

BBC Bitesize

On Friday 6th December, Highfield Leadership Academy had the pleasure of hosting BBC Bitesize as they came into the academy to talk to all our students about careers in the creative industries. A panel, hosted by Nick Bright of Radio 1xtra and 5Live fame, talked about their career journeys and experiences to help pass on inspiration and advice to our students.



All the panelists had local connections, having grown up in the area, and this helped our students to relate to their experiences. The panelists included Georgia Roberts who works for Skiddle, Angela Russell who directs and produces Go Jetters for CBBC, and Rachael Garwood who performs for York Dungeons.

It was great for our students to hear about the different routes into the panelists' diverse areas as well as learning about what they enjoyed when they were at school and the passion they had for many of their subjects, especially English.

It was fantastic to see our students listening intently and eager to ask questions of the panelists. They were particularly keen to hear about pay!

Respect

As part of our Culture of Kindness and Respect work, students have been participating in a variety of anti – bullying events.

This year, Remembrance Day fell within Anti-Bullying week and our Student Leaders thought that part of their work should connect the two important themes. In our special 'Remember Together' PSHE workshops, we thought about the sacrifices made for us so that we could be free to live life to the full. We reflected upon the need to work together to promote peace and respect for all; this linked to our Anti-Bullying theme, as experiencing bullying behaviours can sometimes stop us from achieving our full potential. As part of the workshop, we reflected upon our Respect Charter and the changes we need to make to ensure that people are happy, safe and able to enjoy the opportunities our country offers us.

On Tuesday, some of our ABAs and Transition Team welcomed Gateway Primary school into our academy and delivered an Anti-Bullying workshop, focusing on how we need to be kind on and offline. We took part in group discussions, self-reflection and role play activities. We even did a bit of sock design to support the Anti-Bullying Alliances Odd Sock Day and made time for a quick selfie at our Manners Matter station.

Highfield Highlights

Celebrating those who choose to BE THEIR BEST



Highfield
Leadership Academy



Throughout the week, all students at HLA listened to special presentations and took part in PSHE workshops that supported this year's Anti-Bullying campaign: 'Change Starts With Us'. Our Student Leaders set the academy community three challenges: Think Before You Click, Manners Matter and Free To Be Me. We were all challenged to think about our online behaviours and we were pleased that many of our younger students dropped into one of Bill's clubs to talk about this issue and check how to screenshot, block and report. We also encouraged staff and students to think about how they speak to others; positive words change the way we feel and behave, and help to create a Culture of Kindness and Respect. We had good fun using our special prop sticks to promote manners. Finally, we thought about the danger of so-called banter and jokes that ridicule our protected characteristics.

On Thursday our ABAs went to the Diana Award Anti-Bullying Event. Students took part in interactive workshops and used StreetArt, poetry, Rap and drama to voice their ideas and opinions. We had the opportunity to listen to inspirational talks from various celebrity ambassadors such as actor Will Poulter and Charlie aka CheerupCharlie. From the moment we arrived to when we left, it was exciting to be surrounded by so many young people who believed they could be leaders in their community and change the world. Our young people were overwhelmed when children and staff from other schools kept approaching them and congratulating them on their Culture of Kindness and Respect work, recognising them from the Diana Award Showcase Video. This video is now shown to other schools around the country to encourage them to be a force for positive change and believe that, as young people, they have the power to change the world for the better.

Festive Winter Gift Programme



Students are enjoying delivering their Festive Winter Gift Programme and are busy participating in acts of kindness and compassion throughout the school and community.

Each December, students take part in fundraising activities which include donating gifts to people in need of support, giving their time volunteering and participating in charitable actions such as singing for older members of the local community.

Members of the school's Highfield Voices choir enjoyed visiting The Owls Care Home, Highfield Day Centre and Victoria Hospital to sing for the residents and patients. Residents were taught Silent Night in British Sign Language with Maria Preda, Emily White, Keira Eaves and Ameilia Hopwood taking the lead. One resident in particular was so filled with Christmas cheer that they enjoyed conducting the choir and having a little dance with Mrs Thompson to Jingle Bell Rock. Our student volunteers, the Highfield Helpers, also presented hampers and Christmas cards as part of their mission to spread kindness and hope during the festive season.

It has been a busy period for Highfield Voices whose performance was part of the academy's carol concert which took place at St Mary's Church on Thursday, 12th December. They also performed for the Christmas Community Tea Party hosted at the academy on Wednesday 18th December.

Year 11 student Rhiannon Bridge said: "We had good fun today, especially when everyone was singing along and playing the tambourines. Lots of the elderly people we met today will spend Christmas in care; they might not see their families and so we think it is important that they know the young people of our community care. I am proud of us all; we made a difference today. Working for the vulnerable people in our community makes us better people too and encourages us to help others as we get older.'

The Owls Care Home Visit

"I just wanted to say the reviews are in for the students who performed at The Owls on Friday and it was a storming success - everyone enjoyed it. The staff said the students were not only very talented, but impeccably behaved. Everyone agreed they were an absolute credit to the academy.

Also, many thanks for the basket of goodies which were given to the home; it was such a kind thought, along with the individual cards for each resident. Small things like that really do go a long way. It really does make a fantastic difference to the residents to have something to watch and listen to.

Please pass on all of our thanks to everyone involved. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope to see you all in 2020 for another performance.

Can't thank you enough!"

Sarah Cooper-Westhead

Highfield Leadership Academy students cook-up 'kindness' for South Shore's homeless

Students at Highfield Leadership Academy are using their culinary skills to reach out to some of South Shore's most vulnerable people.

Year 7 and 8 students have been learning how to prepare healthy and affordable meals to feed local homeless people through the soup kitchen 'Amazing Graze'.

The children have been perfecting classic dishes such as leek and potato soup and chicken curry as part of the project called 'Bill's Kindness Kitchen'.



The project forms just one part of the school's annual charitable drive, its Festive Winter Gift Programme, which takes place across all 28 schools that are part of the multi-academy trust: Star Academies.

Mrs Dodgson, Director of Progress, said that 'Bill's Kindness Kitchen', now in its second year, has helped children to provide much needed comfort to people who are struggling during the festive season. She said: "We are very proud of all the students who have taken part in this project. They love doing it and think it's wonderful. Everyone wants to be involved.

"The project helps us to teach children the importance of caring for others in our community while also helping them to learn practical cooking skills.

"As a school, we are committed to playing an active role in our community and we hope that all the activities in our annual Festive Winter Gift Programme will touch the lives of many local people this winter."

Chris Conway, Trustee at Amazing Graze soup kitchen, said: "These Highfield students are making a massive difference to homeless people in our area as the meals we serve are often the only hot meal our homeless people will have eaten in days. For our homeless people, it makes a difference to know that they are being thought about. It's nice for them to know that they are being thought of by these children because it makes them feel like human beings again. We are just so grateful for the school's support and for the lovely gesture. I'm sure that the people on the streets will appreciate the gesture all the more."

