

Spark Diversity Month



LEARNING FOR LIFE



School Visits

Themes explored



Celebrating religious diversity

Week one

Raising awareness of different religions within our school and wider communities.



Celebrating LGBTQ+ Pride

Week two

Promoting tolerance, awareness and acceptance of our LGBTQ+ community.



Celebrating Cultural Diversity

Week three

Students were to explore cultures through the lived experiences of others.



Celebrating Disability Awareness

Week four

Celebrating the resilience of others living with physical disabilities.



Academic Spotlight

Celebrating Diversity

Secondary schools within Spark Education Trust welcomed our 4th Diversity Month in June. Recognising and celebrating diversity within our schools and wider communities.

The curriculum programmes and activities delivered in each school provided

exciting and informative educational experiences for all our student.

Students have been given opportunities which promote cultural awareness, discouraged discrimination and help to overcome stereotypes, whilst encouraging unity within our school communities.

Visiting Speakers

All schools welcomed Hilaire and Sade from Taste of Africa North East who shared personal and intriguing stories, whilst giving an insight in their African culture.



Celebrating Religious Diversity

Week one of Diversity Month centred around celebrating the rich religious tapestry that makes up our school and wider communities. Schools visited places of worship and welcomed visitors in order to bring religion to life.



The Sikh Cultural Centre visited Conyers to speak with Y7 during a workshop exploring Sikhism. Students were delighted to play musical instruments and practiced their meditation skills whilst learning about their religion.

Conversations of the week encouraged students to explore the topics of respect and tolerance within religion.

Year 7 students at Eggescliffe School & Sixth Form embraced the valuable opportunity to explore religious diversity, learning about key principles such as service, equality, and respect, alongside personal stories that helped bring the faith to life.

Students engaged thoughtfully throughout, asking questions and reflecting on how faith can shape identity, community, and everyday life.

It was a powerful reminder of the importance of listening, learning, and celebrating religious diversity within our school.



Gram Seed shared his personal experiences and insights, encouraging students to think about the positive impact that religion and belief can have on individuals and communities. Year 9 students from Eggescliffe School engaged brilliantly with the session, asking a range of thoughtful and interesting questions that led to some meaningful discussions.



Year 7 students from Huntcliff School embraced the opportunity to visit the Farooq E Azam Mosque & Islamic Centre in Stockton and Hindu Temple in North Ormesby.

Students enjoyed tours of both the Mosque and the Hindu Temple. They had the opportunity to hear from the Iman and observe Islamic prayer before asking insightful questions regarding Islamic beliefs and practices especially focusing upon prayer and worship. At the Hindu Temple students had the opportunity to see Hindu worship of deities and to understand more about how Hindus worship. Students were able to watch the priest lead meditation for believers and to then ask questions regarding each of the deities.



Student from Conyers School & Sixth Form thoroughly enjoyed their Eid Celebration as part of Diversity Month. Students were involved in making food, Henna art and listening to traditional music. The turn out was amazing.



Disability Awareness



As part of Diversity Months, students from Laurence Jackson School and Huntcliff, had the opportunity to take part in a wheelchair basketball workshop delivered by B Russell coaching.

The aim of the sessions was primarily to have fun but to also highlight some of the challenges faced by disabled people to access and play sport. Students loved learning a new skill and demonstrated a huge amount of empathy disabled sports people.

Students learnt how to adapt their skills using specialised wheelchairs and experienced the physical demands of the sport. The sessions were fantastic and thoroughly enjoyed by all, including staff who took part, with many stating it had been one of their favourite PE lessons. Mrs Whaley, Subject Leader for PE at Huntcliff said

“It was a fantastic opportunity for students and staff to experience the challenges faced by physically impaired sport people. Students realised the demands of wheelchair basketball”.

During celebrating disabilities week, Pippa a Year 10 student preprepared and created a narrated assembly which was shared with all students throughout the week during form time. The assembly was created to share information and raise awareness of a condition called nystagmus, which affects a person's sight – and one which Pippa suffers

from. It was an extremely informative presentation which explained the condition, how it affects those who have it and identified ways in which we can support those who have it. Mr Burns a Year 10 form tutor said 'It was excellent to hear about this condition from a student who has the condition herself. It helped the students learn about the affects it has and gave them a greater appreciation of the challenges it brings.'





