

DOCTOR DREAM

SCHOLARSHIP



FORMER scholar Mazra has taken one step closer to her dream of becoming a doctor after being accepted on a course to study medicine at a top university.

The 18-year-old has been offered a place at the University of Sheffield to undertake a medical degree.

After leaving Woodfields in 2024, Mazra has been studying A Levels in maths, chemistry and biology at New College Doncaster.

She has already had a taste of life on the front line of a hospital after doing a work experience placement at Doncaster Royal Infirmary.

Mazra was inspired to become a medic after arriving in the UK from Iraq aged just nine.

“ The amount of support I got from teachers was amazing ”

Former scholar Mazra

She said: “When I first came to the UK our family didn’t speak a lot of English. I was just so impressed at how they [NHS doctors and nurses] went out of their way to help us.

“There were translators and people there to help and support us. Even though I did not have many interactions I was still so impressed with how kind they were.”

Mazra started researching how to become a doctor while still at Astrea Academy Woodfield, and discovered you needed top grades.

She said: “The amount of support I got from teachers at Woodfield was amazing.



Mazra has been accepted on a course to study medicine at university

They listened to me when I needed to talk, supported me with my learning and gave me emotional support when I was stressed. When Mr Scales took over the school it transformed. My sister attends the school, and she says lessons are completely calm.

“They have really created a focused environment where young people can really thrive and reach their potential”

Mazra has advised current scholars who want to study for a career in medicine to knuckle down with their studies.

She said: “Subjects like medicine and law are super competitive. Universities will look at your GCSE grades.

“If you want to study for those subjects you need to be thinking about it now and not wait until you get to college.”

Trinity trip inspires

SCHOLARSHIP



SCHOLARS got a taste of life at one of the world's most prestigious universities during a raising aspirations trip.

Every year 7 scholar spent the day taking part in a range of activities at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

They took part in university-style lectures on religion, philosophy, theology and computer science.

They also got a tour of the world famous campus, including the Great Gate and the Great Court, and had the

opportunity to chat with current students, professors and lecturers at the university.

Year 7 Richard said: "I was excited to go on the trip. It was really inspiring to spend time at this incredible place.

