



Leeds Faith in Schools Newsletter

WINTER 2024



Happy New Year from the Leeds Faith in Schools team! I'm so excited to bring you our latest newsletter, as always packed with stories of Good News from the high schools of Leeds and our wonderful team.

After the first full term of this school year we are well and truly settled into our schools, connecting with young people new and old, as always working to see the Good News of Jesus brought to life in our schools. We've been so blessed to welcome Aileen, our new Charity Administrator, and Molly, our new-ish East Leeds Schools Worker, to their roles within LFIS. We're excited to see all God will do in and through them as they serve and support the young people in Leeds, in their respective roles.

As we look ahead to 2024, and celebrating 30 years of serving the church and schools of Leeds, we're praying for God's continuing provision of open doors to new opportunities, and resources to continue our work reaching young people with the Gospel.

We'd also love to invite you to join us, in person, for our annual general meeting, a chance to celebrate all that this last year has held and to pray for the year ahead. **Do get in touch with our office via info@lfis.org if you hope to join us or have any questions.**

So please pop the kettle on, put your feet up and enjoy a quick update from team LFIS!

You Are Invited

7.30PM 29TH JANUARY 2024

LFIS A.G.M.

Join us to celebrate the work of LFIS
@ST PAUL'S, IRELAND WOOD





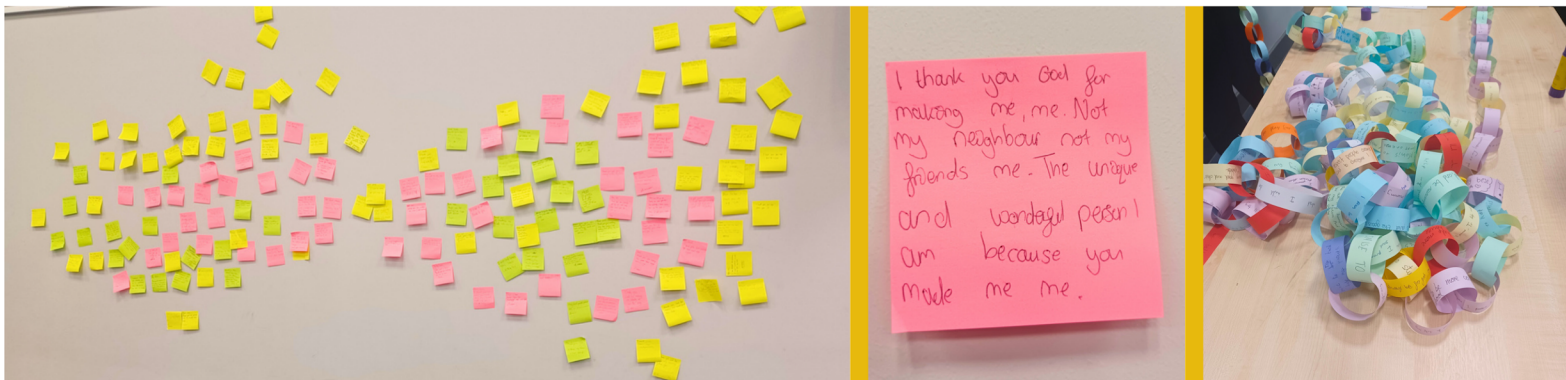
Amazing Aileen joins the team

Hi, I'm Aileen. I'm the new Charity Administrator and Schools Worker. I've lived in Leeds for five years now, having moved here to do my undergraduate degree and then a masters. I've always had a heart for young people and I'm passionate about giving them the space they need to thrive and grow. I love walking alongside teenagers and helping them flourish into who God made them to be. My work as an administrator involves supporting the team from the office in all the amazing work they do in school. Alongside this, I also support some students at Benton Park and Guiseley School by mentoring them. I'm looking forward to building relationships with the students I mentor and growing in my administrative skills.



Thinking about faith

As a Church of England school, Abbey Grange gives us many more opportunities to openly share the gospel with students than we would typically expect in some schools. One activity unique to faith schools is Prayer Spaces. At Abbey Grange we typically do two prayer space projects each year, the first one is called Discovering the Space Within. This is organised by Kay Brown, the Chaplain at Abbey Grange. During this event we spend the day working with other youth workers from across the city welcoming every year 7 in school to come through the space and interact at various stations. They have the chance to pray about their worries, as well as hear and pray about how fearfully and wonderfully made they are. Students got to shred their mistakes, ask God for help, and offer forgiveness to others by drawing in sand and wiping it away. It was a beautiful opportunity to lead students in prayer.



