

Happy New Year

Thank you to all the parents that joined us for our Christmas lunch and sing along, as always it was a lovely afternoon with a few tear-jerking moments. We hope that you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year.



A Message from the Executive Principal

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your support during the recent Ofsted inspection. I hope you were as pleased with the report as we are. The lead inspector was supported by two of Her Majesty's inspectors, which meant that it was a very thorough process.

The inspectors were highly impressed by the students. We felt very proud of how they conducted themselves on the day and the positive feedback they gave about how the school has helped them. The inspectors commented on the extremely professional staff and strong governance. The areas the inspectors judged to need our attention next are ones that the school had already identified and we are already working on. This has given us the confidence to continue on the path we have set to achieve an Outstanding judgement in the next two years.

We believe that the report indicates that this will be the case, as the school continues to grow. The future for Lighthouse is exciting as it progresses on its journey to become a beacon of excellence.

Best wishes
Pauline



In November our students took part in the national Voice Box joke competition. Voice Box is a national joke competition for mainstream and special schools, which reminds people that all children need support to build their communication skills and confidence.

Out of all the jokes that were entered, three winners were chosen.

First place was won by Jason Noon with the joke **'How do you make lady gaga cry? Poke her face'**,

second place went to Josh Pedley-Cook for **'What do you get if you dial 666? An upside down policeman'**, and 3rd place went to Ryan Carbine for **'Why did the chicken cross the road? To get to your house... (wait a minute)... Knock knock, Who's there, The chicken!'**

The winning joke has been entered into the national competition for Jason to have chance to read his joke at the grand final in London. We are yet to hear about this, but we are keeping our fingers crossed!

Training Day

On November 28th the school held an all-day, whole-staff training event. These events are an important way of helping the school meet their statutory obligations and they also help us to ensure that our school continues to be safe. The training event was for everyone who works in the school, regardless of their role, and was a great success, according to feedback received!

We focused on important safeguarding themes during the day such as safer working practice, where staff had an opportunity to offer their views about our updated school code of conduct for employees. We also discussed our updated school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, making sure that all staff know and understand how to report concerns. You can find a copy of this policy on the 'policies' tab on our website. Please take the time to have a look through this important information and feel free to get in touch with our Principal, Emma Sullivan, if you have any questions or concerns.

Staff decided that we would have a shared lunch and everyone brought in different contributions of food – which was a great way to network and chat to colleagues. All staff working at the school undertook mandatory safeguarding and child protection training and in the afternoon programme we made sure that all staff were given the opportunity to update and complete their training. Also in the afternoon programme staff attended training and development sessions, which included staff engagement, medical needs and questioning levels and techniques.

Enrichment Day: Visit to Harrogate Panto

Students had a great day at Harrogate Theatre on Thursday 18th January.

Wellbeing Update

Due to the success of last year, we are now focusing on three strands of learning. Below are a short description of each strand and some of our student's thoughts:

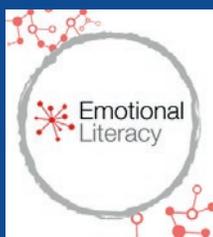
MindMate

We are very excited to be joining the new Leeds MindMate scheme which is part of the 'Futures in Mind' strategy. The Future in Mind Strategy is a plan for Leeds that explains how people are working together to improve mental and emotional health for young people.

As a school we will be working towards becoming a MindMate Friendly school. All students will be accessing some MindMate lessons as part of their timetabled wellbeing provision. The students have enjoyed the content so far. If you would like to see more information on the scheme please see MindMate website <https://www.mindmate.org.uk/>

"I like the lessons because they're friendly" Student, **Y8**.

"I have learnt that it is important to take care of your mental health more than you think." Matthew, **Y7**.



Emotional Literacy

(EL) continues to be a focus across our wellbeing sessions. This scheme looks at ways of improving

student's self-awareness, motivation, empathy, social skills and self-regulation. It is great to see the improvements our students make in these areas over the year through the EL assessments. Wellbeing staff have recently been on training courses focusing on yoga, mindfulness and reliance and are implementing them throughout the sessions.

