

The Seventh Decade: The SRPA Story (So Far...)



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*Collage of Art and Photography
from 2016-2019*

Introduction

Any attempt to characterise the daily events of any secondary school is liable to be fraught with difficulty. Lessons whizz by at a hundred miles an hour, students move around with an unbridled sense of enjoyment and vigour (most of the time), whilst teaching and support staff try to keep a tight rein on all aspects of education: the learning environment, lesson plans, resources, reading, writing, making, designing, singing, creating, and so much more besides. But Sir Robert Pattinson Academy (SRPA) isn't just 'any secondary school'; it is the heart of a close-knit community shaped by its history and geography, a starting point of student dreams and possibilities, a journey into the future. This latest instalment of the SRPA story is an attempt to capture – however fleetingly and however broadly – the essence of the Academy for current students and all those who may one day join our family, and to leave a record for posterity for future generations to enjoy.

This history will cover the period from 2013 until the present (2023 as of writing) and outlines the seventh decade of the Academy's history.¹ It follows in the footsteps of two previous volumes: the first, which covered the first half century (1953-2003), was masterfully overseen and written by Barbara Wells; whilst the shorter, though no less celebratory, history published under the auspices of SRPA's fifth headteacher Helen Renard, covered the sixth decade (2003-2013). It is only hoped that this volume does justice to the excellent work of years past.



SRPA June 2023

¹ Please note that prior to 2011, Sir Robert Pattinson Academy was known as Sir Robert Pattinson School, hence when discussing the Academy prior to this date it will be referred to as 'the school'.

Timeline

- 1953 Sir Robert Pattinson school opens in September with 545 pupils on the grounds of the Old Hykeham Hall
- 1954 School 'officially' opened on 26th June
- 1957 Significant expansion of school site, with three story block, PE pavilion, and technology blocks built; school capacity rises to 900
- 1961 School equipment and materials gifted to the newly formed North Kesteven Grammar School on the opposite side of Moor Lane
- 1962 School outdoor swimming pool built (opened 1963)
- 1964 Debating society instituted to 'improve the spoken English' of pupils
- 1965 Mixed bathing allowed in the swimming pool for the first time
- 1965 Timber framed Livestock unit built for agricultural studies
- 1968 New sports hall built
- 1970 Front of school added to provide suite of extra classrooms²
- 1981 School house system re-launched³
- 1985 School bans corporal punishment, one year before the law is changed
- 1992 School became self-governing with grant maintained status
- 1994 New Science block opened by Sir Henry Neville, Lord Lieutenant of Lincolnshire
- 1995 Joint Sixth Form established with North Kesteven School, known as NHJSF (North Hykeham Joint Sixth Form)
- 1999 Lift installed in main school building to provide better access
- 2000 Sir Robert Pattinson School is the first 11-18 school in Lincolnshire to become a Beacon school⁴
- 2001 Sir Robert Pattinson School is appointed a specialist school for languages,⁵ the first of its kind in Lincolnshire
- 2002 Language suite opened by HRH The Princess Royal
- 2004 John Alexander music suite opened by Marilyn Buckthorpe, niece of John Alexander⁶
- 2005 New technology suite opened by Stuart Pattinson, grandson of Sir Robert Pattinson
- 2006 School appointed as a Language, Science and Mathematics College
- 2010 Opening of Cadet building
- 2010 Sir Robert Pattinson School receives the International Schools' Award⁷
- 2011 Sir Robert Pattinson School changed its status, becoming Sir Robert Pattinson Academy
- 2011 New Reception built
- 2011 Collaborative Quality Assurance Mark awarded⁸
- 2012 Healthy School status re-awarded

² These ran parallel to the main corridor (the modern English department) and provided classrooms on both sides.

³ The relaunch gave greater emphasis to house activities than previously and established the colours still in use today. These were Stuart (green), Tudor (yellow), Windsor (red) and York (blue), which remain today. Lancaster (purple) was introduced in 2018 to make up five houses. Note that the original schoolhouses in 1953 were Burghley, Franklin, Hawke, Newton, Tennyson, and Wesley, though these were quickly replaced in 1955.

⁴ Beacon school status was an educational initiative based on the idea that organizational learning could be advanced through a competitive process of identifying successful organisations and recruiting them to disseminate their good practices.

⁵ An agreement was drawn up between the Sir Robert Pattinson School and KFLS, a sister school in China, which had 1,700 pupils aged 11-18 in 2002. The aim was to provide mutual support in the teaching of languages.

