

# Winter Newsletter 2023



# Principals Message



Students, families and our fantastic Leesbrook community, we feel privileged to be writing to you, to wish you well over the Christmas holiday period.

As you will be aware, our second cohort of Year 11 students sat their exams in the summer which resulted in our best results so far. We are proud to say that these results placed us in the top three academies in Oldham. This is testament to the combined efforts of our staff and students throughout their Leesbrook journey.

Our current Year 11 students have just completed their Mock Exams. We have been so impressed with the way this year group have conducted themselves throughout a gruelling two weeks. The commitment, resilience, and dedication to this series of exams was just amazing and I am sure the students will get the results they worked so hard for.

As we continue to grow, we have encountered new challenges for Leesbrook. This has led to us making changes to the structures of our teams and recruiting members of staff to lead in new areas of the academy. One of our most significant changes has been to our Pastoral and Safeguarding teams. We now have multiple leaders for each year group who work tirelessly to know their year group in such detail that they can offer bespoke support whenever it is required. Many of our students are now benefitting from the individual support our Pastoral team are now able to offer alongside 'Place 2 Be' (our Mental Health Experts) and the Safeguarding team. As part of the support given to students, we are delighted to be working in collaboration with Manchester City and Commando Joe's; just two of our in-school interventions aimed at improving student attitude and attainment.

So far this year, we have managed to give multiple opportunities to our students to grow outside of the curriculum which has included experiences in the academy with external agencies, and various educational visits which all build on their cultural capital. We will continue to develop this area of academy life so that we maintain our vision of producing culturally enriched citizens.

An area of the academy which has grown significantly, and long may it keep growing, is the Rewards and House System. It has been so pleasing to see so many of our Leesbrookers being rewarded for their excellent attitude to their work, excellent attendance and behaviour or a particular talent they have demonstrated as part of the House competitions. This is an area in an academy which is often neglected, but at Leesbrook we see it as a high priority.

However, we would like to make a plea to all parents, carers and students around attendance and punctuality. It is crucial that all our students make every effort to be in school every day, and on time so that they can maximise their learning time, which in turn maximises their opportunities in later life.

We look forward to 2024 with even more optimism and thank you for all your continued support. Wishing you all the very best for this special holiday period.

**Mr C. Kolbuck, Interim Co-Head of School**

# Principals Message



## Teaching and Learning

This Autumn term was extremely positive for our Leesbrook family as we saw the publication of the 2023 GCSE results data. Whilst the Y11 pupils receive their results in August, the school's overall achievements are not made public until October, and I am pleased to confirm we have achieved our best ever GCSE results. Attainment was significantly up on last year and our 'Progress 8' measure, the key metric for school performance, was +0.14, placing us in the top 3 schools in the local authority and top 2 secondary schools (out of 20) within the Oasis Trust. This is testament to the hard work of our pupils and the dedication of our fantastic staff who always go 'the extra mile' to support our Leesbrookers.

The excellent results we have achieved are not possible without positive relationships between staff and pupils, and one of the key ways we build these is with the continuation of our Rewards Programme led by Mr Feather, Mr Philp and Mr Mahfooz. I'm proud of all our students who have contributed positively to academy life. Whether it be one of the 100s of students who have been nominated by subject teachers for 'Student of the Week', or having the courage to perform in front of a live audience at our recent Y7 'Sing Up' Music event which saw every student in the year give a joyful, uplifting performance. I'm frequently reminded of just what a pleasure it is to be part of our Leesbrook family.

On a personal note, this is a bittersweet time for myself as it will be my last Teaching and Learning newsletter as I shall be leaving Leesbrook at the end of the Autumn term. I have been with the school since we first opened our doors in September 2018 and it has been a privilege to be part of its journey from a school of 220 pupils and 12 staff in temporary accommodation, to the large thriving successful school it is today. I'd like to thank all pupils, parents and staff for their support, particularly Mr Kolbuck and Mr Fowler whom along with myself have led the school during Ms Livesey's maternity leave. I have learned a lot from them and shall take this with me as I commence my new role as Headteacher of Edgar Wood Academy in Middleton.

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'P. Jones', is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

**Mr P. Jones, Interim Co-Head of School**



# Character Curriculum



Character Development sits at the heart of all that we do at Leesbrook, and there has been much to celebrate since starting term in September. Through Character Reading in Family Time, pupils have been able to benefit from one of the most diverse reading collections in the country, including new youth fiction novels such as “Kind of Spark” and “Homeboys”, as well as classics such as “The Philosopher’s Stone” and “When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit”. Through these novels, our pupils have been able to explore the positive character virtues that we want all of our Leesbrookers to develop and carry through to adulthood.

Through the taught Character Curriculum in Family Time, pupils have explored a wide variety of themes as part of their Personal Development.

Year 7 have examined Life at Leesbrook and Rights and Responsibilities, exploring what it means to be a Citizen of Modern Britain.

Year 8 have explored the issue of Diversity and Respect, examining the nature of Modern Britain as a proudly diverse society and the responsibilities that we must all take-up in order to keep Britain proudly diverse and equal.

***“We may all have different religions, different languages, different coloured skin, but we all belong to one human race”.***

**- Kofi Annan**

Our Year 9 pupils have completed a unit of work on Money Matters, examining the key life skills of budgeting and saving as well as completing a case study on pay-day loans. They have explored the theme of Respecting Our Bodies, looking at physical health, mental and emotional health, body image and eating disorders.

