

THANKING STAFF

Law student credits school



Former scholar Jasleen talks to the current cohort about how the school helped with her ambition to study law

SCHOLARSHIP

A FORMER scholar now studying law at a top university has thanked staff for supporting her on her journey.

Jasleen left Woodfield in 2023 but credits headteacher Mr Scales for encouraging her ambition in law.

He gave her books on law and arranged a meeting with a lawyer.

The 19 year old has just completed her first year studying law at Leeds University.

She said: "I started becoming interested in the law in Year 10 so I went to Mr Scales and

Mrs Southall to take reins

Vice Principal Mrs Southall will take the reins from September as the school's new Principal. She replaces the outgoing Principal Mr Scales who led the school to its first ever Good Ofsted rating.

told him. He was so nice, he bought me books on the law and arranged for me to have a chat with a real lawyer.

"The school also helped me a lot with academics. I was struggling with maths, so the school gave me extra tutoring, and I ended up getting a grade 8."

Jasleen started researching how to become a lawyer while she was still studying at Astrea Academy Woodfield.

She said: "If I have any advice for current

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Jasleen inspires budding lawyers

SCHOLARSHIP

JASLEEN came back to the school to give a talk to current scholars – and ended up inspiring a pair of budding lawyers.

Year 9 students Deven and Taku dreamt of careers in the legal profession and Jasleen's story made them believe it was possible.

Taku said: "I like talking to people and I enjoy writing so I had thought about a career in law but I never thought that I could actually do it."

"It wasn't what she said necessarily but how she said it. She talked with confidence about what she had done to get to where she was and where she was going."

Deven said: "I found it really insightful. I like debating so had considered the law and politics. Jasleen's story was inspiring."



Jasleen meets Deven and Taku

"She got lots of help from the school and worked really hard. It has inspired me to seek out help and to really put lots of effort into my exams."

Law student is pursuing dream

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scholars, it's to make the most of the resources you have available. Talk to the teachers, they can help you with what you want to do.

"I also got lots of books on the subject I was interested in and started researching. I also looked at pathways into law, what A Levels I needed. I started early and it really made a difference when it came to writing my personal statement."

Jasleen said her interest in the law started watching TV shows and documentaries.

She added: "I was always interested in crime and justice. I loved the TV shows and documentaries. My parents are super proud of me. They knew that I wanted to be a lawyer and I'm now pursuing my dream."

Holocaust AI chat

SCHOLARSHIP

YEAR 9 scholars used AI to communicate with a Holocaust survivor from beyond the grave.

Manfred Goldberg died in 2025 but thanks to modern technology students could learn about his life and ask him questions.

They also used virtual reality to visit areas of importance in his life. The visit was organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust.

“ It sounded harrowing because he was split up from his family ”
Student Chirjeevan

Student Chirjeevan said: "It was very strange because obviously he died last year but with the help of technology we could ask him questions."

"I wanted to know about his upbringing. Was he from a religious family, did he celebrate his religious festivals? Did he go to school, what was it like?"

"I also asked him about his time in the camp, what it was like. It sounded harrowing



Scholars use AI to talk to the late Holocaust survivor Manfred Goldberg

because he was split up from his family and had to do lots of hard work in the camps."

Student Netree said: "I had a lot of em-

pathy for him because he went through so much. I wanted to know how he had rebuilt his life after the camp."

DofE Pines trip teaches skills

SCHOLARSHIP

OUR Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Award bronze students journeyed around Sherwood Pines for their assessed expedition.

They spent a night camping and two days walking using the skills they had learned prior to the trip.

Year 9 Finley said: "I learned a lot of new life skills. When you are stuck in the middle of nowhere and it's just you and a map and your friends then you have to get on with it.

"It was good because we learned that each of us has a skill set that can help us in a situation like the one we were in.

"I enjoyed the team-building friendships stuff that it brings. The hardest part was trying to find your way because all the roads look the same, finding your location and where you need to go next."

Year 9 Vina said: "I enjoyed socialising with friends and helping each other. We all helped out with different things like putting up our tents and making food.

"I really learned a lot about teamwork. It is something you really need when you are out in the forest."