⁶ John Alexander left a considerable grant to the school upon his death and the music suite was named in his honour.

⁷ The award is for developing international activities across the curriculum, including collaborative work with international partner schools and opportunities to involve the wider community.

⁸ Internationally recognised excellence in English and Mathematics.

- 2012 Investors in Education status awarded⁹
- 2012 Winners of the Lincolnshire and Rutland Skills Award 2012
- 2013 Winners of the Lincolnshire and Rutland Skills Award 2013
- 2013 International Schools' status re-awarded
- 2014 Careers Fair held at SRPA for the first time
- 2015 Gold Career Mark accreditation achieved for careers education and guidance
- 2015 Music and Drama block built (opened September 2015)
- 2016 School Library relocated and refurbished
- 2017 Gold Career Mark re-awarded for careers education and guidance
- 2018 SRPA joins the Erasmus scheme for the first time and works with partners from The Netherlands, Finland, Sweden and Poland
- 2018 Mental Health Hub Opened, later known as the Ros Christopher Centre
- 2019 Platinum Career Mark awarded for the first time for careers education and guidance
- 2019 SRPA receives National Online Safety accreditation for the first time
- 2020 SRPA closes temporarily due to the COVID Pandemic, offering Remote Learning to the school cohort
- 2020 Gold Award received from the Antbullying Alliance
- 2020 North Hykeham Joint Sixth Form closes; SRPA standalone Sixth Form for the first time
- 2021 Establishment of Personal Development Days
- 2022 New IT Suite opened in the Academy
- 2022 Platinum Careers Mark rewarded for Careers Education and Guidance
- 2022 SRPA receives Eco-Schools Award¹⁰
- 2022 SRPA's Headmaster, Mr Hardy, is awarded Lincolnshire inaugural Headteacher of the Year award
- 2022 SRPA Sixth Form rebranded as RP6th
- 2023 New RP6th initiative established
- 2023 70th Jubilee Celebrations



North Hykeham in the 1930s (left); Hykeham Old Hall (right), which was finally demolished in the 1960s. The Academy was built on its extensive lands.

⁹ Partnerships established with local employers for the continued commitment to supporting the school and its students.

¹⁰ The Eco-Schools' Awards are designed to highlight a small number of Green Flag schools, colleges, and nurseries each year, who have delivered and shared especially innovative, inspirational, and impactful Eco-Schools work.

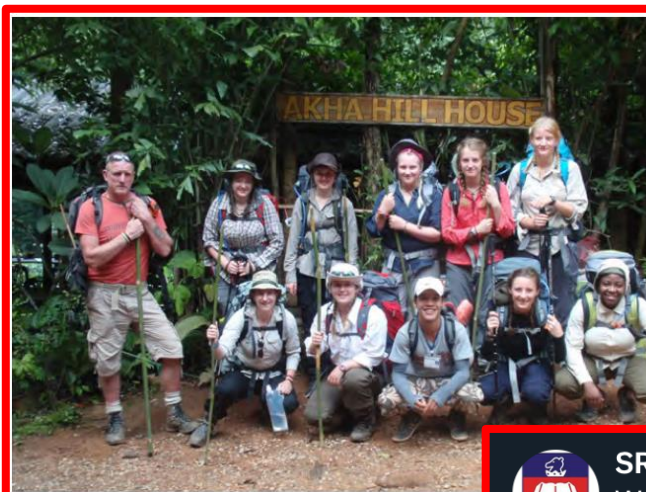
2013-2018 – The Helen Renard Years

Changes to the school's status only eighteen months prior to the 60th Anniversary meant that the school began its sixth decade with a spring its step. In early 2013, changes to the school were largely cosmetic, though Coffee Culture opened up in the sixth form along the main English corridor to provide refreshments and snacks for pupils from both SRPA and North Kesteven, who shared courses as part of the NHJSF (*North Hykeham Joint Sixth Form*).



Coffee Culture

Elsewhere, the school continued to offer World Challenge to its students, who visited Thailand, near the Burmese border, giving an unforgettable experience to a small band of intrepid adventurers.



Pupils in Thailand

2013 also saw developments in SRPA's digital present and the Academy joined the Twitter sphere @Lincolnsrpa. The digitisation of the school's activities and events has meant it has been much easier to track the history of the school than in the old days, for which I am grateful. As of writing, the Academy still uses Twitter, and its posts are still readily available...