Leesbrookers in Year 10 have examined the challenging theme of Mental Wellness exploring everything from the neuro-science of brain development during childhood and adolescence to the power of mindfulness in every-day life; whilst Year 11 have demonstrated their maturity through the examination of Healthy Relationships.



# Cultural Enrichment



This academic year we have offered over 40 cultural enrichment clubs each half term. These include GCSE revision clubs in every subject providing interventions for our Y10 and 11 students to achieve their potential.

We have provided several clubs for students to represent Leesbrook outside of the academy. We have a football team for each year, girls football teams, netball teams, table tennis teams, dodgeball teams and recently a coach from Sales Shark Rugby Club has been attending the academy providing enrichment for students who are interested in rugby.

As part of our cultural enrichment offer, we like to give students the opportunity to achieve a variety of qualifications and certificates. We have had students complete the inspiring digital enterprise award we have been training the next cohort of sports leaders who have run sessions for children in the local primary schools.



## School Production— Beauty and the Beast

Our school production has been launched and auditions have taken place. We are doing a performance of 'Beauty and the Beast', all students and staff are extremely excited for this!

## Duke of Edinburgh

We will soon be launching a new cohort of Duke of Edinburgh students. This is an excellent opportunity for our students to work towards their bronze, silver, and gold awards. These teach our students valuable life skills that they can transfer into any career path they choose.





# Classroom News



## Miley

### - Muay Thai Champion!

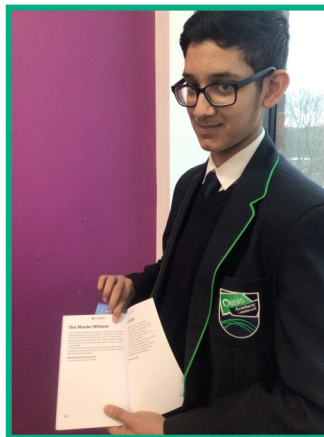
Miley in 9LA is a dedicated student to Muay Thai. Miley is on the England team and recently went to Rome, Italy for the European championships. She fought in this competition for her country and won the competition! Miley is now a Gold European medallist in the 13/15 category. We are incredibly proud of Miley and her fantastic achievement.



## Mohammed

### - Published Story

Mohammed in 10SP submitted a story he had written for publication and his entry was selected to be added into a book. Called 'Unsolved'. We are incredibly proud of Danyal's engagement and achievement and, we expect, that with continued participation, more students will follow suit and have published written works.



## Hadiya

### - Leadership Session

Hadiya in 11P delivered a fantastic leadership session as a part of her BTEC Sport course. As a part of this course pupils must plan and deliver sports coaching sessions of their choice to a younger year group in school. Hadiya delivered an introduction to Taekwondo session, and it was a truly amazing pupil leadership session.

# Rewards & House System



## Rewards

At Leesbrook we have had many Rewards and House competitions for our amazing Leesbrookers. The first was the Pizza Reward meal for the students who achieved over 96.5 % attendance which is above our school target. Over 300 students attended.



At the end of each half term, we reward our amazing students with a trip to the Leesbrook Cinema to have some free popcorn and watch a movie. Last half term we watched Monsters University with over 200 students.

Because of the great success of the Movie Night we have made it bigger and better for the end of the year. We are having 2 sittings allowing us to celebrate with 400 of our outstanding Leesbrookers



## House Competition

This year has been a massive year for House competitions, we have completed over 5 different competitions.

The first Competition was the Chess Tournament which was entered by over 30 students. All the students had a great time learning and competing in chess with the two finals matches (pictured right) being very intense and very close.

The second Competition was an Art competition. The students had to redesign our 9 habits in a graffiti style. All the entries were amazing and are now on display for the whole school to see.

The third Competition was a 500-word story competition which was entered by over 35 students. The stories created by the students showed such imagination and creativity, it was incredibly hard to pick a winner.

The fourth Competition was a Table Tennis tournament which had over 40 students.

The most recent competition has been a Festive Card design competition. With all the entries it was incredibly difficult to judge. Well done to all involved.





# Department News



## Geography

### Year 7

It has been an absolute delight welcoming our new Year 7s to Geography at Leesbrook and we have made a wonderful start to the year by first examining our local Geography before thinking about the wider global system. We have now moved on to explore social and economic development across the world, specifically how development across the world is different.

### Year 8

In Year 8 we started the year by examining our world's changing population and urbanisation. We specifically spent time looking at how urban change in Mumbai has created both opportunities and challenges for the local people. Since half term we have been examining cold environments (Mr Jones' all time favourite!). We have been looking at how ice has shaped the landscape through erosion and deposition.

### Year 9

In Year 9 we have spent our first half term looking at a variety of ways that the world, and it's geography, is interconnected. To this we examined the impacts of the Eyjafjallajökull eruption in Iceland in 2010 and more recently, the coronavirus pandemic. We then moved on to think how our actions today will cause threats in the future such as coral bleaching and overpopulation.

### Year 10

Year 10 have made a very positive start to their GCSE course by completing both Natural Hazards and Urban Issues and Challenges. We have now started a challenging unit looking at our UK Physical Geography, specifically how the landscape has been created through erosion and deposition at the coast and by our rivers.

### Year 11

Year 11 have worked incredibly hard in preparation for the mock exams and have been rewarded for their effort, resilience, and enthusiasm. Keep up the effort! We are now finishing off Challenges of Resource Management before starting our extensive fieldwork and revising for the Summer Exams!