"It created this amazing spark in me

“ It was really inspiring to spend time at this incredible place

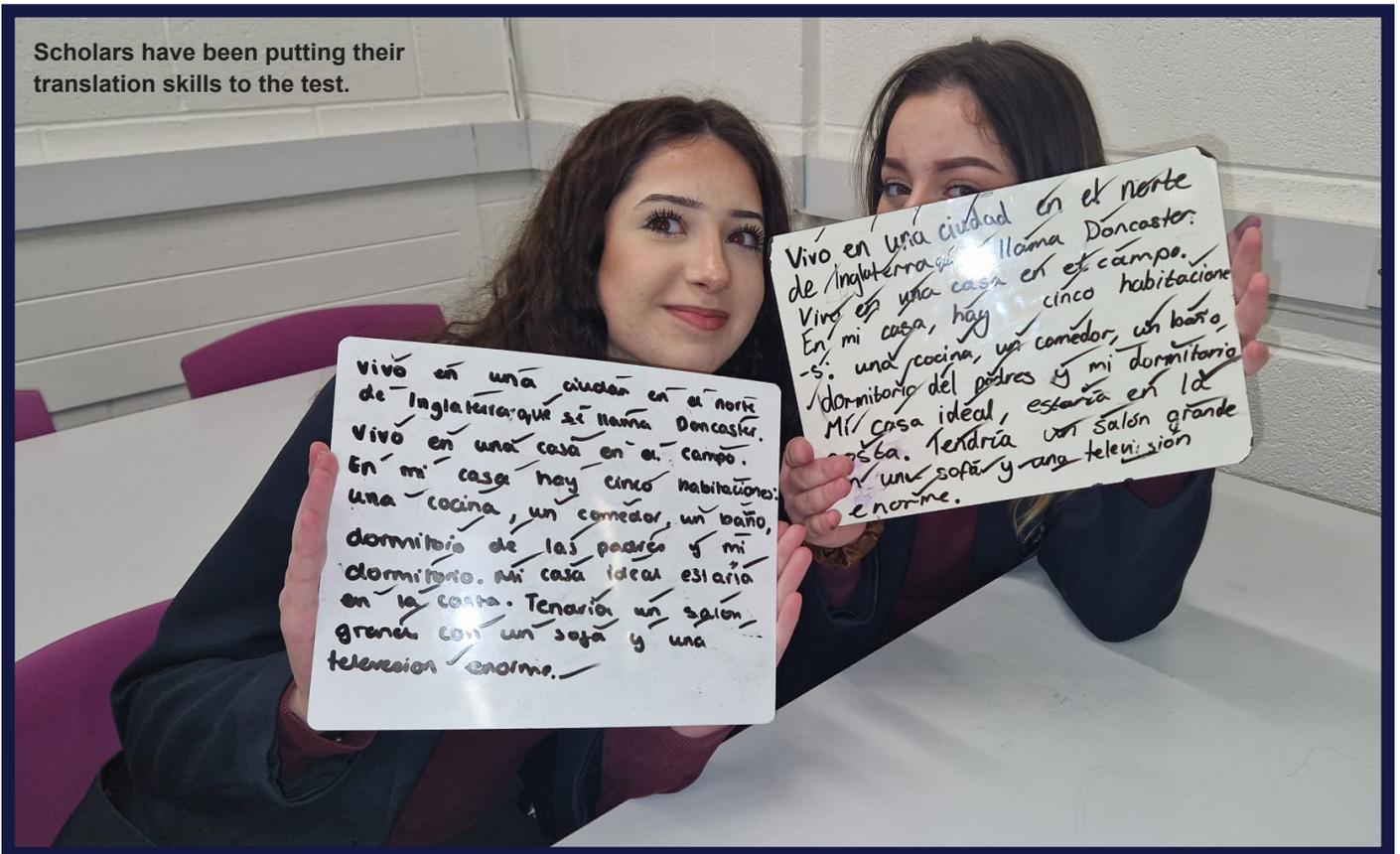
Year 7 Richard

that made me want to go to university and figure out what I want to do with my life. It was so old, the place almost felt like an archaeology site because there was so much history there."

Year 7 Catalina said: "To go to a university like Cambridge seemed like a dream before I went but having talked to the students and visited the grounds it gives me more confidence that these things are possible.

"Most students at our age don't know what we want to do in life but this trip has helped us. These sorts of trips show that the school really want the best for us."

Scholars have been putting their translation skills to the test.



New poetry club gets the creative juices flowing

SCHOLARSHIP



SCHOLARS are writing their own limericks as part of our newly formed poetry club.

They have been learning about the structure of the poems while coming up with their own verses.

Year 8 Evelyn has a demon as her central character in her limerick.

She said: "I was advised to go to poetry club by one of my teachers because I really enjoy creative writing.

"I love that you can have an idea and then bring it to life in a story or poem. My limerick is about a demon who loves

radios. It has been really fun being part of the club.

Fellow year 8 Aleksa said: "It is great to write poems in a group because you can get together and work as a team. It helps you be more creative when you can bounce ideas off other people." Poetry club runs after school every Wednesday.

Poets set their sights on performance at Globe

SCHOLARSHIP



SCHOLARS are practising their poems for a national competition that could see them perform at Shakespeare's Globe in London.

Scholars must recite their poems whilst also performing a visual representation through physical theatre.

They will perform in groups as well as in individual contests for the Poetry by Heart competition.

Around 20 students across year groups are taking part.

Poems being recited include *If* by Rudyard Kipling, *Funeral Blues* by WH Auden and *No Problem* by Benjamin Zephaniah.

Year 9 Mufaro said: "I am learning *The Tiger* by William Blake for my poem. It's challenging because you have to recite the poems but also create a visual representation using your body.

"You are reciting the poem but you have the chance to express yourself through the way you recite it and how you visualise it. You can give your perspective on the poem."