SRPA @LincolnSRPA · 25/07/2013 ...
Welcome to Sir Robert Pattinson Academy's new Twitter feed! Follow us to keep up to date on the latest developments and news at SRPA.

SRPA's first Twitter post

Other events in this year included welcoming a group of Ukrainian dancers called *Zozulenka* to perform traditional folks songs, a French singing contest, and the Academy's first ever Democracy Day, which sought to raise awareness of local government and decision-making processes for students. Even so, despite these culturally immersive experiences, the positive mood of the Academy took a sharp blow following the visit of OFSTED, which rated the school as 'Requires Improvement'. Despite high quality engagement with communities and cultures, the school sadly fell short in several key areas, which meant it was necessary to rethink the Academy's direction of travel.



2013 newsletter front cover - Artwork by Georgina Donnelly (Year 13)

SRPA continued its long-standing commitment to the local area by opening its doors for Community Learning which offered, amongst other things, counselling, beauty therapies, arts and crafts, cooking, languages, and flower arranging classes to adult learners on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. This later became as known as the Stride Out initiative and would continue until 2017.

Y5 Development Days were high on the agenda, and students from Witham St Hughs, Fosse Way and Eagle, amongst others, visited the school to experience archaeology, crime scene investigations, and modern foreign language sessions. Many of these students would go on to join and excel at the Academy.

Trips to Lebanon, Boulogne, Madrid and St Petersburg were just some of the cultural highlights in this year, whilst closer to home girls were encouraged to take up the mantle for engineering and other STEM courses. School sailors, likewise, excelled, winning the Lincoln & District Sailing Association Topper Fleet race. As always, SRPA pupils aimed for the stars and often reached them.

2014 began with renewed vigour as the Academy attempted to dust itself off and start again. This saw the rapid completion of the school Comenius project, an EU collaborative scheme which put SRPA students in touch with pupils from Italy, Finland Romania, Turkey, Poland and Slovakia to create newspapers and videos about the place of students in modern life.

A second development included the 2Fast2Soon initiative, designed to slow down new and learning drivers, which was quickly followed by the Workwise initiative, which brought together students and over a dozen local employers to give students an insight into the world of work.



Natalie Lupton's award-winning photograph 'Puppetry' (2014)

In 2015, the biggest change to the Academy came in the form of a new Music and Drama block. According to Issue 95 of the Academy Newsletter:

'Sir Robert Pattinson Academy is embarking on a project of over £350,000 to modernise its science, music and drama facilities and hopes the new wing will be completed by the start of the next academic year – it will create up to 100 new places at the school.'

The new development will create two new music rooms and a purpose-built drama studio. Rooms currently used for drama and music will be converted into new science labs.

The project is supported with a combined grant from Lincolnshire County Council, North Kesteven District Council and Lincoln City Council – with the remaining funds coming from the school's reserves.'



Preparations being made for the new Music and Drama block



The new building itself was officially opened in September 2015 and provided an exciting array of new facilities, which students continue to use today. Many great memories have been created in these walls in only the few short years since its inception and it remains a testament to the ongoing and outstanding work ethic of SRPA's student body. Since its inception, productions have included *Oliver*, *Les Miserable*, and *School of Rock*.

Beyond the fabric of the building, the Academy continued to strengthen and establish new community links throughout 2015, which included participation in the Lincolnshire show; a performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar* at Lincoln Cathedral; participation in the Spark Engineering

Festival (also at Lincoln Cathedral); and a lasting contribution to Whisby Nature Reserve, both in the form of an art exhibition and conservation. In particular, SRPA students helped by designing and creating signage for the purpose-built education centre.

Trips in this year included Boulogne once again, which allowed SRPA's students to fully immerse themselves in the French language and ideas, a Comenius trip to experience the culture of Turkey, and a slightly chillier adventure in Santa Caterina skiing. Last but not least, students visited the cold and wet wilds of Derbyshire, where they prepared for a World Challenge trip to Tanzania. There really are no limits on where SRPA students will go.

2015 also saw Year 7 researching STEM subjects with pupils from fellow Lincoln school, The Priory, to identify and develop modern solutions to transportation problems, whilst Year 8, 10 and 12 pupils visited local engineering sites, including the Walkers Crisp factory in Lincoln, where they explored the mechanics of a multi-million pound business; Ruddocks, where they considered the



process and manufacture of printing; and a Trent River building site in Nottingham city centre, where they explored the mechanics of site development, thus pushing STEM subjects to the forefront of the Academy's agenda in this particular year.