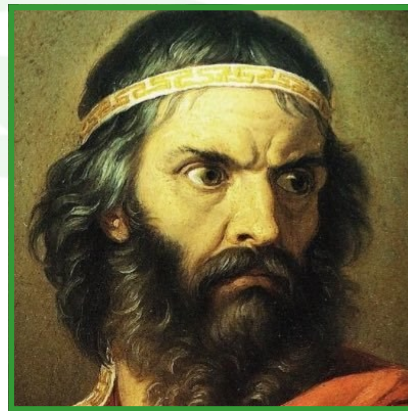
# Department News



## English

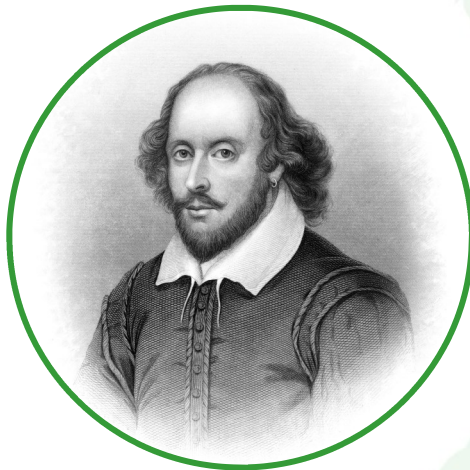
### Year 7

In September we welcomed our new Year 7 cohort who have settled in to their English classes excellently; they have started with reading about different Greek Myths and Legends and have read about the defiant Antigone who stands up for what she believes in, against the tyrannical King Creon. Our Year 7's have been incredibly interested in this topic and have shown great enthusiasm!



### Year 8

Our Year 8 classes began their studies on Shakespeare! They have learned about the conversations of a tragedy and the different types of Shakespearian stories. They have specifically focused on Romeo and Juliet in keeping with the topic on tragedies.



### Year 9

Continuing with their learning of Shakespeare, Year 9 have been learning about the dangers of jealousy and manipulation in the Shakespearean tragedy Othello.

### Year 10

Year 10 have begun their GCSEs with their study of Macbeth – they have been working hard on their annotations and essay writing ready for their final exam question in January.



### Year 11

Year 11 have been working hard on poetry and their mock exams. The English department have been so proud of their dedication with afterschool revision sessions and independent work.

# Department News



## Foreign Languages

### Year 11 Berlin Trip

In October, Ms Holmes, Mr Gradwell, Ms Naz and Mr Collard took 39 students to Berlin. They stayed for four days, and visited Sachsenhausen concentration camp, to see the museum and camp itself. Students got an idea of what life was like for prisoners of the camps.

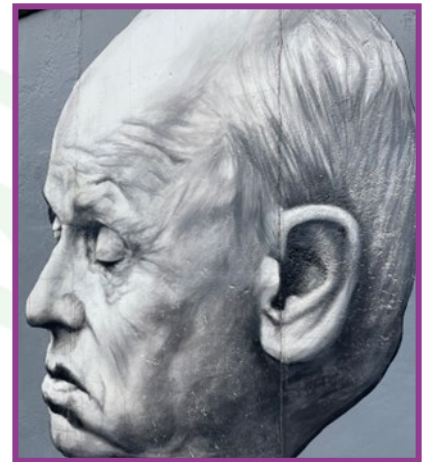
They also went on a walking tour of Berlin and visited the famous landmarks, like the Brandenburg Gate and the Reichstag Government building. They also visited the East Side Gallery and the largest remaining part of the Berlin wall. They saw lots of other monuments too!

During the evening, they went bowling, and out for meals at different restaurants.

Students had free time for shopping in Berlin and visited the KaDeWe, Germany's most famous department store and spent time exploring the shopping centre with friends.

They had a great time, students were excellently behaved and got lots from the trip!

Well done to the Year 11 students who went on the trip - you were a credit to Oasis Academy Leesbrook.



### In Class with Ms Holmes

Ms Holmes has been really impressed with her classes this term, particularly with Key Stage 4. Year 11 have been fantastic- so keen to work hard! Keep it up-you WILL get there!

Year 10 Spanish have been fantastic too, they've been learning about a healthy diet and free time this term.

Special mention to 10L-they've improved so much this term in every sense of the word, their Spanish is great, and their attitude is even better! They've really impressed Ms Holmes with their competitive streak on Duolingo!

9G are as impressive as ever, their French knowledge is excellent! Keep it up Year 9! We've covered perfect tense, local area and holidays.

8P have been great-they've really tried so hard, and their German is really progressing. Great work 8P.

8C are great at German, some natural linguists in this class! Let's continue the great work in 2024!



# Department News



## Foreign Languages

### In Class with Mr Welsh

Mr Welsh's classes have been impressing him in all three languages this term!

Year 11 and year 8 German have been fantastisch!

Year 11 have been studying for their exams and getting to grips with their 'go to verbs'. A special mention goes to Hamza M – a vocabulary machine.

Year 8 have been studying home and local area and free time - students in 8T, 8M and 8G have been superstars.

Year 7 and Year 10 Spanish have been fantastico!

Our year 7 classes have really engaged in their new Spanish learning, their vocabulary, grammar and phonics are excelente!

Year 9 French have been fantastique!

9T and 9SP have been studying travelling abroad and describing their local area. 9SP are a real pleasure to teach. Bravo!