Kenny said: You get to work with others and improve your team-work skills. It



Scholars practise for the contest

also helps with your confidence because you have to overcome your fear of public speaking."

Poetry is part of daily life at school, with verses being chanted on the way into lunch, at line-ups, and on the way out of school.

Day hits right note

COMMUNITY



SCHOLARS joined forces with youngsters from other schools to create one huge musical ensemble.

They travelled to Lincolnshire for the Play Away Day run by the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) this term.

Scholars took part in workshops, ensemble rehearsals and informal performances, all led by specialist teachers.



Having fun with instruments

They also rehearsed for a musical performance in London later this year.

Year 7 Richard plays the trumpet.

He said: "We have had play days at our own school so it was fun to go to

another school and play music with other scholars.

"I really love the instrument I play. I practise twice a week since I was given this instrument by the school."

Year 8 Aleksa said: "Being given a free musical instrument that you can play at home and practise on is an amazing opportunity.

"I really like playing in a group because it makes you feel like you are a part of a community."

Gardeners dig their social club

COMMUNITY



OUR school grounds have been getting a makeover thanks to our green-fingered Gardening Club.

They have planted daffodils that have already bloomed, with plans to clear the way for vegetables and other flowers.

They also spent an afternoon painting the birdhouse.

Year 8 Lilly said: "It's a really social club, you're meeting new people but you are also outdoors getting lots of fresh air."

Year 7 Grace said: "It was fun being part of a team painting the birdhouse and helping the garden."



Gardening Club members get hands on to prepare the ground for planting

Peak District adventure builds closer connections

SCHOLARS went rock-climbing, abseiling and caving as part of a year 9 rewards trip.

They spent two days and nights in the Peak District at the Edale Activity Centre.

Year 9 Mohammed said: "I have never been on this type of holiday before so it was really an amazing experience. The best part was the caving and walks. It was nice to get a bit of independence away from

family. A chance to hang out with friends and do fun activities." Year 9 Mia said: "It was great to spend time with my friends outside of the school environment and grow a closer connection."



They're having a blast

SCHOLARSHIP



SCHOLARS have been designing, creating and launching their own rockets as a part of Science Club.

They used recyclables such as pom-poms, pipe cleaners and card for their missiles.

Throughout this term they also conducted a hot air balloons experiment where they had to land an egg without breaking it.

Year 8 Lilly said: "I love Science Club because you got scholars from different year groups who are all really interested in science.

"It has been a great way to expand

my friendship group with like-minded people. The rocket launch has been really fun because we got the chance to express ourselves with the design of the rockets."

Year 8 Lewis said: "My favourite experiment we have done is the hot air balloon experiment. We dropped from a classroom upstairs and it had to land without cracking the egg."

Bugsy cast nearly ready to hit the stage

COMMUNITY



REHEARSALS for our school production of Buggy Malone were in their final stages as this newsletter went to print.

Will our hero Buggy be able to help

Fat Sam out of his predicament with his arch nemesis Dandy Dan and still get the girl? Or will everyone just get splurged?

The performance is due to take place across two dates at the end of term.

Check our social media platforms for pictures of the event.

School opens doors for family feast to mark Iftar

COMMUNITY



THE school opened its doors to local families for a community feast to mark Iftar.

Iftar is the name of the meal eaten by Muslims at sunset to break their fast during Ramadan.

Scholar president year 9 Nenyasha gave a speech on the importance of showing respect for others.

She said: "I have a lot of respect for people who carry on with their normal lives whilst also fasting for their religion.

"I wanted to get that across in my speech but also why I think it's important to respect others and be part of a community.

"I was a bit nervous because I am representing my school and the scholars so wanted to make sure the speech was good."

Year 9 Mohammed recited the call to prayer at Iftar. He said: "It was nerve wracking but exciting. The whole event was really enjoyable. It was so nice to eat with my friends and community."



