around school. We were able to improve the quality of the school hot meals by gaining student voice and lastly, we finally received our new upgrades to the MUGA, which have been a huge hit with all students.

What we would like to achieve this year:

This year Student Council would like to promote further awareness of LGBT+ within school amongst students and staff, with the aim of making sure school is an inclusive environment for everyone. Student Council would like to do this by creating an LGBT+ Lunch club, spreading awareness of different labels used within the LGBT+ community, as well as promoting gender neutral language. In June, we will be having a celebration of 'Being Yourself'. This will focus on Autism Awareness for outside the school community and celebrating LGBT+ including Equality and Diversity.

What have we already achieved this year:

This year we have raised money for Children in Need by having a non-uniform day, karaoke, dancing, and holding staff versus student football matches. Students across the whole school took part, and it was such a success that students have asked for the football matches to happen at the end of every half term!

| Student Council Member | Year Group | Role within Student Council |
|------------------------|------------|------------------------------|
| Jacob | 7 | Student Voice Officer |
| Nancy | 7 | Communications Lead |
| Amelia | 8 | Inclusion Officer |
| Josh | 9 | Lunch and Break Ambassador |
| Sarah | 9 | Student Voice Officer |
| Vitto | 10 | Events Co-ordinator |
| Antonio | 11 | Events Co-ordinator |
| Thomas | 12 | School Council Administrator |
| Harry | 13 | Communications Lead |
| Dwayne | 14 | Events Co-ordinator |
| Joe | 14 | Lunch and Break Ambassador |

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Relationship and Sex Education (RSE)

In September 2021, we started our new RSE curriculum across school.

Students have been learning about consent, puberty, and healthy relationships. They are engaging really well.

We have already seen some fantastic progress and feedback from our students within their lessons, careers interviews, and EHCP meetings.

There has been some really good parent feedback on our new curriculum, policy, and RSE questionnaire that we sent out in September.

We would love to get some more parent feedback – please click the QR code or the link below!

Amy Jenkinson-Key is leading Key Stage 4 & 5, and Kirsty Heys is leading Key Stage 3 RSE provision – if you need our support, please don't hesitate to get in touch!



RSE Questionnaire

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Parent Survey Summer 2021

Thank you to all parents that participated in the survey prior to the summer holidays. Parent feedback is invaluable to us as it enables us to further improve and develop our school.

90% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that:

- * My child feels safe at Lighthouse School (this is not related to Covid).
- * Lighthouse School makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year
- * My child has SEND, and the school gives them the support they need to succeed

92% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that:

- * There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.
- * Lighthouse School supports my child's wider personal development.

88% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that:

- * My child is happy at Lighthouse school.
- * Lighthouse School lets me know how my child is doing.

94% of parents would recommend Lighthouse School to another parent.



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Staff Notices

Dianne Kitching—Assistant Principal (SEN)

Dianne Kitching first started working at Lighthouse School as a SaLT consultant in 2017.

Dianne led on developing the SaLT approach in school, the creation of the SaLT curriculum, and embedding of the SaLT cornerstone across school. We were delighted to have had Dianne's involvement from the outset - she has for many years been a leading light in the field of autism specific SaLT which meant that students at Lighthouse have always benefitted from a very rich SaLT provision.

She has also ensured that all staff are regularly trained to a high level in communication across the school, which is now embedded with staff so all students benefit throughout every day and not just in their targeted sessions. Dianne became an employee in 2017 as the SaLT Manager leading the SaLT cornerstone, language training for all staff, inclusion partnership with Ralph Thoresby, and communication across the organisation.

In 2019 Dianne was appointed to the post Assistant Principal SEN,. During this time she has led and supported the SEN, Wellbeing and SaLT teams and worked closely with the many local authorities associated with our students.

Dianne is now retiring from her Assistant Principal role, but will still remain an employee of Lighthouse providing supervision and planning to the SaLT team, and coaching to the new Assistant Principal SEN. Dianne's knowledge, resilience, dedication and astuteness will be sorely missed on a day to day basis. We wish you all the best for future, please send us a postcard or two from your exciting adventures!

Carole Bradbourne—HR Advisor

I am really pleased to have joined Lighthouse School, having previously applied 6 years ago but being unable to attend the interview on the day.

My background is predominantly HR in schools, however, my initial introduction into a HR environment was in 1997 whilst working at Yorkshire Television (rubbing shoulders with the stars!), I then moved across the road to HR at Arla Foods (dairy), then on to John Peters Furnishings, and after passing my Post Graduate Certificate in Personnel Management at Leeds Beckett's moved to Bradford Grammar School where I stayed as HR Manager for 9 years.

However, when I became a grandparent for the first time I wanted to work part-time so left BGS and secured a part-time role in HR at Provident Finance in Bradford for a couple of years before taking on a HR Manager maternity cover at Greenhead College in Huddersfield, followed by another maternity cover at Horsforth School for the HR Director before joining Lighthouse School in September.

I have 3 adult children, 2 adult step children, 2 grandsons and 5 step grand children – so my spare time is very busy enjoying my family. I do, however, manage to find time to enjoy socialising with friends, and try to go on long walks as often as I can. We have just sold our property in Spain, so I am missing the holidays there, but this will now enable me to travel to other destinations going forward.

Shona Moore—Teacher of English & Maths

Hi I am Shona Moore, I joined Lighthouse School in September 2021 as a Teacher of English and Maths.

Prior to starting at Lighthouse School, I taught at a range of primary schools for 6 years and then went on to teach and support students with SEND at a secondary school for 5 years.

This means I have taught from Early years all the way through to Year 11.

Outside of work, I enjoy attending rugby league games, listening to music, reading and my guilty pleasure is watching the Real Housewives series.

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Multi Use Games Area

The recent addition to the school which has been a huge success this year is our new MUGA.

More commonly known as the Ribena Arena, the new sports area has injected a positive and exciting feel back into school sport, both in lesson and at break/lunchtime.

Since September we have seen an increase in the participation of students across all activities, resulting in new and old social groups developing positively.



Ryan's Motorbike

Ryan, a Lighthouse Graduate has passed his motorbike test!

Congratulations!



Raising Money

One of our staff members, Ellie Upton, has raised an amazing **£446** for the school, by running a marathon!

Congratulations to Ellie for such an amazing achievement!

The school has also raised **£175.16** for Children in Need Day 2021.

The Student Council will meet to suggest how the money will be spent.

Thanks to PTA

Thank you for purchasing the Panasonic Lumix G80 Camera to support the delivery of the media curriculum!



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