### In Class with Ms Arksey

Ms Arksey has been really impressed with her year 7 Spanish classes this term! They have all worked so hard! 7SP have been particularly impressive and 7P have made great progress.

Year 8 have also been working really hard and have been doing all about sports and hobbies. Keep it up year 8!

### In Class with Ms Kaur-Parkes

We are delighted by the work done by our Y11 German classes under the guidance of Ms Kaur-Parkes.

The recently conducted mock exams have delivered praiseworthy results, and we are proud of the students' hard work and dedication.

Among the students who have shown exceptional skills and emerged as top achievers in German, we must commend Mahdi, Sarah, Eliza, and Michelle. They have consistently showcased their commitment to learning the language and have proven their capabilities through their impressive classroom performance.

Our Year 9 French students have been learning about local towns and areas, and they have certainly impressed Ms. Kaur-Parkes, with their efforts. In particular, 9P and 9ST have been recognized for their outstanding work in this unit. Well done, everyone, and keep up the fantastic work!

Learning about local towns and areas is essential for French students as it helps develop their language skills and cultural knowledge. By exploring the vocabulary associated with cities, landmarks, and directions, students become more confident in their ability to communicate effectively in French.

Ms. Kaur-Parkes has been beyond impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication of her students. 9P and 9ST stood out for their exceptional efforts in this unit. They have shown a strong willingness to engage with the lesson material and have consistently produced high-quality work.





# Department News



## Foreign Languages

### In Class with Mr Gradwell

Mr Gradwell has been hugely impressed by how quickly Year 7 have taken to learning Spanish. Their positive attitudes and eagerness to use Spanish in our classroom interactions has been outstanding. Let's keep it going after Christmas as we start to learn about family, friends and school! ¡Vamos!

Moving to Year 9, we celebrate the positive transformation in attitude shown by 9C towards learning French, showcasing the spirit of growth within our linguistic community. 9M and 9L's behaviour for learning has helped set the foundation for lots of progress to be made this year as we move on to our next topic about school. Let's build on this in 2024!

Lastly, in Year 10 Spanish, Mr. Gradwell has been overjoyed with the strong start that his GCSE pupils have made thus far. Especially throughout our healthy living topic as we have encountered some challenging work. He is excited to see how far they can progress further and thanks both of his groups for listening to his long explanations about Spanish etymology and grammar. ¡Ánimo, chicos!



# Department News



## Design Technology

Year 9 students recently completed a Design and Technology project to design and make clocks in HIPs plastic, inspired by the interests of their target market. The brief asked them to develop colourful yet balanced designs which they could “realise” plus introducing them to more complex manufacturing methods. The first step was to create drawings, then the marking out and cutting of a mould or form to be able to use on the Vacuum former machine. then sawing, filing and fine finishing using various grades of sandpaper.

The clocks were all carefully crafted by hand with machinery such as the vacuum former and pillar drill.

*“Year 9 worked really hard on this project and really enjoyed exploring new skills and processes, I am very pleased with the final outcomes.” - Ms Whetham, Curriculum Leader for Art and Technology*



## History

Our Year 7s have made a fantastic start to life at Leesbrook. They have started their history learning journey with a study of ‘the world in the year 1000.’ They have been exploring the physical and symbolic connections between the Byzantine Empire in Constantinople and the Islamic Empire in Baghdad and Cordoba. They have engaged enthusiastically in discussion and developed their understanding of the work of a historian by delving into concepts such as empire, power and religion.

Our Year 8s have also been introduced to the new History curriculum, starting with a study of the English Reformation and more recently studying the Greater Mughals and their conquest of South Asia. We have discussed what mattered to the Mughals and the legacy they have left behind.

Year 9 started the year with a study of democracy and women’s suffrage. More recently we have completed our unit on the causes of the outbreak of the First World War. We are now looking at the outcomes and cost of the War on the lives of different people around the world. Our pupils are positively engaged in the rigour and diversity of the topics.

Our Year 10s have made an excellent start to the rigour of GCSE History, starting with a new ‘Migration Through Time’ unit. We started our study of migration to England in the 9<sup>th</sup> century looking the Vikings. We have moved into the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century and are studying the role of the expanding British Empire and its connection with increased migration.

Year 11 as always have shown resilient in their GCSE studies. Our Year 11s have recently completed their first round of mock exams for this year. We hope this will give them the motivation and insight into the importance of revision and consistency to succeed in their GCSE exams this year. This term we have been studying for our period study unit ‘The American West.’ Here, we have explored the changes in the lives of indigenous Americans and the role of Europeans settlers in changing the structure of this part of the world.



