

Lighthouse News

Spring 2022



A Message from the Principal:

Although school had a difficult start to the term with the lowest staff and student absence rates since the start of the pandemic and the COVID 19 Outbreak Management plan having to be invoked, school remained open for all students, which was not in the case in other specialist provisions across the City. The Outbreak plan was successfully administered and at the end of February COVID 19 rates were reducing across school. Thank you to all parents and carers who supported the increased testing regime at that time.

A new COVID 19 risk assessment is now in place which allows greater freedoms across the school community, including the return to visitors on site. As restrictions are being lifted, we are now returning to some of the school rules that were relaxed during more restricted times. We would ask that when students are returning after Easter Break do so in full school uniform and abide by the mobile devices rules. Students are still to come to school in PE uniform on relevant timetabled days. We are really looking forward to having more parents and carers on site next term and we are planning to host some small events in the near future.

It has been great to see the return of whole school community events, which has had a positive impact on learning and student wellbeing. Students have participated in Children Mental Health Awareness Week, World Book Day, University of Leeds Junior Robot Fighting League and Futures Week with a range of activities, visits and external guests. School is hosting an Alumni event on 30th March 2022 for past students and families. The Student Council organised World Book Day and are busy arranging activities for Autism Acceptance Week on the last day of term. Non-uniform days have raised £175.16 for Children in Need and £109.20 for Alder Hey Children's Hospital.

School has been working hard to move across to a new management information system to support more efficient and effective working across school and to provide more transparent information for parent and carers on student progress. Parents will have an opportunity to review their child's progress at the end of this term through this system.

School has been delighted to have 12 new staff members join the Lighthouse Team this term. These staff have been inducted with an extensive training programme, classroom shadowing system and mentoring. Middle and Senior Leaders are currently participating in a Leadership Programme to further develop current and emerging leaders across the organisation. The February training day focussed on support strategies for students and included Occupational Therapist delivering a Sensory Process and Modulation workshop. 13 staff have completed qualifications with Mental Health England this academic year and Helen Manyanya (Deputy Principal) is working towards completing her Senior Mental Health Leader qualification. We are investing in this area of training to help the school further develop our approach to mental health and wellbeing across the organisation for students, staff and the wider community.

School will be in touch about parent events soon and we look forward to seeing you in School after Easter.

Ambition | Versatility | Compassion | Innovation | Happiness | Devotion | Optimism | Respect

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CPD Update Spring 2022

The staff at Lighthouse have completed a range of CPD sessions over the Spring Term. These have included a mix of online learning and workshop sessions covering: Data Protection and information sharing, Behaviour support strategies and risk assessments, Asthma for schools, Epilepsy Awareness and Safeguarding Updates.

We have 10 staff who are completing a year-long online learning and networking programme around leadership. The Pathways Programme is allowing staff to enhance their skills in a range of leadership topics for education. The platform is designed by Discovery Education, with Andrew Hammond and the NAHT Leadership Education Union. The staff completing enjoyed their first face-to-face networking session in



February, covering discussions on building parent partnerships, culture and ethos, developing a curriculum of hope, building successful teams, exploring school development, diversity and inclusion, and effective time management. We will continue to explore more topics alongside our partner East Specialist Inclusive Learning.

Our full school CPD Day, Lighthouse Supports, focused on support strategies within the school, as well as working towards targets within the school wellbeing strategy for both our staff and students.



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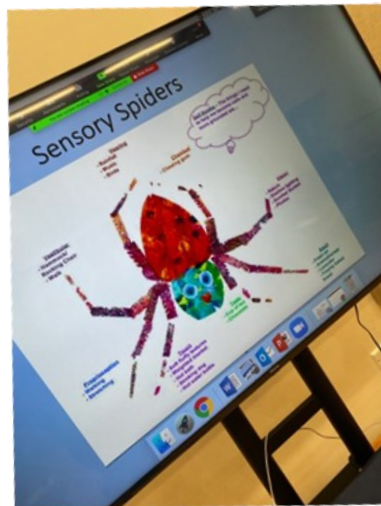
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CPD Update Continued

We had 11 staff complete their Mental Health Champions course accredited by Mental Health England and have joined our Mental Health First Aiders in school to add to our Wellbeing Strategy targets.