SRPA students enjoying the new facilities



The students were a credit to us on 25 June. Their behaviour around the show was brilliant, they completed all of their controlled assessment research and received many positive comments from stallholders about how well prepared they were for their research. They were so proud of themselves, we wanted to share this with you.

process and manufacture of printing; and a Trent River building site in Nottingham city centre, where they explored the mechanics of site development, thus pushing STEM subjects to the forefront of the Academy's agenda in this particular year.



SRPA's 2015 Joke Competition Entrants

2016 began like no other as the Academy took part in an online world record attempt for World Book Day! The record attempt involved 156 Year 7 students and was for 'the most people to participate in simultaneous quizzes across multiple venues' including schools, libraries and bookshops, across England and Wales. Even though the quiz was a great success – being broadcast onto a giant screen in the Main Hall – the only question on anyone's lips was: had they succeeded in their attempt? Well, after a short delay, the World Record was announced by officials at Guinness World Records and World Book Day: not only had students at SRPA helped contribute to breaking the world record but they absolutely smashed it in the process! World record holders in the Academy – whatever next?

Madness was clearly in the air in 2016, as four members of the leadership team willingly jumped out of an aeroplane as part of the SRPA skydiving challenge for Raise for Reading. A whopping £6,902 was ultimately raised for a new library in the Academy. According to one of the intrepid adventurers, Mr Dickens, the experience was an all-out assault on the senses:

The freefall lasts for just over a minute, during which time we hit speeds of 130 mph. You don't think about this (nor, it has to be said, do you worry about the parachute opening because you are too busy wondering where the loud rocket noises are coming from and why you have a grinning cameraman in front of your face) but when the parachute opens you feel as if you are shooting back up to the moon and suddenly you become aware of silence. That's all there is. Silence.

As you glide back down to earth, steering the controls on an invitation from the pro, then landing safely on your rump in a wide open field with people running frantically towards you (not me, of course – I found vegetation, nettles and a stony dirt track).



From Left to Right: Mr Honey, Mr Dickens, Mrs Renard, and Mr Griffiths

World Record Attempt

On the 22 February, Year sevens from a variety of schools across the country participated in a World Book Day KS3 book quiz with the chance of breaking the Guinness World Record for 'the most people to participate in simultaneous quizzes across multiple venues' including schools, libraries and bookshops.

The quiz was broadcast onto a giant screen in the hall.



The event was full of excitement and high spirits. With 2,679 participants being the last World Record, it was up to England's young quizzers to raise the bar! Our own Sir Robert Pattinson Academy saw 156 Year seven students organise themselves into groups, come up with a team name and use teamwork to succeed in each round of the quiz.

The YJA team recording their intro before the quizzers arrived.



The event provided great excitement for the young participants, including being filmed and interviewed. Walking around, you could really feel the buzz. They were most certainly not expecting the YJA camera crew to show up, which just added to the spectacle and the all-round fun of this event.

The World Record was announced by the officials at Guinness World Records and World Book Day. Not only did we help to contribute to breaking the record but we absolutely smashed it in the process! A huge congratulations to all students in year 7 who took part and can now say that their 'claim to fame' is being a world record holder...I know I've been boasting about it! Well done again team.

*Academy Newsletter 100:
The World Record is broken!*

Perhaps skydiving could become an annual event to test the mettle of new members of staff?!

Visits to far-flung places continued apace in this year, with a large cohort of Year 8-9 pupils visiting a football camp at Porto FC's *CTFD PortoGaia* to experience world class training facilities; whilst Year 12s visited the

beautiful and picturesque city of Moscow; and World Challenge students traversed the wilds of Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina!

SRPA once again built upon its legacy of working with local and international charities this year and was fortunate enough to raise almost £3,000 for Children in Need, Macmillan Cancer, and the Nomad Trust. Closer to home, Christmas dinner was provided in the Main Hall for the North Hykeham Day Centre for venerable members of our community, with guests being treated to an array of music, dancing, and games. This proved to be the beginning of what would soon become an annual event, thus strengthening ties between the Academy and the local community.

In March 2017, the new library was finally opened by the Cowley brothers (the former manager of Lincoln City FC, Danny Cowley, and his assistant, Nicky Cowley, who shortly after saw Lincoln promoted back to the football league after a six-year hiatus in the Conference League). Luckily for the Cowleys, they even managed to have a kick about with some of SRPA's finest young talents, who never once failed to impress.

