

Dear Yeoman Park and Redgate families,

It is hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of 2023. This first term of the school year has been an exciting one, with much to celebrate at both academies.

At Redgate, our biggest celebration this term was taking all the children to the Palace Theatre to watch the pantomime. The majority of them stayed for the whole performance, we were so proud of all of them. They travelled on the theatre on big coaches and were very excited.

Last week Lorraine with Amy and Libby's support created a winter wonderland in the hall which was based around the Bamboozle approach where the children lead the interactions. The reactions from some of the children were amazing, so much so, our Pine and Willow classes are looking at how they can create these environments in their classrooms.

At Yeoman Park, Friday Theme days have been introduced to enrich the curriculum. All the learners take part and enjoy a range of experiences.

We are all very pleased to see that learners have been getting out and about in the community more regularly. Students have visited Captain Jack's at Retford and the post 16 pathfinders programme has been particularly successful. The students are introduced to valuable life skills by taking part in this programme. Some of the older students have started work experience too.

The academies are always looking for ways in which to support families and Yeoman Park has established a family support worker. Two staff members have trained in THRIVE which supports mental health and like Redgate, the academy has been working with Bamboozle.

It gave me quite a surprise when I walked down Yeoman Park drive after half term and saw how quickly the new building had begun to take shape. It is a really exciting project and will make a huge difference to the learning environment for our students. In the meantime, the appearance of diggers has really engaged the interest of everyone and there is certainly a great deal of activity to watch! Fortunately the impact of the building work has caused much less disruption than was initially expected.

As governors, we know how hard the staff and leaders work to provide a high standard of care, support and education. Learners follow a varied and exciting curriculum, ensuring all their unique needs remain at the very heart of everything both academies strive to achieve. During our regular visits to Yeoman Park and Redgate, governors have the opportunity to see this for ourselves. The children and young people at both academies are a delight, and it is a real privilege to talk to them and see their progress socially and academically.

It was a pleasure to visit the academies during parents evening and chat to some of you, and especially to hear such positive comments about the academy. We are looking forward to joining you again for the various nativities and Christmas concerts planned for the end of term and especially to joining the learners for Christmas dinner!

On behalf of the governors I would like to wish all the families of Redgate and Yeoman Park a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to continuing to work together in 2024.

**Kind regards**

**Lynn Weeks (Vice-chair Yeoman Park and Redgate academy committee)**