Disability awareness week was recognised by Conyers School & Sixth Form by hosting a Darts Competition. This fundraising event was in support of the Epilepsy Society, a charity dedicated to transforming the lives of people affected by epilepsy through research, advocacy, and expert care. Students developed their knowledge of first aid as they demonstrated the important skill of being able to put someone in the recovery position in order to play a game of darts.

Staff and students were captivated during a Tourettes Awareness talk, where a student shared her experiences of what it is like living with Tourettes in order to educate other students, promoting awareness and acceptance.

Students also displayed a fantastic amount of resilience on the Blind Obstacle Course encouraging empathy with the visually impaired. The event was enjoyed by all and a great success!



Celebrating Cultural Diversity

Egglescliffe and Conyers Schools enjoyed a vibrant day celebrating the identity, heritage, and belonging, through a Cultural Dress Day as students from all backgrounds came together to proudly showcase their cultural dress.

As part of our Diversity Month celebrations, the day highlighted the richness of our school community and the importance of recognising and valuing each other's traditions.

It was a powerful reminder that our differences strengthen us, and that diversity is something to be celebrated, respected, and shared.



Taste of Africa North East are a charity based in the Tees Valley dedicated to celebrating African culture, heritage, and arts through events, festivals and school visits. During our third week of Diversity Month, Hilaire and Sade visited all secondary schools, sharing their lived experiences, culture and music. The session was highly engaging for all students who took part in the session. They listened intently to the personal stories, whilst developing a greater appreciation of the challenges they have faced. The stories, music, singing and drums all played a part in helping to combat discrimination,

stereotyping and prejudice. Lottie said 'Hilaire was brilliant, we learnt so much about accepting others and respecting each others differences, and the drums were really fun'.



Food from Around the World

Students from Huntcliff School took part in a Indian cooking master class during after-school food club creating some delicious food.

The master class was delivered by Mr Rauf from Hidden Jewel.

It was fantastic to see their enthusiasm, teamwork and growing confidence in the kitchen.

We send thanks you to Mr Rauf from Hidden Jewel for giving up his time to come in and share his expertise and food culture with our students.



Tapas night

To celebrate cultural difference, Y11 GCSE Spanish students and staff enjoyed their end of year tapas celebration evening. They visited Rose and Potter in Marske where students tasted a variety of tasty hot and cold traditional Spanish tapas and churros con chocolate. ¡Qué delicioso!



During Celebrating Diversity Month Huntcliff and Laurence Jackson Schools had the privilege of welcoming Tino and Ayaan who are 6th form students at Egglecliffe School and Sixth Form College. Their engaging presentations to Year 7 students about South Africa and Saudi Arabia helped to broaden cultural understanding, celebrate diversity and inspire our students to learn more about the world around them.

We are incredibly grateful for the time, effort and enthusiasm they brought to these sessions.



Celebrating Pride

Why are we talking about this?

Pride is a time to **celebrate LGBT+ people** while also **reflecting on the issues and obstacles** faced by this community in the UK and worldwide.

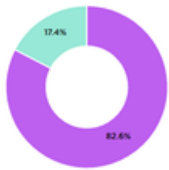
In previous years, the men's World Cup has raised questions about how welcome LGBT+ players are in football, especially when the tournament is hosted in countries that are less supportive of LGBT+ rights.



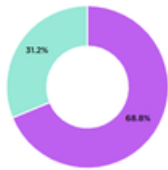
Regional results vs national results

School vs National results

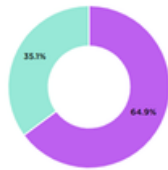
Your School



Regional (North Yorkshire)



National



Votes For Schools

During Diversity month, all students in Laurence Jackson School took part in a form time Votes for Schools where the debate 'Do we take LGBTQ+ rights for granted in the UK?' was held. The session shared important information around LGBTQ+ and helped address some common misconceptions. They also learnt about the history of Pride month and how it has evolved over time. They were reminded that LGBTQ+ rights are part of our protected characteristics and a number of key historical events that have taken place to promote these rights. Students then were asked to cast their votes on the key question of the session.