Scholars showing their bronze, silver and gold certificates from the recent UKMT Intermediate Maths challenge

Miliband put on spot

SCHOLARSHIP



ENERGY Secretary Ed Miliband fielded questions from our students during a geography field trip to Barnsley College.

The politician attended the education hub’s clean energy jobs fair to talk to youngsters about their careers.

Year 10 Kwasi said he chatted about the wide range of employers attending the fair.

He said: “He was really nice and friendly. We had a good chat about the quality of employees that had attended the fair.”

There was a number of prestigious companies with stands at the event including Rolls-Royce and Octopus Energy.

Year 10 Alfie said: “It was a good atmosphere. I had good conversations about climate and renewable energy.

“I’m really interested in energy, whether that be wind farms or solar power. It all sounded like companies are taking a step in the right direction.”



Year 10 scholar Kwasi chats to Energy Secretary Ed Miliband during a field trip

The event was part of the government’s project to deliver 20,000 extra clean energy jobs in the Yorkshire and Humber region by 2030. Kwasi added: “It was an enjoyable trip. I got to talk to lots of different employers who really opened my eyes to what is on offer.

“I am now thinking about taking up an apprenticeship after attending this event.”

The scholars were also joined by Minister for Industry Chris McDonald and South Yorkshire’s Mayor, Oliver Coppard.

Uni ambassadors put in good word for language

SCHOLARSHIP



THE case for learning another language at a school assembly has inspired scholars to broaden their horizons.

Language ambassadors from University

of Leeds ran an assembly explaining the benefits of learning a new language.

Year 9 Deven has now decided to take Spanish for GCSE. He said: “I was really inspired by the assembly. I did not think about maybe one day moving to another country and getting a job. There are so

many different jobs you can do here and abroad if you speak another language.

One of the ambassadors had travelled in France and got a job.” Year 9 Taku said: “It has made me more open to learning new languages. The world is so big. I want to pursue something different with my life.”

First aid Finley leaps into action

DUTY

YEAR 9 Finley got the chance to use his newly acquired first aid skills when a cricket ball hit one of his teammates.



Two weeks after the scholar had completed his training he was on the pitch when a fellow player was concussed.

He immediately leapt into action, applying a cold pack and helping to keep the player calm.

The first aid training was for the skill section of his bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

He said: "I was playing cricket which is my skill for Duke of Edinburgh when the cricket ball hit one of the players in the head.

"The player was concussed but I was able to help because I had done the training just two weeks earlier.

"I am way more confident now in an emergency. I also know how to apply a splint to a broken arm. If something happens, I know what to do."



Runners Belle and Ava strike gold

OUR scholars struck gold in the Indoor Athletic competition.

Among the winners were year 10 scholars Belle and Ava, who took first place in the 200m and 400m respectively.

Ava said: "I was proud of myself for

SCHOLARSHIP



getting first place. It was nice because all my friends were cheering for me as I crossed the finish line."

Belle said: "It felt good to win the race."

Premier action plan

DUTY

MAINTAINING wellbeing during the transition between primary and secondary school was the topic of a social action project for the Premier League Inspires mentoring programme.



Scholars worked in teams across a few weeks to design a social action plan aimed at improving mental health support for their peers.

They pitched their ideas in a Dragons' Den style format to a panel of judges at Doncaster Rovers' ground, the Eco-Power Stadium.

They are competing with other schools across the region for a place in the finals to be held at Everton's new stadium.

Year 9 Reuben said: "It was enjoyable to work in a team and take part in team-building activities.

"A lot of the sessions focused on building confidence in the weeks leading



up to the presentation. I feel like my confidence has improved thanks to this project."

