

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to this half term's newsletter

This half term ends with the awful news I shared with you last week regarding the sad death of one of our pupils. Our thoughts and kind wishes are with Dylan's family, friends and everyone who knew him at this incredibly difficult time.

As always at this time of year we have been so very grateful to receive donations to the Academy from groups, charities and individuals that allow us to make Christmas for our children and young people a little bit more special. We have received donations of gifts, food and other items, as well as donations that we will be sending out with children this week.

It really has been lovely to see the decorations up around the sites and the return of the Christmas classroom doors (you can see these on page 6) which are always creative and bring a smile to all our faces.

January will mark the 5th Anniversary of the opening of the our East site, which was the first of the new Springwell Leeds Sites to open. Five years has flown by really quickly and we have come a long way as an Academy in that time.

After 5 years I feel that we know our children and how best to support them better than ever and we have a team of experts working across all our schools. We are looking forward to what the next five years will bring with as much excitement and optimism as we did 5 years ago.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and send you good wishes for a healthy and peaceful New Year.



Scott Jacques
Executive Principal

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North Site



Media Hub

In the Spring term, we will have a new exciting multi-media studio called The Media Hub, which will be a space for pupils to create video and audio productions. Classes will mainly work on projects linked to a subject or topic covered in class, which will support their knowledge and understanding. This new provision will give pupils a wide range of skills suitable for the ever changing world of technology we live in.

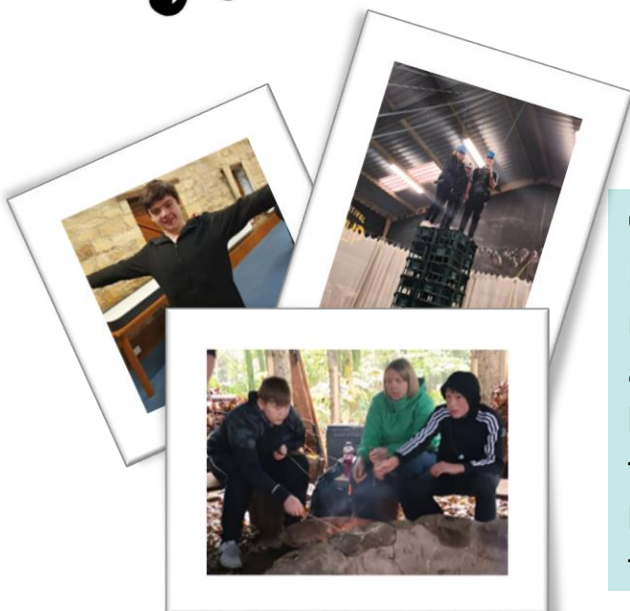
Over a term, KS3 classes will come to the Media Hub, discuss ideas for their project, make / collect props, write scripts and make costumes. They will act with responsibility and always be aware of health & safety issues around the use of professional equipment. Classes will record videos and take on different roles in a film studio, including performing in front of the camera and learning how to use the different pieces of equipment and will develop their confidence in these various disciplines over time.

In KS4 options there will be a continuation of the skills learnt in KS3, with more focus on editing and creating their own portfolio of work which will go towards their Arts Award Bronze qualification. Photography pupils will develop skills in photo editing as well as capturing their own images.



Christmas Carols

Every Christmas our music staff welcome the students in to carols. What a wonderful way to start the day – thank you Mrs Jackson and Mr Bell!



Our Residential Trip

In November, 23 children from our North site went on a residential to Lineham farm. They enjoyed a great mix of activities, including mountain biking, crate stack, archery and bushcraft. In the evening they went on a night time walk through the woods and toasted marshmallows round the campfire. They had a great time and showed great teamwork and resilience to take on new challenges and adventures.



East Site



Halloween at Spookwell Academy



Building Futures Together

Pupils have taken part in plumbing and electrical work, learning the various skills required for a career in electrical or plumbing trades. Quote from John at Building Futures about one of our pupils: "He is one of the best first days we've had, his social skills especially communication were excellent, he was respectful and courteous and finally his work ethic was superb. Really impressed"

Children in Need

Blue 1 got their PJ's and Pudsey on for Children in Need. Alongside fundraising, they have done some fantastic awareness work this year around different aspects of children's mental and physical health.



More Exciting Activities

At East, we took part in Odd Socks day which is part of anti-bullying week. Look at the fabulous combination of socks we had!