As a team we also had the opportunity to spend more time with the year 7s at their PSHCE day where we had a lot of fun looking at the topic of friendships, including how to be a good friend and what students value in their friendships. These lessons are such a wonderful opportunity to build meaningful relationships with the year 7s and connect with them, so that, as they go through their high school years they know who LFIS are and that we are there for them.



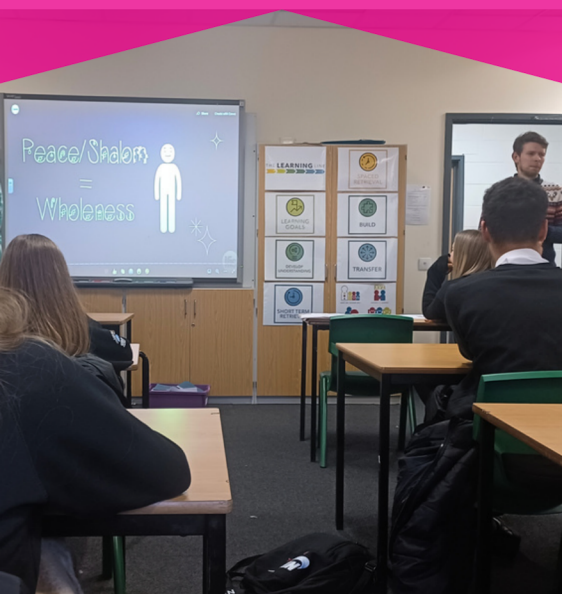
Christmas Lessons

Here's what our schools thought:

“ We must have you back in to talk to our year 11s! ”

“ Having the LFIS team in for Christmas lessons is my favourite moment in the year. ”

“ The lessons are engaging, interactive and informative, we can't wait to have you again soon. ”



Progress in Prince Henry's

It's so exciting to share with you that we were welcomed by Prince Henry's to deliver our Christmas lessons for the first time in a number of years, this is a real answer to prayer! Joined by Maria, the youth worker at Otley Parish Church, we taught all of the year 7 classes and they were really well received.



Christmas, a message of peace?

At Christmas we celebrate the Prince of Peace coming to live, in human form, on earth, but our students in school are not seeing that peace. They are bombarded with images and soundbites about wars and global warming, whilst also living under the pressure of grades and bullying, and still trying to catch up from a national lockdown.

In light of that, for our lessons this year, we focused on the theme of Peace, showing students that Jesus came to bring them peace even when the world feels chaotic.

Molly's made it in Garforth

“As I have only been in Garforth for a couple of months I loved being able to do Christmas lessons and meet all the year 7s in Garforth Academy!”



Group work making a difference



Drop-in update

Our after school youth clubs are continuing to prove themselves popular with young people from the local schools we work in. As a team we are involved in helping with 3 different clubs - in Otley, Ireland Wood and Meanwood. It's been so encouraging to see the amount of young people attending (which seems to be increasing week in week out). It's also a great place to build better relationships with young people as we have more time to sit, chat.

We'd love it if you could pray for us as we use the drop-ins as a platform to invite young people and their families to Christmas events in churches they are connected with.

New CU in Guiseley!

In early November we celebrated the launch of our new Christian Union in Guiseley School. A Christian student at the school was brave enough to tell a member of staff that they wanted to form a supportive community for Christian students and they approached us to help. Please pray that this group would be a blessing to those who become part of it.

Do you know any Christian students in Leeds high schools who might want to do this too? Get in touch with us to see how we can help!

Boys and Girls Groups

One of the many services we provide to schools are girls and boys groups. We find that students often find it easier to share how they're doing if they are in same-sex groups and we often see a greater depth of discussion about important topics.

In the girls groups, Kim has had the fantastic opportunity to use her training with the Goldigga Trust to lead the 'I'm The Girl I Want To Be' course which focuses on helping young girls improve their self-esteem.



In our boys groups the focus can be different depending on what the school requires. Our group in Abbey Grange is currently focused around making positive choices. The groups provide a place away from the pressures they feel in the classroom to grow in maturity and learn what it means to be a young man.

Our group work is a massive privilege to be a part of, and we're seeing lots of fruit from them - please pray for more of the same!

Current Groups

Abbey Grange

- I'm the girl
- Positive Choices

Garforth Academy

- Boys group

Prince Henry's

- Yr7 boys group
- Yr 9 boys group

Wetherby High

- I'm the Girl

Benton Park

- I'm the Girl

Coming Up...

Garforth Academy

- Girls group

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Complete the enclosed giving form and post it to our office

Leeds Faith in Schools

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