Four of the scholars who took part in the DofE award trip to Sherwood Pines

First Silver expedition an inspiration

SCHOLARS set off for our first ever Duke of Edinburgh's Award Silver expedition this term.

Before the trip they had to learn vital survival skills such as first aid, campcraft, route planning, and navigation.

The seven students tested their

newly learned skills over three days and two nights

After the expedition they gave a presentation on their experiences to Year 8 scholars. The school has had twice as many applications for the next cycle of the award.

Maths quiz aced

SCHOLARSHIP

OUR scholars took part in a worldwide maths quiz – and scored top marks.

Year 8 students Advika, Billie and Zara struck gold in the Junior UKMT challenge.

It puts them in the top of their age group, meaning they are in the top 10% of participating pupils worldwide.

The test involved multiple choice questions and is sat in school under normal exam conditions.

An estimated seven million students from across the globe are estimated to take part in the challenge.

Advika and Billie scored so highly they advanced to the next round, the ultra-tough Kangaroo round. This was the first time any student from Woodfield had scored gold or gone on to the next round.

Advika said: "I felt really happy and excited. Last year I got silver and I improved on

that which was my main goal. I got through to the next round which was great but the questions were so hard.

"They were kind of written like riddles so half the time you were trying to work out what the questions was before you could even

answer it. I was very proud though because I got a bronze in the Kangaroo round which I was surprised about but also happy about."

She added: "I'm the top performer in the school ever which is pretty cool. Maths is my favourite subject."



Local historian Tony Armstrong visited the school to share news about his project chronicling the history of our predecessor schools

Our Scholar Council president and vice presidents demonstrated their leadership skills in coordinating discussions about how scholar experience could be improved



Madina just loves to read

SCHOLARSHIP

YEAR 8 Madina is our most avid reader – despite English being her second language.

That is according to the Sparx Reader programme which keeps track of the number of words read by scholars.

She has amassed a remarkable number of words since starting the programme.

Her achievement is made all the more impressive given she only started to learn English four years ago when she arrived from Afghanistan.

She said: “I love to read all different sorts of books. I like how it draws you in and makes you want to go into that world and read more.

“I am proud to be the highest scoring scholar

in the school. I do it because I love books, not to be the highest scorer, but I am proud as well.

“I came to England four years ago from Afghanistan. Reading helps me learn English. The more I read the more my English improves.”



Geography scholars working hard as they prepare for their exam

Engineering careers focus

SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARS learned about engineering careers from professionals from BAE Systems, the Royal Navy, and the Royal Air Force.

During the Material World: Engineering the Future event they learned about the breadth of jobs on offer.

The roadshow was performed by Altru Drama, a non-profit theatre company which delivers drama workshops.

Scholar Muibat said: “I liked the way they made it interesting by putting it into a performance that we could all watch.

“I think if it had just been someone standing up there talking for a couple of hours it would have been quite boring but this wasn’t, it was really interesting.”

Scholar Sami said: “Engineering is not just for men and not just about cars and women can be involved in it.

“I love maths so would have enjoyed it however it was presented. I enjoyed the practical tips we got.”

Annual Sports Day is 'huge fun'

COMMUNITY



SCHOLARS and staff gathered on the school field for the annual Sports Day.

Scholars from all year groups took part in different track and field events, including sprint and relay races, long jump and throwing competitions. Spectators cheered loudly from the sidelines, creating a lively atmosphere and encouraging the athletes to do their best.

Year 8 Neriah had recently broken the school record for long jump and triple jump.

She said: "Sports Day is huge fun. Everyone gets to do the events they picked; you can pick two events from track and two events from field. The whole school has the option to participate but if you don't want to then you stay in lessons until the afternoon.

"I like the part when you get the medals and everyone is clapping and cheering us on."



Scholars got hands on as they used papier-mache to create models of erupting volcanoes in Science Club

Bugsy first musical

COMMUNITY



THE hall was alive with the sound of music as the school performed its first ever musical in front of families.

Scholars wowed the audience with live music and acting over two packed nights performing Bugsy Malone.

Anybody who is anybody packed the hall as scholars belted out classics such as Fat Sam's Grand Slam and My Name is Tallulah.

Year 9 Taku played Bugsy. He said: "I feel like it was a good community experience. I have never seen the hall so busy. Everyone

“Everyone was singing and having a good time”
Year 9 Taku

was singing and having a good time.

