

December 2021



Dear Parents / Carers,

## Welcome to the last Springwell Leeds Academy newsletter of 2021 !

I hope you will enjoy reading about all the wonderful things that have been going on in the run up to the festive season across our sites.

As we reach the end of the year it is worth looking back and reflecting on the months gone by. This year, once more, we have faced the challenge that the global pandemic brought to the normal operation of the academy as well as the functioning of our regular day to day lives. The arrival of the vaccine roll out has meant that we are gradually moving towards normality again lessening some of the disruption. I am sure that you will join me in hoping that this improvement continues into 2022.

There have been many positives to look back on this year. Despite the disruption we saw, our leavers in Year 11 produce the best set of exam results that we have ever achieved, meaning that they were able to move on to a wide range of post-16 settings including mainstream school 6th forms, colleges and apprenticeships.

Despite the restrictions, we managed to run a residential at Lineham Farm for 18 of our students from the North site, during which they experienced a range of activities including climbing, forestry skills and archery. I hope that this will become a regular feature of our school so that more students can enjoy this experience.

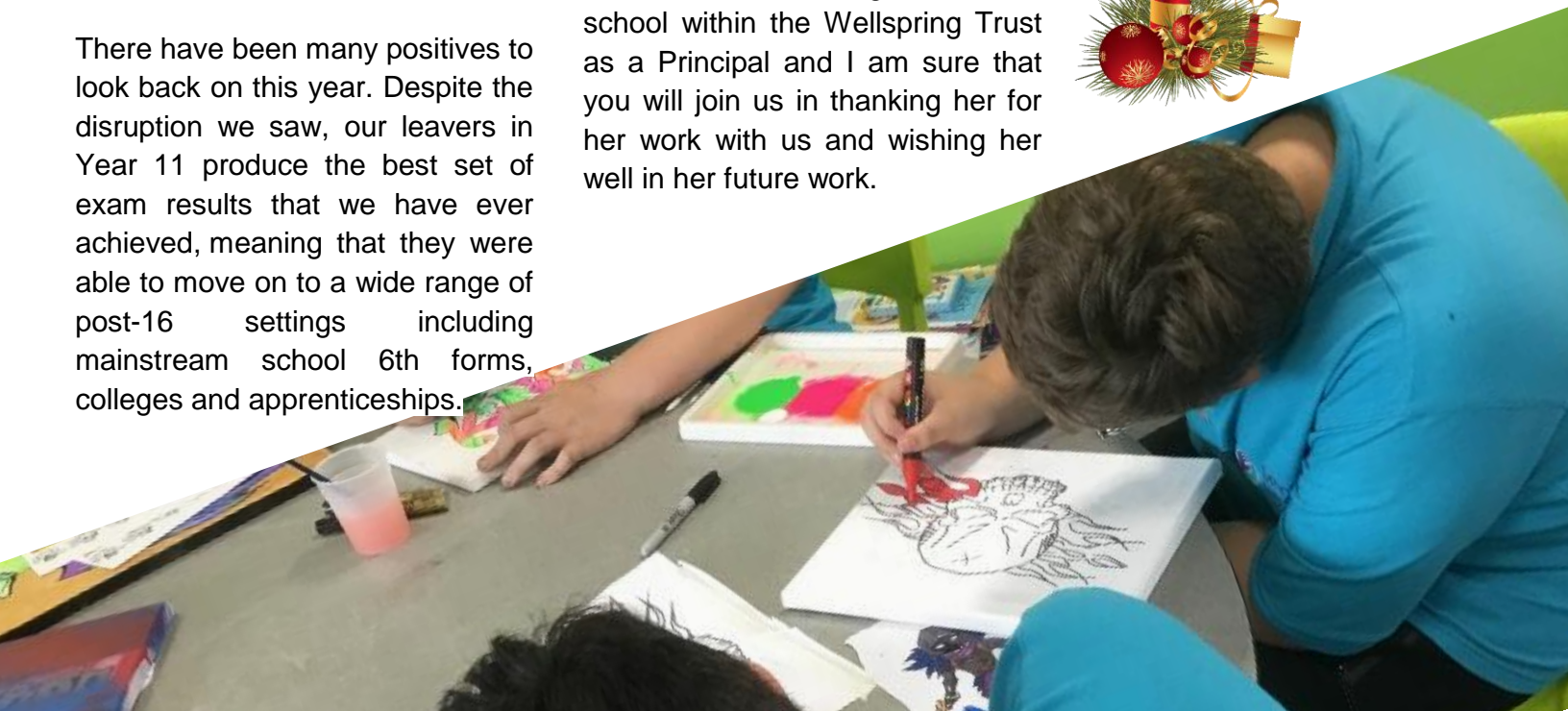
Sadly we have to say "Goodbye" at the end of term to Shona Crichton. Shona has been with Springwell Leeds since we opened our doors at our Meanwood site in June 2016. Since then, she has gone on to be the first Principal at our East site and later overseeing the South site too. Shona is moving to another school within the Wellspring Trust as a Principal and I am sure that you will join us in thanking her for her work with us and wishing her well in her future work.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a healthy, happy and safe festive season and look forward to seeing all of our children in the New Year.