Pride week concluded at Egglecliffe School with Wear the Rainbow on Friday 12th June, where students were invited to wear a colour of the rainbow to show their support for inclusion and equality.



Students had visitors from Curious Arts who are youth and heritage charity committed to championing LGBTQIA+ creativity and communities. Students also hosted a Pride Picnic and friendship bracelet making as part of the celebrations. Demonstrating what can be achieved in a culture of acceptance and tolerance.



All four secondary schools utilised assembly time during Pride week to share personal stories and the history of the Pride movement. Students learned about role of democracy in changing our laws and promoting the values of visibility, unity and equality, which are at the heart of the Pride movement.

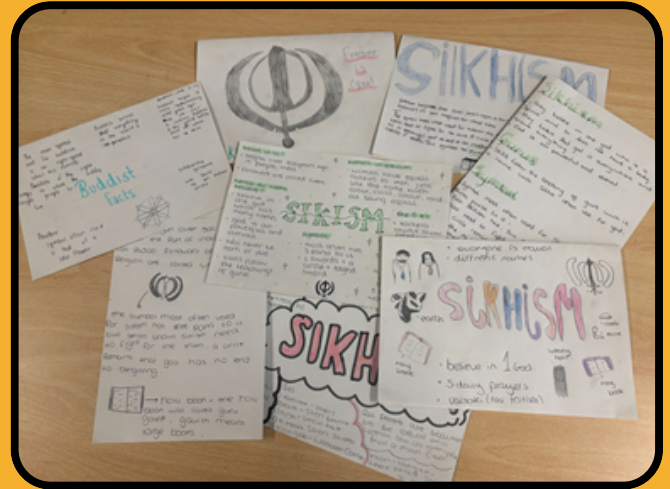
The assembly at Huntcliff School was delivered by Mrs O'Hare who explained changes in the law and how this has impacted our society in a positive way. She also read very personal stories from individuals who now feel seen, which made a lasting impact upon staff and students.

Despite the wonderful weather of June, rain and thunderstorms halted the planned Pride March and colour run at Huntcliff School and Laurence Jackson. These have been rescheduled to continue the work of Diversity Month.

Curriculum Work

RE

During celebrating religious differences week, each year group was given a specific religion to study. There were form periods and RE lessons dedicated to students in every year group learning more about the religion allocated to them.



Food Technology

To celebrate cultural differences, in food technology lessons, Year 9 students prepared and cooked a Rogan Josh dish from start to finish. The dish originates from Persia but was introduced to India by the Mughals. It has since become a popular dish mainly associated with India. The smells from the cooking rooms were amazing and the dishes looked delicious.