"It's the first time we have ever done an event like this at Woodfield so it felt special to be a part of this event. I was the main character so was quite nervous. If I had messed



up it wouldn't have looked good. Fortunately, I didn't." Year 9 Mia played Tallulah. She said: "Singing was very nerve-wracking, even though we had lots of practice and days and days of training.

"After so much hard work it all came together on the night. It was just a great relief that it

all went so well." Year 9 Deven played Leroy. He said: "I found Leroy to be a very enjoyable character to play. He has lots of lines and is in most of the scenes with Bugsy." Head of Performing Arts Ms Atkins said: "The cast had lots of fun, particularly at the end of the show when it ends with a massive splurge fight."

Skills gained during primary school sports festival

COMMUNITY



OUR year 10 scholars hosted their first ever Primary Sports Festival for Woodfield Primary School.

They helped the younger scholars warm up, then led in a range of sporting activities, developing skills such as teamwork and leadership.

Year 10 Zain said: "We helped them with three events. If you do BTEC sports then this



Scholars gather for the sports event

is a part of your course. I enjoyed it because I want to develop my leadership skills so leading events like this primary school sports festival is a good way to get experience."

Year 10 Thomas said: "I spent a lot of time helping the teachers so didn't get a chance to help with the younger students that much. It was really nice to see them enjoying themselves though."

Peak behind the scenes at the National Archive

SCHOLARSHIP

YEAR 10 scholars travelled to London to take part in workshops at the National Archives this term.

They were able to investigate resources that are not on display to the public and

take part in interactive virtual classes.

They had a guided tour of nearby Kew Gardens, looking at the different ecosystems and biomes.

Year 10 Jaycob said: "Seeing the gardens was a really interesting experience. I've never seen so many flowers and plants. It was

amazing. I have always been into history so getting to see some of the archives was also a good experience."

Year 10 Harmony said: "I really enjoyed seeing the gardens. I also like history so it was good to spend time at the National Archives."

Looking at careers

SCHOLARSHIP

OUR Year 9 scholars took part in a Speed Networking event, where they learned about a range of roles and career pathways from local employers in our community.

Guests also joined scholars for family dining where they got the chance to further chat to them about careers.

Organisations that took part included Foys Solicitors, City of Doncaster Council and South Yorkshire Police.

In a poll after the event, 93% of scholars said they enjoyed speaking to employers from a range of different industries.

Eighty five percent said they understood the working world better, while 74% said they learned about jobs they had never heard of before.

Careers Advisor Ms Lister-Coburn said: "Our poll shows us how important and life-changing these events can be for scholars.

"It also motivated them to work hard in



Year 9 scholars take part in the speed networking event

lessons, as they found out what qualifications they needed. The feedback from employers was excellent with some volunteering to come back to support other events such as mock interviews and assemblies.

Year 7 Harvey said: "I was interested in the

police officer. How they do their jobs. I am interested in being a detective. The day really encouraged me to think about my future career for the first time." Year 7 Gursimar said: "I enjoyed that we got to learn about what we could do as a job when we got older."

A fond farewell

SCHOLARSHIP

Y11s said goodbye to school after working incredibly hard throughout their exams. They had a leavers' assembly, ice creams on the piazza and a chance to sign shirts and say farewell to both staff and other scholars. We are very proud of them and all that they have achieved and look forward to seeing them for their results in August.

Scholar Amarachi said: "We felt moved because the teachers had put together a video to cheer us on and we felt really proud of ourselves.

"We got to hear how teachers thought we'd all done really well and the video showed us how much we had achieved from Y7-11."

BTEC scholars show leadership

COMMUNITY

OUR BTEC Sport Scholars stepped up to lead a primary sports event hosted at the school – showing great leadership.

Doncaster Astrea primary schools took part in a series of striking and fielding games such as rounders and cricket.

Scholar Atif said: "We had primary school visitors come up and we did different games with them."

Premysl said: "I enjoyed leading the sessions and it helped me to develop and strengthen my own leaderships skills."

Brianna said: "We also had to develop our understanding of the games we were leading



BTEC Sport scholars

on which meant we developed our own skills further too."