# Department News



## Literacy

A Literacy intervention programme, Lexia PowerUp, has been introduced at Oasis Academy Leesbrook. Lexia is a structured and systematic approach to literacy created for student reading and literacy development. The programme, ran by Ms Moore, Ms Massey, Ms Shaukat, Ms Maguire and Ms Meacock, has provided students at Oasis with confidence in their own abilities through innovative, effective and proven literacy solutions. Lexia covers three strands of literacy development: word study, comprehension and grammar. The programme immerses students in an age-appropriate learning experience that is tailored to their individual strengths and weaknesses, allowing them to fully access and engage in the secondary curriculum. Here is what some pupils had to say:



*"Lexia has improved my reading overall; I've started reading books at home because of this." – Year 8*

*"There used to be a lot of vocabulary I struggled with, now I know their definitions because of the comprehension and grammar units." – Year 8*

*"Lexia has taught me new vocabulary that I've used in English and Geography lessons." – Year 9*



## Mathematics

In lessons our Leesbrookers have been working hard at developing their mathematical skills and knowledge. Currently this half term, our Year 7's have been recapping and building upon their knowledge from primary school as well as strengthening their algebraic skills, a new concept for many of our students. Year 8 have been deepening their algebraic skills and combining skills to plot linear graphs. Year 9 have also been building on their algebraic skills, in the form of solving equations, expanding and factorising expressions. Year 10 have been working on percentages and exploring the different career paths that would use percentages, for example, in one lesson, they were acting as investment consultants and offered advice to clients about which bank was best for them. Our Year 11's have also been busy revising for their mocks where they completed a full set of maths papers. To celebrate Black History Month, the maths department also ran a competition where students designed a poster celebrating a famous black woman mathematician. Our winner was Michelle in 11A with second place going to Aysha 7L.

*Lastly, a special shout out to the following students who had been nominated for student of the week by the maths department this autumn term: Aysha 7L, Wania 9P, Maryam 10L, and Al-Ameen 10L. Well done! Ms McCafferty*





# Department News



## Music

### Year 7

Year 7 family groups have completed 'Sing Up', a topic which promotes confidence and the ability to perform in front of their peers and others. The culmination of this saw every single Year 7 student singing together in the main hall in front of parents and carers, the first of this type of event to take place at Leesbrook. The Year 7s sounded fantastic, performing 'Can you feel the love tonight' (from The Lion King), 'Two Sea Shanties' and 'Where is the Love' by Black Eyed Peas.

The Year 7 students are now working on a topic titled 'Stomp', which teaches them the importance of rhythm and pulse.

### Cultural Enrichment

More students than ever are now staying behind after school to practice, with guitar club, band skills and singing club being offered each week. The school's next music showcase, is our Winter showcase, taking place on 19th December. We hope to see you there to celebrate the excellent work and progress that our students are making!



### Year 8

Year 8 have completed a topic on the computers using a program called Garageband to arrange and record a section of Haydn's trumpet concerto, enabling them to further develop their recording and editing skills. In their other topic so far this year, Year 8 have also used our full class set of acoustic guitars to learn a variety of chords and riffs.

### Year 9

Students in Year 9 have further increased their GarageBand skills and knowledge, using their musicianship to record a more challenging piece of music – Beethoven's 5th Symphony. In their other unit so far, Year 9 have been working together in small groups during the 'Band Skills Unit 2' to perform a popular piece of music using drum kit, bass guitar, electric guitar, and keyboard. This requires our Year 9s to play chords, riffs and drum beats accurately as part of an ensemble.



# Department News



## Physical Education

It has been a very busy and successful start to the year for the PE department at Oasis Academy Leesbrook. We are always continuously working hard to fulfil our department Mission.

**“To inspire and develop lifelong learners that lead happy and healthy lifestyles!”**

### Sale Sharks: Project Rugby

This year we have continued to broaden the experiences of pupils in PE: we have developed a partnership with Sale Sharks Rugby Union who have been in school delivering coaching sessions. Project Rugby is a grassroots participation programme delivered by Premiership Rugby. Project Rugby is designed to introduce as many people as possible to rugby, engage new audiences and stimulate a lifelong interest in the game. Since the programme began, it has engaged more than 75,000 young people.



### Oldham School Sport

Alongside the plethora of clubs we offer in the academy, our Football teams across all year groups compete regularly in the Oldham Schools Football League and cup competitions. We regularly compete in a number of sports across the borough within the Oldham School Sports Partnership with sports including Basketball, Cricket, Athletics, Netball, Handball and Badminton to name a few. Special mention to our girls PE department who have been working hard to increase girls' participation in extra-curricular this year.



# Department News



## Physical Education

### Oldham Schools Games

More success for our pupils! In July over 50 of our pupils competed in the Oldham Schools Athletics Championships, hosted by Radclyffe School. The event took place over 2 days and included a mixture of traditional field and track events. All pupils were an absolute credit to the school, and themselves, and embodied the Oasis 9 habits throughout the competition. Special mentions to Khayaam, Armani, Sam, Connie, Miley, Tom, and Favour who performed with distinction in their individual events, to finish with a medal. A fantastic 2 days of competition. Well done to everyone involved. We look forward to more medals in 2024.



### @Leesbrook\_PE

You can follow the continued success of our PE department by following us on our department twitter page!



Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents/carers for their high level of support to the PE department in ensuring pupils regularly arrive to PE fully equipped with correct PE kit ready to learn and make progress. We look forward to plenty more success throughout this academic year.

Team PE



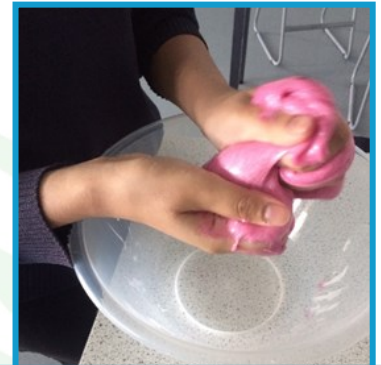
# Department News



## Science

Our KS3 students have been learning about particles and the effect of drag on objects as well as making parachutes to time how long they take to fall. Halloween was marked by making slime in STEM club as well as rainbow in a test tube. Year 10's have been dissecting hearts in their biology module with surprisingly more squeamish boys than girls!