"You're guaranteed to feel relaxed in no time whatsoever. I've learned Yoga to help me relax" Eric, **6th Form**.

"I like answering questions about myself and seated yoga" Antonio, **Y**

RSE



Over the past year we have, as a team, been working with our students, our governors, relevant staff and parents on

creating a bespoke package of learning for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE). This has also had an impact on our updated RSE policy available on the school website. During last year we ran a parent hub to explore a variety of materials and topics to help shape our teaching in this area. We are happy to be able to allow all of our students to access RSE teaching appropriate to their age, needs and linked to personal targets. In these sessions students have been engaged and enjoyed the activities.

"quite fun, used to be a bit boring as I didn't get it, but now Wellbeing is fun, a chilled session and has lots of laughs" **Y10 student**

"I've been learning about relationships, and the journey you take in a relationship" **Student 6th Form**

"I've learnt the word and the difference between platonic and romantic relationships." **6th Form**.

"I've been learning a lot of new personal stuff and it's really inclusive which makes it easy to talk about in small groups. I'm now friends with everyone in my group." Mel, **6th Form**.

"I've learnt how relationships work and about things that are private in relationships. I've like learning about mobile phone and the internet – knowing how to stay safe and not talk to strangers" **Student Y11**

If you have any queries about the content of the Wellbeing sessions, please do not hesitate to contact your Wellbeing link at school.

Enrichment Day: Visit to Harrogate Pantomime

The students and the staff enjoyed the annual trip to the Pantomime.

"Beauty And The Beast"

On Thursday the 18th of January 2018, I went to see a pantomime version of the traditional fairytale Beauty and The Beast at the Harrogate Theatre. I expected it to be as funny and entertaining as the other pantomimes and I wasn't disappointed.

As I have just said, the pantomime is a comedic and uplifting take on the classic fairytale Beauty and the Beast. It has two messages within its narrative, which are simple, but meaningful: Good always wins over evil and you shouldn't judge people by their appearance.

By Billy Myers

Performing Arts

In Performing Arts, students are currently in the process of filming the scenes for the scripts they have developed. **3.1** are making a Sci-Fi version of Little Red Riding Hood, called 'Intergalactic Adventure'. **3.3** are making an alien invasion comedy called 'The Threatening Takeover'. The KS 4 and 5 options group are making a sequel to last year's 'Vectro 5', titled 'Vectro 5.5', which is a spy comedy. These 3 films are to be entered into the Golden Owl film awards, where hopefully Lighthouse School will win again, as last year, **3.1** won Best Action Film with 'The Bank Robbery'. **3.2** are currently making a Christmas film, and having finished the script, will soon start filming.



Duke of Edinburgh Skills

This half term in Duke of Edinburgh students have been developing their understanding of risk assessment and identifying hazards in everyday life and outdoor walking. Students have created their own risk assessments for walks and planned their own trip to Yeadon Tarn. This included creating and following a checklist to ensure all health and safety requirements for the trip were met. Students have become more confident in understanding hazards and risks and independently managing these.

Please help us to make our school even better by visiting the school website and completing our parent questionnaire. Your views are important to us and help us to improve.
www.lighthouseschool.co.uk



Christmas Fair!

We raised a fantastic £2,276 at the Christmas fair! That is over triple what we raised last year and it is more than any of our previous events! Thank you so much! The generosity of everyone who donated their time, items for the fair and came to support us was overwhelming!

We are pleased to tell you that the cheque for £500 from Manning Stainton has been received by school. A big thank you again to everyone who had a board in their garden for us!!

See the article and picture above that is on the Manning Stainton website.

<https://www.manningstainton.co.uk/articles/manning-stainton-supports-lighthouse-school-christmas-fair>



Competition Time

Year 8 took part in a Christmas poster competition for GH Dovener and Sons West Park. Denise from GH Dovener and Sons came in to school to judge the competition. She chose:

- 1st Prize – Mia Reeves
- 2nd Prize – Cameron Sahota
- 3rd Prize – Luke Willey



A message from Denise

“Just wanted to say a huge thank you to all the staff for making me feel so welcome yesterday when I came to judge the drawing competition.