The school came together for our annual staff versus scholars rounders match

Performing for Lloyd Webber

SCHOLARSHIP



OUR young musicians performed in front of Andrew Lloyd Webber at one of the capital's top venues.

Our players of flutes, clarinets, trumpets and trombones performed alongside others at the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) performance.

The programme, a charity co-funded by the English composer's foundation, also sees scholars get a free musical instrument when they arrive in Year 7.

Year 8 Tahira said: "It made me nervous that Andrew Lloyd Webber was at the performance. He gave a little talk at the beginning about how it was nice that so many young peo-

ple get the chance to perform music.

"I feel really privileged to have been given the chance to take part in this programme and express myself through music."

Year 8 Helya said: "It was great because everyone there had a love of music. We got all this tuition and instruments all for free. Music should be for everyone, not just those who can afford it."

Year 7 Osehon: "It was great fun playing my trombone with all the other scholars."

Year 7 Hayrah: "There were lots of musical instruments playing at the same time. We sounded good." Head of Performing Arts Ms Atkins said: "Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber was watching from the audience. It was a very special moment to perform in front of him."

Poets to make capital journey

SCHOLARSHIP



OUR scholars will travel to the Globe Theatre in London for poetry-speaking competition Poetry by Heart.

Four groups and two individual submissions have made it through to the grand final in the capital.

Scholars Kenny and Victor have won a place in the Classical Final of the competition.

Kenny will be performing No Problem by Benjamin Zephaniah and Victor will be performing Hope is the Thing with Feathers by Emily Dickinson.

They were chosen from thousands of national entries to take part in the final.

The pair will perform memorised poems out loud on the iconic Sam Wanamaker stage at Shakespeare's Globe in London later this year.

Year 9 Victor said: "I'm feeling excited, I get to perform in front of many people in the Shakespeare Globe. It is exciting because I'm a person that likes performing, It's part of my personality.

"I chose the Emily Dickinson poem because I was going through the poems and this is the one that stood out for me. It's about hope and I wanted that to be my message for the competition.

"I am looking forward to the competition but also to a day out in London because we are there for two days. We want to see the sights of London."

Our scholars have been awarded accolades in the previous two years at the competition.

Last year, we won the Special School award while in 2024 it was a performance of Invictus that won us the Freestyle award.



Scholars Kenny and Victor

Mr Scales on his final term as Principal

IT HAS been a great honour to lead Astrea Academy Woodfields and a privilege to oversee the academy's transformation.

I am proud to leave it as a successful school where scholars are well prepared for education, training or employment.



I know that the school will be in good hands under the stewardship of my colleague Mrs Southall and the exceptional and strong leadership of Astrea Academy Trust.

I would like to thank all my colleagues for their dedication and hard work, the students for their enthusiasm and drive and all our parents and carers for their continued support.

Extra music funds

SCHOLARSHIP



THE school has been awarded extra funding by the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) for the choir.

On top of free instruments and tutors, MiSST will now fund the singing group to grow in number.

They will also invite in guest tutors and take part in MiSST concerts in future years.

One student said: "I have taken part in the MiSST programme but not as a singer, only playing my instrument.

"I love singing in a group. It makes me happy and also it boosts my confidence getting up and singing in front of lots of people.

"I would say to anyone thinking about joining the choir to go ahead and do it. You will make lots of new friends and might get the chance to sing a solo."



The school's choir has been awarded extra funding by MiSST

Coming up in the next newsletter:

- Poetry By Heart Final at the Globe Theatre in London
- Greshams Residential for chosen

MiSST scholars

- A Summer Dazzle at the AAW Summer concert
- Grade 1 Assessments for chosen flautists and clarinetists

Picture GALLERY



Clockwise from above: Scholars investigate downstream changes to a river - measuring width, depth and velocity - during a geography field trip.

At Astrea Academy Woodfields, hard work, positive attitude and commitment pay off. Just ask our top five scholars for Family Dining. They all earned more than 45 merits.

Poetry Club scholars practise their



sonnet writing skills. They have been learning the conventions of a Shakespearean sonnet – and can even write in iambic pentameter.

A STEM roadshow provides valuable information for students.

Our scholars visited the University of York as part of the Shine programme. They took part in a range of activities themed on higher education.