Our Year 8 students have really enjoyed the space topic with many questions that sparked some debate. They have also enjoyed making planets in the STEM club for the model solar system. Some of the year 8's will enjoy a trip to Jodrell Bank in 2024 and take part in using the large telescope to see space. Botanical book marks have been enjoyed by all as part of a well being session linked to Science ahead of open evening earlier in the school year



## Religious Education

Our Leesbrookers have impressed the Humanities Team with their philosophical minds, understanding of faith and readiness to both ask and answer deep and meaningful questions about life. Throughout the last term, Year 7 have been immersed in the study of what it means to be human, examining different worldviews about the nature and purpose of human beings through the exploration of creation accounts. Year 8 have been exploring whether or not it is possible to convincingly prove the existence of God. They have grappled with the philosophical arguments around design, miracles, logic and morality, before evaluating whether any of these theories enable us to definitively prove the existence of God. Year 9, on the other hand, have been engaged in an extended study on how humans make moral decisions. They have mastered challenging ethical approaches to making moral decisions including virtue ethics, situation ethics and utilitarianism, before moving on to explore how divine laws can shape and determine our moral choices in life.

All of our Year 10 pupils study GCSE Religion, Philosophy and Ethics, and have made an impressive start to their course. So far this year they have examined the broad theme of Relationships, applying their knowledge of religion and humanism to questions linked with family, marriage, divorce and gender equality. Year 11 have continued with their GCSE study by exploring, in depth, foundational Christian beliefs in God, Jesus, salvation and the afterlife – all whilst revising for their first round of full mocks! Many are making great strides towards mastering the key GCSE questioning skills. We are proud of them all!

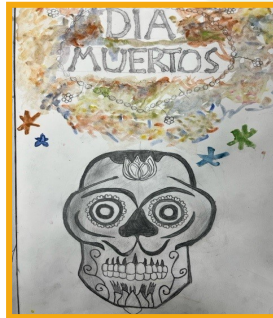
# Department News



## Art & Design

Year 8 students have been working on their 'Day of the Dead' Project this term and have produced some fantastic work!

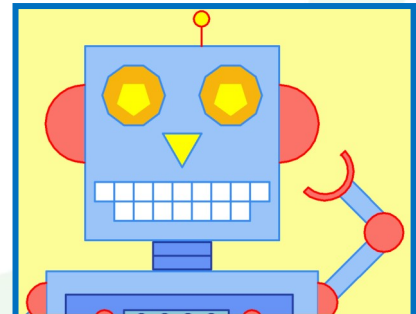
The Day of the Dead (Spanish: Día de Muertos) is a Mexican holiday celebrated throughout Mexico on 1st and 2nd of November. This 2-day national festival involves family and friends gathering to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died, and helping support their spiritual journey. The Year 8 'Day of the Dead' involves the students having introductory lessons about the festival and its importance, exploring Spanish language elements associated with it, designing art work and creating decorative clay skulls, in imitation of the sugar skulls that are made in Mexico to gain an experience of the 'Day of the Dead' Festival.



## Computing

Year 11 Computer Science pupils were involved in a competition to program a robot using the turtle commands in Python. They were taught all the key skills and then given 2 lessons to program their robot. The finished code was then judged and two awards were handed out. The first award was for the best looking robot, which was won by Liyana Ashraf (winning entry pictured)

The second award went to Hamdan for the best coded robot. All remaining entries received a treat for the high quality of their work.



*Liyana's winning entry—programmed entirely in Python*

# SEND & Inclusion



## Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)

This term we began Speech and Language interventions with a therapist who comes in once a fortnight. They offer support and guidance to staff on how to better support the students. They also complete assessments with our students.

## EHCP's

We now have an Educational Psychologist who comes in one day every term and is working through educational psychological assessments to support our students with educational healthcare plans and to support us in applications for EHCP's.



In addition to this we have regular visits from the vision impairment team who come in regularly to offer support and advice for some of our students. A NHS registered physiotherapist is now coming in to offer physio training to support staff to allow physio exercises to take place for certain students.

We are currently getting more Support staff trained on First Aid courses to support our lovely Leesbrookers around the academy.

The Oldham QUEST team have been in school too, offering free advice to teachers on SEND. The QUEST team will now next be on 12th February 2024.

Students have completed their NGRT Assessments and Phonics has started across school. The Director of SEND is now completing language and speech screening with our lovely Year 7s



# SEND & Inclusion



## Place2Be provision

Oasis Academy Leesbrook now works with Place2Be, a mental health charity that helps young people to explore their emotions and feel better about themselves.

*When I feel worried, it's like I'm in a maze and the people in Place2Be are coming with a torch and showing me the way" – student*

*"My daughter had become such a different person – one we didn't recognise – but since counselling we see signs of our old loving daughter coming back." – Parent*

Sometimes young people can feel particularly anxious, low, confused or angry.

Maybe something difficult happened at home, like losing a family member or parents separating. Or perhaps they're struggling with something at school, like bullying.

This can make them behave differently, lose confidence in themselves or find it difficult to concentrate in class.

Place2Be is there to help young people find ways to cope, so their worries don't get in the way of their friendships, their learning or how they feel about themselves.

Place2Be's professionals work with young people one-to-one or in small groups, giving regular support for pupils who need it.