Please can you thank all the students from Year 8 who took part in the competition. The drawings were amazing. It was very difficult to find just three to award prizes to.

If any of the students or parents would like to come and have a look at them, I have displayed the drawings in our branch window.”

Alice on Work Experience - Outside the Box, a cafe in Ilkley

What are the sort of jobs you do at work experience?

Using the coffee machine, Baking, Folding aprons/tea towels, Washing/drying up, Taking orders, Using the till Serving customers, Clearing tables.

What do you like about your work experience?

I like doing different things. I like learning how to work in a cafe Sharon and Louise my support workers are really nice and help me learn how to work in a cafe.

What skills have you been learning at work experience?

Learning how to give the right change. Clearing tables, baking, taking orders.

What's been the best thing so far about your work experience?

Learning how to bake different things, meeting new people, being more independent.



PTA

'Many hands make light work!'

Lighthouse PTA are looking for volunteers to join and expand their small, friendly team. We appreciate that life is always busy for parents, and that this is one more thing to add, but the school and students benefit hugely from the PTA fundraising and events. Last year we raised an amazing **£6,992** and were able to register as a charity. The meetings and fundraising events are great opportunities to meet and get to know Lighthouse families, staff and students, whilst also having fun. The PTA, however, relies on parent support and they need more parents to get involved. So, why not come along to their next meeting on at Lighthouse School to find out more about them and the great work that they do. For more information, please contact Helen Stockton via PTA@lighthouseschool.co.uk

Donation

We have very kindly had a donation of **£630** from one of our student's families in memory of her uncle. The family donated the money to purchase a pair of beautiful hand-carved benches for students to use at break and at lunch time.

These benches will give our students the opportunity to sit together and to practise their social communication, and they do look wonderful in our grounds. We had a wonderful official opening of the benches organised by Natalie Smith, which the family, the PTA and our Principal attended, and Mel, our student photographer, took photos.

Thank you to Nicola Snell for the fabulous cakes donated to share at the opening of the benches.

Lighthouse New Arrival

Harry James Trembath arrived safely (and slightly earlier than planned!) on Saturday 14th October weighing 6lbs 3 Laura and Harry are doing great. Congratulations, Laura! We wish you all the best!



School Lunches

School meals are £2.65. Please ensure your account is in credit on a weekly basis.

Parents Voice

We would love to hear your feedback. Recent feedback we have received has been:

- I have never met such friendly, understanding people. Everyone is made welcome by all staff. At this time I could not think of anything that you could all do better.
- Working together as a school team to put together a curriculum which meets my daughters achievements appropriately. Lighthouse has an excellent shine club for students to attend.



We raised **£37.47** for Children in Need. Thank you for all the buns that were sent in to school, they went down a treat.



Events

Thursday 1st February - **Jump Arena**

Thursday 22nd March - **Billy Bobs**

Easter Shine Clubs

12th April - **Xscape**

13th April - **TBC**

Summer Shine Clubs

Monday 12th July - **Prom**

Monday 23rd July - **Xscape**

Tuesday 24th July - **Stockeld Park**

Wednesday 25th July - **Harewood House**

Thursday 26th July - **Flamingo Land**

*Other onsite activities available

Please help us to make our school even better by visiting the school website and completing our parent questionnaire. Your views are important to us and help us to improve.
www.lighthouseschool.co.uk



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 30th January	KS4/5 Subject Surgery 3pm onwards
Thursday 1st February	After School Shine Club until 6pm
Monday 5th February	Year 9 immunisations DTP/Meningitis
Friday 9th February	School Closes for half Term
Monday 19th February	School Reopens
Thursday 1st March	KS3 Subject Surgery 3pm till 5pm
Monday 5th March	Careers Week
Thursday 22nd March	After School Shine Club
Thursday 29th March	School Closes for Easter
Thursday 12th April	Shine Holiday Club
Friday 13th April	Shine Holiday Club
Monday 16th April	School re opens
Friday 25th May	School Closes For Half Term
Monday 4th June	School reopens
Thursday 5th July	New Year 7 transitions
W/C Monday 16 July	Activity Week
Friday 20th July	End of School Year