Willow class checked in on the fairies at Roundhay Park as part of their enrichment/outdoor learning sessions!

KS4 ASDAN

Green 3 visited The Royal Armouries as part of their ASDAN coursework. Students were fascinated by the range of arms and armour. They also enjoyed watching historic armour and weapons brought to life!



South Site



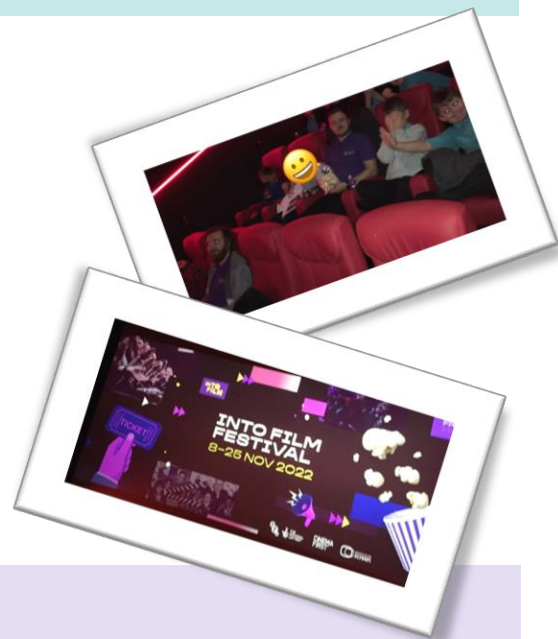
Learning and cooking all things healthy!

Cost of Living Support

As Christmas approaches and costs continue to climb, it is understandable that some families will be worrying about finances. Please do not suffer in silence - we are a community, and we pull together in times of challenge. Our Parent Support Advisor, Mrs Riyat, is a fantastic listener and is excellent at signposting families on to much needed support. In school, we have a bank of pre-loved uniform, trainers and coats which we are happy to share with anyone in need. Speak to a member of staff confidentially, and we will always try to help. Next term we are going to distribute a limited number of slowcookers free to families who would like to learn to cook some cheap, easy and healthy meals - we will keep you posted, but get in touch with Mrs Reader if you would like to be considered.

Film Festival

October saw the Primary students get to experience a cinematic experience thanks to the Into Film Festival, students had the chance to visit their local cinema and watch something special on the big screen. For a number of our young people this was their very first experience visiting the cinema, and the trips were a big success. Developing social interactions, and sharing new experiences with their friends was a great opportunity for all students, and something we look forward to doing again in the future. Not to mention snacks and treats to make the trips even sweeter.



Bumpy

This term, it was South Site's chance to work with our Early Help Officers at Bumpy. Two students teamed up with officers to tackle motorsports skills across the half term, building knowledge and confidence along the way. This is part of the community engagement offer we receive from West Yorkshire Police, building connections with our children and forging positive community relationships. We were especially proud to receive positive feedback from PC Scott and PC Hussain, who said 'the boys were a credit to their school and to Springwell Academy' - well done, to Alex and Keiron from Yellow Zone, and thank you for representing our school so well!



100%
Life has improved since attending a Bumpy program or using our services*

Gives You Purpose

"It's places like this that give you a chance and don't judge people."
"Since attending Bumpy I have returned to full time education and my attendance has improved."
"I came here, got my head into volunteering and it kept me going personally and kept me going through school."
"Attending Bumpy has now made my journey a lot easier in life."

Support for Families

Support for Students Affected by Loss

We are aware that some students will be distressed by the recent loss of a student at South. Dylan was a funny, likeable boy. Often a bereavement can trigger a response linked to previous losses or trauma. We are aware of this and our expert staff are attuned to our students, and we are ready to give them the support they need in the New Year.

On Parent Review Day (3rd January 2023) we are hoping to have a trained child counsellor on site at South. This will be an opportunity to discuss any concerns you have and to unpick ways of supporting your child in coming weeks and months. Our parent support advisor, Mrs Riyat, will also be available, as well as class staff.

If you are worried about your child's mental health over the break, please reach out to the support services listed on the attached email. There is always someone there to listen. In a mental health emergency, it is appropriate to present at your nearest A&E.



Useful Support Services & Activities

There is an extremely useful brochure, full of support services and activities for families in Leeds, on our website. Please take a look by following the link below.

<https://springwellleeds.wellspringacademysites.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2022/11/Springwell-Leeds-Support-Services-A5-12pp-1122-St1.pdf>

Our Christmas Doors