In 2017 SRPA, like a number of other schools in the city, adopted and decorated one of 36 knight sculptures forming a trail to celebrate the 800th anniversary of the Battle of Lincoln as part of the 'Education Trail', which graced the city centre. SRPA's knight was called Sir Geoffrey Luttrell of Irnham (who, in real life, had once commissioned the famous Luttrell Psalter, a copy of which is held at The British Library) and was decorated with the colours of the Academy. However, it's true to say his name was a bit of a mouthful and he quickly became known by students as simply 'Geoff'. Following his part in the trail, Geoff took up



The Cowley brothers open the new SRPA library



permanent residence in the school reception area until 2022, when he was replaced by a newly designed Lincoln imp as part of the Imp's Trail.¹¹

One of the highlights of the Autumn term was the Work-Based Learning Skills & Academic Awards, which saw the Academy gain national acclaim for providing students with an outstanding range of employment opportunities through collaborative partnerships with local employers, including Lincolnshire Cooperative Limited, Lindum Group,

'Geoff' with his designers

¹¹ Don't worry, however: 'Geoff' is still living his best life and steadfastly guards the upper floor of the technology block!

Bridge McFarland Solicitors, Lace Housing, Selenity, and Stored Crop Conservation. By opening its doors to such prestigious and well-known businesses, SRPA offered its pupils unparalleled opportunities for work experience and knowledge.



*Above: SRPA's Lincoln-themed Rugby shirt
Below: The Unveiling at Twickenham*



In 2017, the Academy saw the introduction of a new stylish rugby shirt which incorporated Lincoln's skyline into its design and, once again, recognised the city's heritage as central to the Academy's identity (featuring the castle, cathedral and Red Arrows, as well as the school logo and colours of red and blue). The shirt was designed with the support of Rugby England and unveiled at the Six Nations match between England and Wales at Twickenham later that year to great excitement (which fortunately ended in 12-6 victory for the home side).

2017 ended in style, with various competitions and trips to the furthest reaches of the United Kingdom and beyond, with trips to the Lincolnshire Show, Buckingham Palace, Edgbaston, and Nottingham, being high on the agenda for poetry, photography, and engineering students, who displayed a variety of skills and talents much to the credit of the Academy. Further afield, World Challenge took

students to Snowdonia in Wales and Nicaragua, whilst the Duke of Edinburgh Award saw students brave the autumnal rains of the Peak District. Finally, a group of Year 8 students experienced the sombre, yet poignant, atmosphere of the Etaples Military Cemetery in France, highlighting the Academy's association with the Armed Forces.

2018 was an up and down year in more ways than one. Whilst the year began positively with parents and carers being welcomed into the Great Hall for Family Learning, where they were given a first-hand insight into GCSE curricula taught across the Academy, the school was nevertheless delivered a heavy blow by the announcement of the forthcoming departure of the then headteacher, Helen Renard. In her farewell address, Mrs Renard drew attention to the great work undertaken by the school during her time, stating:



Etaples Military Cemetery



Helen Renard

I have enjoyed my time as Head immensely and I am enormously proud of the school's achievements and the range these come in. I have had the privilege of working with a great staff body and supportive Governors which has had a positive impact on the education of the young people who have passed through the Academy. I have had the pleasure of being part of a range of school events from Awards Evenings, music concerts, productions to sporting and charity activities where I sit with proud parents and staff sharing that pride and amazement at what the school, staff and students do. I have thoroughly

enjoyed these important moments within a student's education and recognising the range of individuals we have at Sir Robert Pattinson Academy.

Shortly after her announcement to leave the Academy, the governors conducted a thorough search for her successor. In July 2018, the following missive was published:

We are pleased to share with you that Mr Hardy will join as Headteacher from September 2018. Mr Hardy's background includes time spent at Sir William Robertson Academy, City of Peterborough Academy, which he led to Outstanding status, Nottingham Girls Academy and with the L.E.A.D. Academy Trust as an Executive Headteacher and Director of Secondary Schools for 3 secondary academies. Mr Hardy is born and bred in Lincolnshire, still living in the county and is keen to return to Headship at a Lincolnshire school. His breadth and depth of experience in education spans secondary, primary, transition and he is a modern language teacher too.



Dale Hardy

Mr Hardy brings a wealth of experience and the Governing Body look forward to working with him to develop our school in the future to excel and be the best it can be for our students.