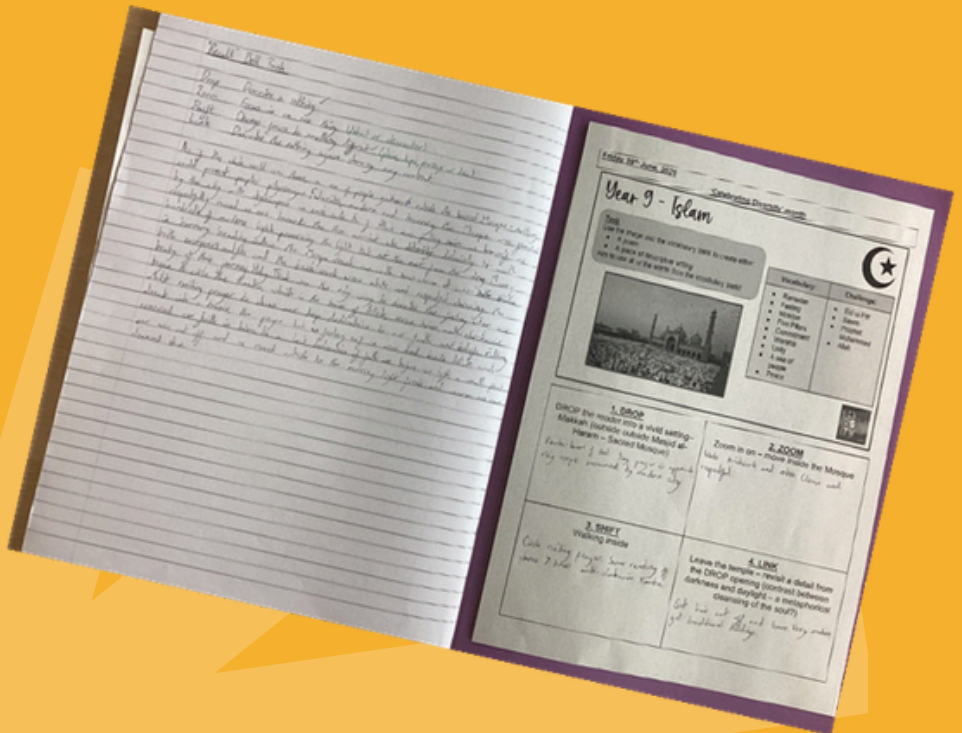
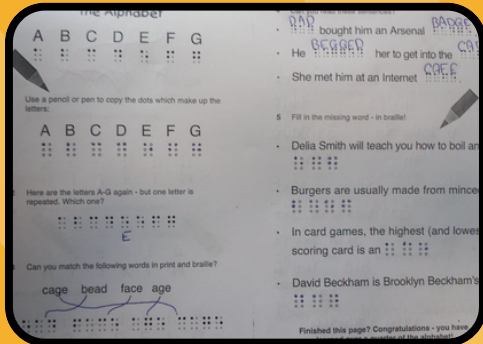
Drama

During celebrating culture week, students in Year 7 drama lessons learnt about the cultural influences on horror stories and movies.

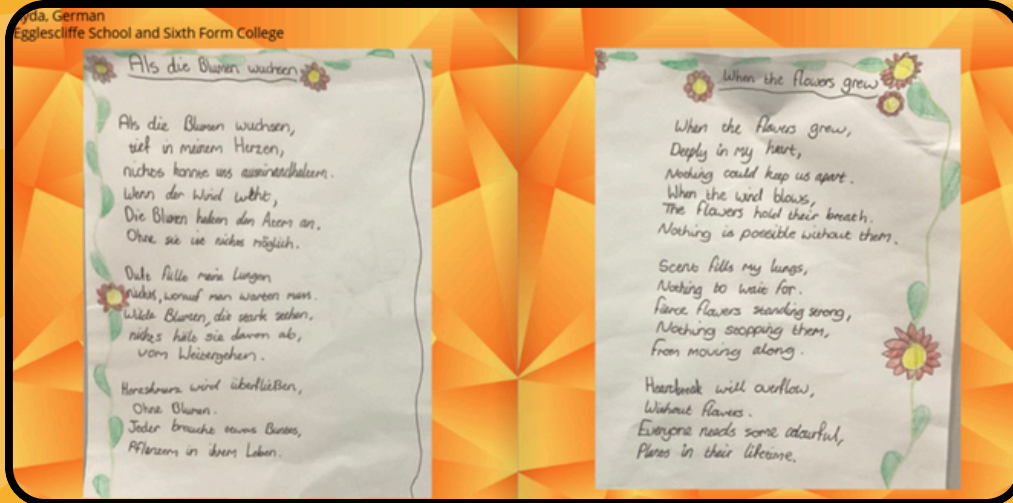


English

In Key Stage 3 English lessons, students used inspiration from their linked religion to develop pieces of creative writing.



Rotated Reading lessons, our Y8 students celebrated Diversity Month by learning how to write and interpret braille.



Language Ambassadors took part in the North East Festival of Languages Competition, creating personal texts and poems in their native languages or languages they are currently studying. Offering unique reflections of identity and culture.

Diversity Month, keen linguists doing a session on different foreign languages.