Young people can also book a short appointment to talk about any problems or worries they have – this is called Place2Talk. Please contact Maya Daly-Williams—[Maya.Daly-Williams@oasisleesbrook.org](mailto:Maya.Daly-Williams@oasisleesbrook.org)

As well as working with children, Place2Be can also offer support for parents and carers of children attending our school.

# Careers



## Rise Workshop

Earlier this year we had “Rise” in to do workshops with our year 10 students.

Our students gained lots of new skills throughout this workshop including interview and career skills. Students got to listen to speakers from a range of different companies to help them develop core skills that link their curriculum to the workplace.

The workshop aimed to promote confidence and professionalism for when the students begin their careers and even for their college interviews.

## Careers

At Leesbrook, careers are embedded into all curriculum areas to drive pupils knowledge and preparation for their future careers.

**“There is no greater thing you can do with your life and your work than follow your passions – in a way that serves the world and you.”**

**– Richard Branson**

## Colleges

A number of colleges and sixth forms have been in the academy to deliver assemblies to our Year 11's regarding their Post 16 options.

Oldham Sixth Form College and The Oldham College have delivered application support & personal statement support to a number of our Year 11 students.

Mr Azad from Positive Steps works from our Career's Office two days a week working with the Year 11 cohort with application support and future plans to prepare them for their post 16 education and onwards.

**Inspiring learners,  
creating leaders**

# Behaviour & Expectations



It was a pleasure to welcome back our students in September and open our doors to our new Year 7's. Exemplary behaviour, which embodies the Oasis 9 habits, is crucial to support all students to be happy, emotionally balanced and successful. Our ethos is one of celebration and a culture of being proud. We believe for student achievement to be maximised, effective collaborative working relationships between teachers, support staff and students alongside a zero tolerance approach to bullying are essential. This was recognised in our 'Good' Ofsted inspection in January 2023.

I am delighted to share that over the first term up to the writing of this newsletter, our students have generally displayed exemplary behaviour and conduct across the academy. Student's hard work and enthusiasm for learning has been recognised by their teachers and support staff, awarding over 79,000 achievement points via Class Charts across all year groups in addition to regular nominations for 'Student of the Week' and other methods to praise and recognise student achievement. What a fantastic individual and collective achievement by our wonderful Leesbrook students! Year 7 alone have gained over 15,000 achievement points this year so far which is absolutely amazing! Keep up the great work year 7! It is clear we have many local, national and global leaders making their way through their Leesbrook careers!



*Please be aware both parents and students can also access Class Charts to monitor behaviour during the academy day. Please ensure you have access to Class Charts to track your child's behaviour. The Class Charts app can be downloaded via your usual app download store and login details shared via our Reception desk or by calling 0161 290 4000.*

Our classroom behaviour policy at Leesbrook is simple. Students receive a Reminder, Warning and then an Action for persistent failure to meet our high expectations. Each stage of the upscale is recorded on the board with the students' name being placed under each heading. The teacher will clearly communicate the reason for the Reminder/Warning/Action each time to enable the student to reflect on their behaviour and help the restorative process. An Action is a same day 10 minute detention and is communicated home through Class Charts and if possible, a phone call home. If this is not attended the sanction escalates to 20 minutes the following day with the Curriculum Leader and if this is then missed, your child must attend a 30 minute sanction with their Year Group team. This is non-negotiable. If you have any concerns for your child's behaviour in school, please contact the appropriate Year Group Lead.

Oasis Leesbrook will continue to fully utilise the behaviour and rewards strategies as well as the Leesbrook Behaviour For Learning Policy to promote acceptable behaviours across the academy. We do so in order to relentlessly strive to support students to achieve their god given potential at Leesbrook. The amendment of the sanctions policy in May 2023 has benefited students immensely and supported more positive behaviours within the academy. Oasis Leesbrook works tirelessly through staff professional development, funding of external providers such as Commando Joes and City in the Community to find creative and effective strategies to challenge and modify unacceptable behaviour when it does occur. Each year group also has access to an array of measures to support students to take accountability for any mistakes, resolve conflict with peers and make the best choice possible for themselves and their education via their Pastoral Year Group teams.

Oasis Leesbrook has some of the lowest suspension and permanent suspension figures in the borough and within Oasis nationally. We are very proud of our students and will continue to exhaust all avenues to support students to make the right choice. Leesbrook chooses to suspend students as a last resort but recognises this will be necessary if the behaviour displayed warrants this significant and high level sanction. We demand and expect the very highest standards from our students and staff as we truly believe the community we serve deserves the best education provision possible. Good behaviour is a vital aspect of our collective effort to mould our young people into happy, successful and informed individuals who our community can look upon with pride and admiration.



# Behaviour & Expectations



The Academy aims to ensure that attendance for all pupils remains at 96% or higher, thank you to all parents and carers that continue to work with us. Helping to create a pattern of regular attendance is everybody's responsibility, including parents/carers, students, and staff.

However, please note it is your legal duty as a parent/carer to ensure that your child is on time to school and attends regularly. Be aware that, should your child arrive regularly late to school, or is regularly absent from school without a valid or accepted reason, you could be fined or prosecuted by Oldham Local Authority Attendance Team. Absences or attendance related matters must be reported each day via the absence line (0161 290 4000, option 1) prior to 08:15 and/or emailed through to [attendance@oasisleesbrook.org](mailto:attendance@oasisleesbrook.org).