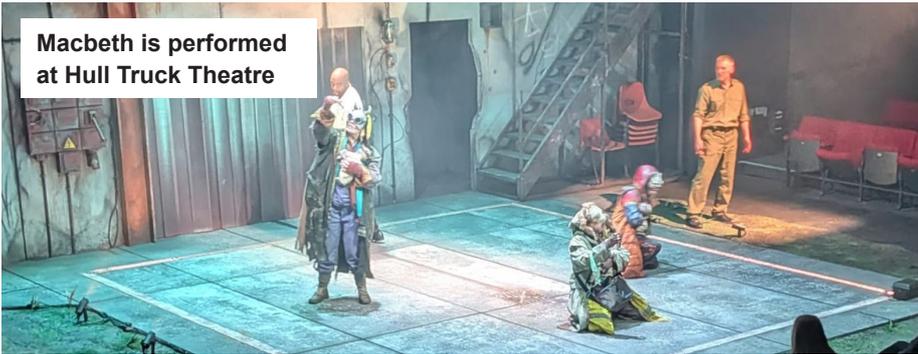
Year 9 Yvie said: "We choose to talk about transition between primary and

secondary because we had all recently gone through that stage ourselves.

"We know that it can be stressful for students and their parents, so it was a good topic to discuss."

Play surprises

Year 9 pair get a taste of teaching



Macbeth is performed at Hull Truck Theatre

SCHOLARSHIP



SCHOLARS were on the edge of their seats as they watched a modern retelling of Shakespeare play Macbeth.

The year 10s, who will study the book later this year, were gripped by the story of betrayal, murder, paranoia and grief, at the Hull Truck Theatre.

Scholar Teddy said: "It was not what I expected at all. I thought it might be

in old world language and difficult to understand.

"Instead, it was like an action film on stage, action packed and interesting. It has given me a different perspective of Shakespeare."

Scholar Brianna said: "I think it will really help when I come to study the book because we will already know the story.

"Shakespeare is meant to be performed, not read like a book, so it really brought it to life. It was great fun."

DUTY



YEAR 9 scholars Ashley and Elijah are getting a taste of life from the other side of the classroom by teaching their younger peers.

They are running an afterschool dodgeball club for year 7 and 8 scholars as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

They have been running drills, organising and officiating games and teaching new skills.

Scholar Elijah said: "It is nice to see the scholars have fun in a club you are running. It is rewarding.

"I am enjoying teaching but not sure I could do any other subject other than PE because I don't yet have the knowledge."

Ashley said: "I like helping the other scholars. To see them happy while enjoying what they are doing gives me a sense of achievement.

"It is also really satisfying to see them improve their game and get better at the sport."



All a-board for safety in the community

Posters promote safety

DUTY



SCHOLARS helped to make display boards for a community action project in Hexthorpe as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The foursome were tasked with creat-

ing posters for a project run by a district nurse. Denver, Francesca, Belle and Ava presented their work on staying safe in the community at a meeting held at Travis Gardens Community Hall.

Belle said: "We needed to volunteer and they needed someone so we thought

it would be a good thing to do.

"We first asked our fellow scholars what they thought so we could be representative of students at Woodfield."

Ava said: "It was a good experience because we were part of something that helped to inform and change views."

Leading on reading

COMMUNITY

THE school passed a rigorous set of assessments to become a hub school for the Thinking Reading programme.

Our teachers will now train their peers at schools across South Yorkshire so that they in turn can teach all children to read fluently.

Thinking Reading is a programme that helps children who are behind in



their ability to read to catch up.

Children can make up to five years' progress in their reading age in as little as six months, meaning that many can overtake their peers from lower starting points.

Principal Mr Scales said: "This is a central part of Astrea Academy Woodfields' unique approach to SEND which is centred around a firm belief that every child can go to university or a real alternative.

"As a result of the programme, the school celebrated its best ever attainment

in the summer GCSEs and has seen record decreases in suspensions and record high attendance figures for the academy.

"Thanks to the hard work of Ms McCarthy our Thinking Reading lead, and Mr Jurevicius, our Head of English, our children are thriving here like never before because they have been given the gift of reading.

"Our new hub status reflects our impact and our ability to give back to local schools so they can make a similar impact to us"

Book day gifts

COMMUNITY

STAFF gifted every student a new book as the school celebrated a love of reading on World Book Day.

They were selected by the teachers and included a personalised message in every book.



Student Evie and her gift. Inset, a pile of the presents