

Personal Development @AHS – Autumn Term 2022

Autumn 2022 has been a very busy time for Personal Development at AHS – here are a few updates on some of the amazing things our students have been doing in Autumn 2022...

'BBC 100' Visits to AHS – 'Share Your Story' and Careers (Years 8-9, and Years 10 and 12)

In the Autumn Term, the BBC visited AHS twice as part of their 'BBC 100: 'Share Your Story' Tour', and then again to give a Careers Presentation to Years 10 and 12. This tour is part of the BBC's centenary celebrations, and they are planning to visit around 400 secondary schools across the UK, reaching approximately 400,000 students.

In the first sessions with Years 8 and 9, carefully selected BBC Ambassadors shared their inspirational journeys with students, in a bid to inspire them through the power of storytelling. This included a woman who experienced a significant family bereavement at school to go on to be a Radio Presenter at BBC Radio York. This story was followed by a young man who overcame a significant stammer as a child, and a girl who is fighting against stereotypes to become one of very few black, Muslim professional footballers at Brentford Ladies FC. The students were respectful and engaged throughout the presentations, and asked some wonderful, insightful questions that really impressed our visitors!

Later in the term, the BBC returned to give some careers input to our Year 10 and Year 12 students. The visitors spoke of how they were motivated to do the job they are currently in, and the education and training they went through in order to get to where they wanted to be. The visitors included a presenter from Look North, a Design Director and a Digital Assistant for Jorvik Viking Centre. This input from these visitors in mostly creative careers, with local relevance to the York job market, was invaluable. Again, much like with the first visit, the students were very engaged, behaved impeccably and asked interesting and insightful questions to our guests.





The 'Speak Out Challenge' (Year 10)

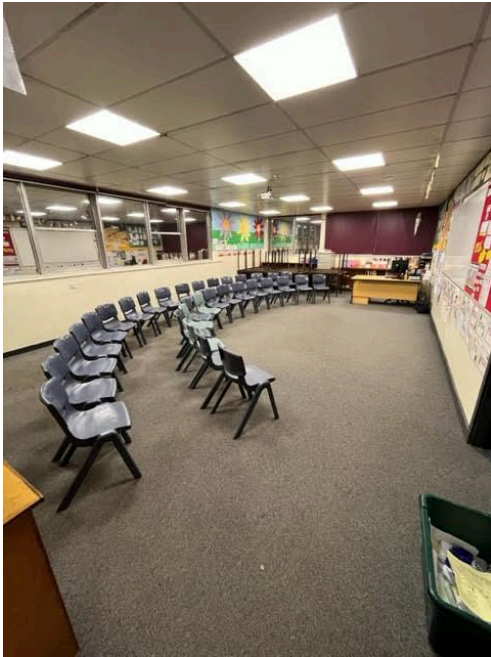
During the term, around 50 students from Year 10 took part in the Yorkshire Speakers Trust 'Speak Out Challenge'. The Speak Up Yorkshire Programme aims to make a huge difference in the lives of young people. Almost 50% of students in Yorkshire start the workshop saying they had no competence in speaking up in front of a group of people. This number is higher than in any other part of the country. In the last academic year, the Yorkshire Speakers Trust were able to provide free public speaking and communications training to over 1700 Year 10 students in over 80 state schools in Yorkshire.

Every student participating received a one-day public speaking workshop with an expert communication skills trainer. During the workshop, students are given the skills and the confidence to develop and deliver a speech on a topic they feel passionate about. The students participating in the workshops learned skills they can apply in the next stage of their education training and employment. The aim of the training and subsequent competition is to increase young peoples' confidence and sense of agency and amplify their voices.

The following students won their respective rounds, and will be moving onto the next stage of the Speak Out Challenge in the Spring Term...

- *Sharanyo Mazumdar*
- *Sarah Norman*
- *Emily Barber*
- *Clementine Ensor*
- *Toby Hassall*

These students will be preparing a short public speaking presentation that they will be delivering to year 7 in the Spring Term, so watch this space for more updates!



The York Civic Trust Public Speaking Competition (Year 8 and Year 9)

Last term, Simeon Dean (8SMf) and Hannah Birkinshaw (9ECe) represented Archbishop Holgate's in the York Civil Trust Secondary Public Speaking Competition. The participants were provided with a list of topic questions, and Hannah and Simeon chose the following to investigate...

When the Amazon Rainforest is being destroyed, is there any point in aiming for zero carbon emissions in a small city like York?

Hannah and Simeon argued that whilst York may be a small city, it could and should be a beacon of hope for other cities across the world in helping to reverse the impacts of climate change. Furthermore, the pair discussed how we can take inspiration from York's past, present and future to promote green sustainability across the UK and beyond.

Both Simeon and Hannah had worked very hard in preparation for the event; researching, structuring, writing and rehearsing their speech. We are so proud of their performance, and they were outstanding ambassadors for the school! As you can appreciate, public speaking is something that takes a lot of courage, and Hannah and Simeon not only performed exceptionally well, but they took a lot of confidence out of the experience. Following the event, both students received a certificate from the Lord Mayor of York for their participation.

We are incredibly proud of both Hannah and Simeon, and they represented the school superbly throughout the course of the evening.



Roots to Success (Year 7)

Last term, 20 Year 7 students look part in 'Roots to Success'; a York-based programme designed to support students' aspirations and expectations for the future. Roots to Success is a collaborative project between the University of York, York St John University, York College University Centre and University Centre Askham Bryan. The programme has been in place since 1998 and its aim is to engage with pupils over an extended period of time to support young people in York to make informed decisions about their future.

The visit to York St John included a campus tour and Codebreaker Challenge, a 'School v University' workshop, and a 'Coping with Change' workshop where students looked at the transitions through their lives. A great day was had by all, and the students took a lot out of the day. Miss Powell and Mr Pennock were very complimentary of the students taking part, and we look forward to sending Year 8 and Year 9 on their 'Roots to Success' visit in February.



PP Trip with Mr Stevens to Liverpool (Year 10)

On Friday the 2nd December, Mr Stevens took 14 Pupil Premium students to Liverpool for the day on a culture trip of the city. After an early start, the students made it in good time to the Royal Albert Dock overlooking the river Mersey. Following this, the group visited the 'British Music Experience; a museum looking at the changes in popular music from the 1950's to the present day. This visit involved completing a workshop, followed by a tour of the museum which was informative and interactive. After lunch, the group embarked on a bus tour of the city taking the students through Liverpool's rich history. The students tried to count how many times the guide talked about the Beatles, but they lost count pretty early on! The traffic on the way back was the only thing that didn't run smoothly, but the conduct of the students was exceptional and everyone had a great time. Mr Stevens wishes to express how great of a pleasure it was to spend the day with these fabulous Year 10 students on the trip.