Attendance for all students is compulsory and parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school regularly. Any absence without good reason will be treated as unauthorised and can lead to a Penalty Notice from Oldham Council and home visits from the Leesbrook Attendance Team. In order to maximise individual achievement, parents should avoid making routine appointments for students during the Academy day. Parents should not take family holidays during the term time period. The Local Authority has the power to fine parents if their child is absent from school without authorisation. Please note, the academy will not authorise holiday during term time.

## Helplines

### Out of hours support

- National Helpline (24 hours): 0808 2000 247
- [www.endthefear.co.uk](http://www.endthefear.co.uk)
- Greater Manchester Police on 101 or 999 in emergencies

### Helplines

- Threshold Women's Services Helpline (24 hours): 0161 628 4991
- National Helpline (24 hours): 0808 2000 247
- National Centre for Domestic Violence Legal Advice Line can provide help with injunctions (24 hours): 0844 8044 999
- Specialist Support

MALE (Men's Advice Line & Enquiries): 0808 801 0327  
Galop (LGBT Services): 0800 999 5428  
RESPECT (for perpetrators of domestic violence and abuse): 0808 802 4040

### Websites

The following provide information, advice and support on living with or trying to escape an abusive relationship.

- [Women's Aid – England](http://www.womenaid.org.uk) - website
- [Refuge](http://www.refuge.org.uk) - website
- [Legal advice for women](http://www.legaladviceforwomen.org.uk) - website
- [Galop](http://www.galop.org.uk) - website

Childline To talk to somebody in confidence telephone **0800 1111**

NSPCC

If you think a child is in immediate danger contact the police on 999.

If you're worried about a child, but unsure contact our helpline on **0808 800 5000**, without delay.

Housing/Accommodation

For information and advice about emergency accommodation or moving home because of domestic abuse contact the Housing Options Team:

- Office hours: 0161 770 4605
- Email: [housing.options@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:housing.options@oldham.gov.uk)

Local Agencies

Oldham Citizen's Advice Bureau: 0300 330 9073

# Oasis Hub News



## Careers

Do you want to make your community a better place, and be part of a supportive, dynamic and quality team? We are recruiting for 2 'Community Hub Team Leader' roles at Oasis Hub Oldham. Applications close Monday 15th January at midday.

Head to:

[oasisuk.org/work-for-oasis/](https://oasisuk.org/work-for-oasis/)

to see our current vacancies

## Coffee Mornings

Every Monday morning at Oasis Academy Leesbrook the Oasis Hub Oldham is hosting a coffee morning for anybody who wishes to attend. These coffee mornings have free hot drinks, soft drinks and lots of toast!

These coffee mornings are from 09:00 until 12:00

It is an opportunity for our local community to come together and chat, do charity work and be a community.

## Hampers

We have been asking for donated luxury items to go in hampers to our local community as a part of the "Oasis Hub Big Give". These will then be distributed around Oldham.

Even our Student Council took part and helped us to pack the hampers in the Hub room.

## Things to look forward to

In the New Year our Hub are excited to continue their weekly coffee mornings at Leesbrook. The first coffee morning on Monday 8th January will be an opportunity to introduce yourself with our local hub staff and to request different courses and activities that the hub may be able to arrange! The Hub will be open from 09:00 until 12:00 so make sure to attend!

Follow the Oasis Hub Oldham on:

**FB:** [www.facebook.com/OasisHubOldham](https://www.facebook.com/OasisHubOldham)

## Hub volunteers

We are always looking for new volunteers, if you are interested please contact the Hub Chair (Ruth Brookes) on:

[Ruth.Brookes@oasisHubCouncil.Org](mailto:Ruth.Brookes@oasisHubCouncil.Org)

# Academy news & events



## January 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8: Student's Return 10:45am	9	10: Y8 HPV Vac- cinations	11: Y8 HPV Vac- cinations	12: Y8 HPV Vac- cinations	13	14
15	16	17	18:	19	20	21
22:	23	24:	25:	26:	27:	28
29	30	31: UKMT Compe- tition (Y9–11 HPA)	1	2: Number Day KS3 Maths Compe- tition	3	4

## Job Vacancies

### Exam Invigilator

Exam Invigilators are an integral part of the exams team here at Oasis Academy Leesbrook. The role of the Exam Invigilator is to ensure that examinations are conducted according the current *JCQ instructions for conducting examinations*.

The closing date for applications is 09:00, Monday 8th January 2024.

Please head to <https://www.ojcareers.org/> and search 'Leesbrook'.



## Goodbye & Good Luck!

As 2023 comes to an end, we must say Goodbye and Good Luck to some of our staff. Firstly we would like to thank them for the work they have done here at Leesbrook and we wish them the very best for their future!

Mr P. Jones—Interim Co-Head of School

Mr A. Hallsworth—Curriculum Leader of Computer Science

Mr D. Malone—Teacher of Computer Science

Ms S. Titley—Teacher of Science

Mr A. Rizwan—Teacher of Maths

## Key Contacts

**T:** 0161 290 4000 (Opt 1 for attendance, Opt 2 for the admin office)

**E:** [Info@oasisleesbrook.org](mailto:Info@oasisleesbrook.org)

**E:** [Attendance@oasisleesbrook.org](mailto:Attendance@oasisleesbrook.org)

**F:** <https://www.facebook.com/OasisAcademyLeesbrook/>

**W:** <https://www.oasisacademyleesbrook.org/>