*Scott Jacques*  
Executive Principal

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# North Site



## PUMPKINS....

Our Yellow 1 pupils has a fantastic time exploring the local pumpkin patch. We were incredibly proud of how they approached a new environment with bravery and socialised confidently with others.



## FESTIVE DOORS...

At Springwell Leeds, Mr Jacques sets us a competition each year for the best festive door. Here are a taster of the ones that have been popping up at the North site. Keep an eye on our Twitter page @Springwell\_Lds to find out which door My Jacques chose this year...



## RESIDENTIAL...

Team walks, bush craft and making memories!

Pupils from the North site had the opportunity to attend a residential at Linham Farm. They overcame barriers and pushed their boundaries. We are so incredibly proud of them all.



# East Site

Our exciting day Ice Skating!!

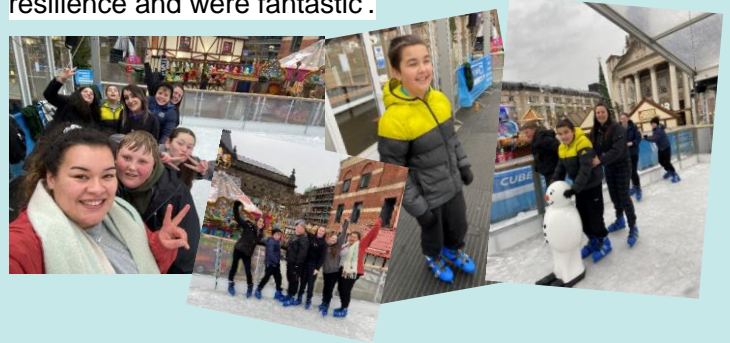


## SPOOKY!!

Pre-half term halloween fun. Fun was had by all taking part in the halloween based Theraplay activities and sensory Circuits in the primary pod.



Our pupils have been taking part in various end of term activities within their class teams to enhance their curriculum. Miss Vasiliou's class went ice skating in Millenium Square and had a wonderful time. Miss Vasiliou said, 'our pupils showed outstanding resilience and were fantastic'.



## BURLEY BANKSY...

A local artist named Burley Banksy visited East students for an art session. Students used a range of different materials to create some unique pieces of art.



## POETRY...

Some pupils in upper school created some wonderful poetry pieces around making choices for national poetry day.



## CHILDREN IN NEED...

Staff and pupils dressed up for Children in need day at East site. Throughout the day pupils took part in lots of fun and educational activities including our big sensory circuit that was set up in the hall. Students across all pods took part to see who could complete this in the fastest time. We managed to raise £49.38 on the day.

## FOOD TECHNOLOGY...

A student had never tasted gingerbread before so staff got the ingredients for him to make his own from scratch. He made these and decorated them himself.



## ELEMENTS...

The school has been busy over the past few weeks, our topic this half term was Diversity. We started the topic with a "WOW IN" day which was amazing. The children were asked to draw a self-portrait of themselves to showcase the different talents we have across school.

In primary, we visited the local Epiphany Church and wrote thank you letters back. The children enjoyed looking round the church and asking fantastic questions about the history and being a Christian. Well done primary.



# South Site

## LEEDS UNITED...

This year, we have endeavoured to do things a little differently at Springwell Leeds. Following the success of our previous Leeds United Foundation interventions, all three sites have committed to hosting a professional sports coach a day each week. Using the Sports Premium, we have secured a package of teaching and CPD for every site, with each of our schools having their own dedicated coach on site weekly.

The model we have chosen means that initially the coach spends time building relationships and showcasing quality PE provision - and it's not just football! Active Phonics, playground games and athletics are all on the curriculum now for our Primary students. As we move into Spring, the focus will shift, and our coaches will begin to work more formally with staff, upskilling them to be confident in the delivery of a comprehensive and varied PE curriculum. This model will give us real value for money, as well as lasting impact as our own Teaching Assistants develop the skills and confidence to deliver sessions, meaning the project has longevity and is cost-efficient in the long run.

Josh Bateman, one of our coaches, was asked to reflect on the impact to date: "We do an active phonics activity in the morning, followed by a PE based activity after break. So far the children have engaged really well with the phonics sessions due to the active nature of these. This has provided the opportunity for some notable progress with their graphemes and phonemes which is great! With regards to the afternoon sessions, the children have enjoyed the opportunity to take part in some sports that they may not usually try. The turn taking and teamwork aspects of the PE activities has helped pupils to develop their social skills alongside their physical skills."

What our children say...

'Everything about the sessions is fun - I especially like cricket and phonics.'

'Josh is really fun and funny and it isn't like learning'



Phonics Fun!

A real win from the project has been the ability the coaches have had to bring academic, physical and SEMH learning together through sport. In particular, the Active Phonics element of the provision has proven an emerging success, aligning perfectly with our phonics launch across sites. Our coaches are able to offer a range of academic interventions, depending on site needs, and we look forward to building on budding relationships and embedding further sessions over the coming term.



A united front to tackling PE!