Our keynote focus was on Sensory Process and Sensory Modulation for our school and supporting sensory modulation for students and staff. We took part in a sensory exploration session with food, developed sensory spiders and tried a range of Occupational Therapy Equipment.



Our student facing staff also completed a range of workshops from our practical subject areas; Food, Science, Sport, Community and Horticulture. Exploring how to best safely support our students within these sessions and gain the best outcomes.

Business support staff completed training on Parent Pay, Minute taking of Governance and Inventory Audit tool.

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Employability

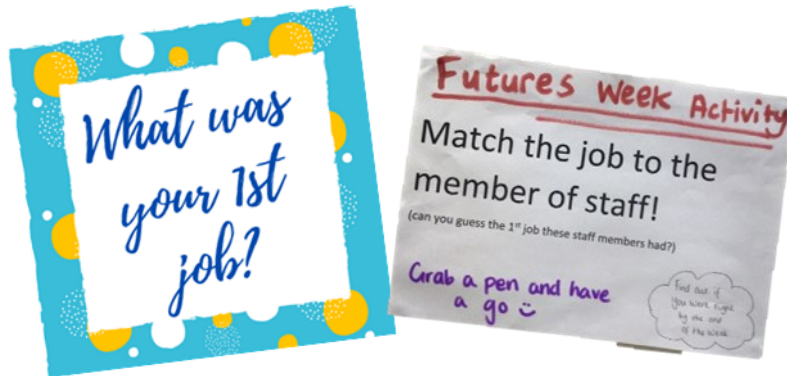
Futures Week (7th – 11th March 2022)

As part of National Careers Week – which we call 'Futures Week' here at Lighthouse, we hosted a range of destination-focused activities and lessons which included opportunities for our students to meet with employers.

We launched the week with a fun lunch-time activity where students were asked to guess the first ever jobs our very own Lighthouse staff members had. This encouraged students to think about realistic first-time jobs, how our staff came to working in the Education sector, and helped students understand that many people don't have a 'straightforward' careers pathway as soon as they finish school/college/university....and that's ok!

As part of promoting positive wellbeing and in having a community feel across the school, this activity was also launched across

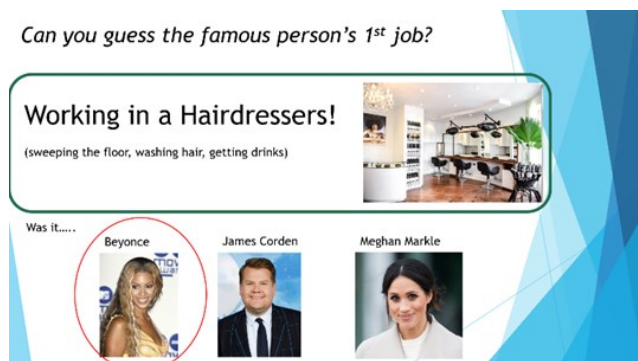
the whole week in the staff room, which became a great discussion lunch breaks!



On Wednesday 9th March 2022, some of our Key Stage 3 students had the opportunity to visit the University of Leeds to take part in a robotics challenge. The students had a fantastic day out and some will be attending the final in York in the Summer term!

Meanwhile, a few of our Key Stage 4 students had a trip to the local community café - 'The Welcome In' – where they practised writing a job application for a café assistant role. For many of our students, this was the first time they had seen an application form for a job, and they did a fantastic job at filling it out. The activity highlighted key language to cover further in lessons as part of our comprehensive careers programme, and promoted discussions around situations when it is safe to share personal data. We're hoping to work with staff at the Welcome In café again in the coming weeks to repeat this activity for Key Stage 5 students.

To finish off Futures Week on Friday 11th March 2022, students had a go at guessing the jobs that famous people did before they were famous! This activity was well received and students worked well together in their registration groups to complete the quiz.



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Employability Continued

Futures Month

Following the Lighthouse School values of being 'ambitious' and 'innovative', we decided to expand our Futures week into a 'Futures Month' with all the careers-related activities and events that staff had planned for March:

When	What	Who	Where
7th-11th March	Futures Week - resources will be provided each morning in registration and Future Skills lessons will be super career focussed!	All students	School
8th March	International Womens' Day - various resources and activities	All students	School
9th March	Job Application Workshop	KS4 students	Welcome In
9th March	Junior Robot Fighting League	KS3 students	University of Leeds
16th March	Museum & Heritage Session - humanities & careers	KS3 students	School
28th March	Compass House Students Lord Mayor Awards Presentation	KS5 students	Leeds Civic Hall
29th March	Meeting pets' needs and careers with the Cats Protection	KS4/5 students	School
30th March	Alumni Event	KS5, graduates and their parent/carers	School

Visiting Speaker – Leeds Museums & Galleries

On Wednesday 16th March 2022, we had a visitor from Leeds Museums and Galleries to run two 'Museum & Heritage' sessions with students in Key Stage 3. The students learnt about different job roles within museums including 'front of house' teams, curators and hospitality staff. Students also discussed the exhibitions or artefacts you may see, and how curators decide on which museum they should be placed in. Then, students had the opportunity to hold some real museum artefacts including some infant shoes from the 1860s, some 'lemonade powder' from the 1940s, a sperm whale's tooth and old coins.

Following on from the session, the students were engaged in discussions about the museums they have previously visited; and were eager to ask questions about our local museums and what they have to offer, which was brilliant to see!



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Staff Notices

Lisa Anderson—Speech and Language Therapist

I am very pleased to have started my new post at Lighthouse School. My clinical experience has predominantly involved working with children and young people with learning difficulties, Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH), and Autism.

My specialist areas of interest are Autism, Language Disorder and SEMH. For the past 6 years I have worked at a SEN School for children aged 5-19 with complex SEMH needs. I was delighted to apply for SALT vacancy having viewed the original provision when I first moved to Leeds over a decade ago! The school ethos and aspirations very much align with my values and approach to therapy.

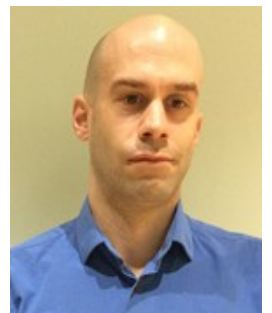
On a personal note, I have 2 young children and I am originally from Belfast. I enjoy completing puzzles, playing games and reading in my spare time. I love nature walks and adore being near the ocean, so my weekends and holidays are often spent searching for waterfalls or walking barefoot in the sand!



John Bolas—Assistant Principal

Hello, my name is John and I've been the Assistant Principal for Special Educational Needs (SEN) & Wellbeing at Lighthouse School since January 2022. I have always worked with children and young people with SEN, I have held a number of positions with Leeds City Council's SEN department since 2007 and I've spent the last 8 years as a senior leader within the SEN Statutory Assessment & Provision (SENSAP) Service.

I have worked with hundreds of schools over the years and I have always been struck by the warmth, sincerity and clear vision shared by everyone I have met at Lighthouse School, I am immensely proud to be part of the team. My expertise and experience in SEN education has given me the skills to help all our students reach their goals and aspirations regardless of their background and I am looking forward to getting to know them all and their families over the coming months.



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Horticulture

Thank goodness things have started growing and the sun is shining!

The students are enjoying the fruits of their labours; as bulbs begin to flower and the apple, cherry and magnolia trees planted last year begin to burst into bud.

We have been sowing new grass seed to rejuvenate the tired winter grass, sowing vegetable seeds in the greenhouse, and enjoying our new shed.

Many students enjoy digging and have had a lot to do, as we battle couch grass and creeping buttercup weeds.

We have been learning about different soil types, how some plants are green all year round, and how animals and birds are beneficial to gardens.

Happy gardening, Sarah Cullen



Safer Internet Week

Lighthouse School celebrated Safer Internet Day 2022 by having a week of activities through Computing and Health Education. The theme this year was 'All fun and games? Exploring respect and relationships online'.

We learned about how we use technology - from gaming and chat, to streaming and video – and how to use them safely. We also celebrated students' role in creating a safer internet, whether that is whilst gaming and creating content, or interacting with their friends and peers.



Food Technology

Our Food Tech teacher would like to highlight the very hard work that our BTEC students have put into their BTEC Level 1 in Home Cooking skills. All students have worked tremendously hard on their coursework and have completed a final practical assessment to evidence their skills.



They have prepared and cooked a variety of recipes from Prawn, Avocado and Mango salad, meatballs and pasta, soups and pizza to name a few! They have all shown confidence, safety and perseverance both in theory and practical lessons. A massive well done to all of our BTEC students!

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