The Crush Hall (left, 2017), later renamed and rebranded as the Great Hall (right, 2018)

2018 – 2023: The Dale Hardy Years (so far...)

Dale Hardy got off to a flying start and found himself firmly in the news following the publication of an article about the importance of school uniform in the local *Lincolnite* newspaper. In it he argued that a clear uniform policy not only helps reduce ‘stress for pupils’ but means that they ‘spend less time worrying about what to wear to fit in.’ He also identified how ‘peer pressure is reduced, and new starters are less nervous if they don’t have to agonise over how people will judge their appearance.’ All in all, this is a message that has remained central to the Academy since Mr Hardy’s arrival. In fact, it wasn’t long before Mr Hardy took this a step further by introducing ‘Head Teacher Ties’ in 2018, which recognised student achievements outside of the Academy. Some of the first recipients of this award included musicians and sports stars, whilst more recent winners have been recognised for their charitable work, writing, scientific endeavours and more besides.



Article from the Lincolnite (Sept. 2018)

Unsurprisingly, many of these inaugurally awarded individuals also served on the newly established student council and Green Team, which sought to ensure student voices were at the absolute heart of everything in the Academy: from school procedures to concerns about the environment. Like with ‘Head Teacher Ties,’ many of these students would also go on to serve as house captains, form representatives, and even head boy or girl showing that, even though it was a time of transition, these were measures supported by the vast majority of students.



Lancaster house

A new head wasn’t the only seismic change in this year and, in September 2018, the Academy’s House System was expanded from four houses to five to create greater competition across the Academy at all levels and to evenly distribute students across year groups. The new addition was Lancaster House which, like all other houses in the Academy, drew its name from ancient British royal houses, the others being Stuart, Tudor, Windsor and York. This was the first time since the mid-1950s that the school had had five houses.¹²



The first Year 7 students of the Hardy era

¹² In 1955, the school had six houses: Burghley, Franklin, Hawke, Newton, Tennyson, Wesley. These were all named after individuals who had achieved differing degrees of fame in Lincolnshire.



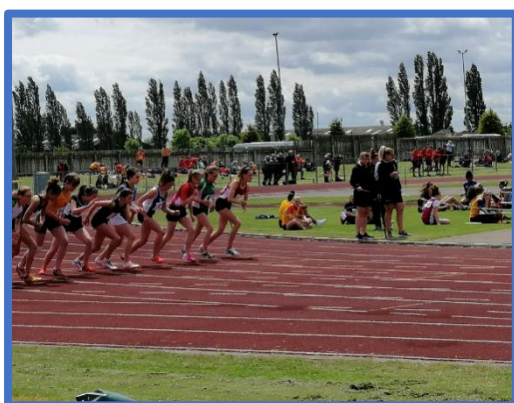
SRPA's stunning floral tribute

This fundamental bond of cooperation was solidified with one of the most beautiful floral tributes SRPA has ever produced in November of 2018, with students from across the Academy designing and decorating poppies, which contributed to a stunning memorial display in the Main Hall. This fitting tribute later served as a backdrop for a service to honour the fallen.

The year ended, as always, with a celebration party for the North Hykeham Day Centre and a light-hearted but enjoyable Christmas concert when 40 of SRPA's finest students gave their all for a worthy cause. This concert was significant in more ways than one, however: it paved the way for a whole new attitude to music and drama in the Academy, which would grow from strength to strength in subsequent years under the leadership of Mr Hardy.



Participants in the 2018 Christmas Concert



District Athletics Trials, 2019

2019 burst onto the scene with SRPA students excelling in the District Athletics Trials like never before. There were over a dozen top ten finishes and several students even managed to take gold medals, despite the unseasonably hot weather.

In April 2019, students across the Academy were encouraged to sign the Anti-bullying pledge to ensure that

potentially harmful behaviours were routinely reported and challenged. As any teacher, parent or student knows: a school where students feel



Anti-bullying badges were given to every SRPA student as a sign of their pledge

Memorable trips for SRPA students in this year included a Year 13 trip to the JCB factory in Uttoxeter, where A Level candidates were able to explore aspects of engineering and finance; Nepal for SRPA's penultimate World Challenge adventure; and, much closer to home, the International Bomber Command Centre in Lincoln, which continued the Academy's long-standing association with the armed forces.

comfortable and supported when reporting concerns, however small, is a school worth being part of.

Throughout 2019, SRPA students engaged in a broad variety of events and activities including creating posters to celebrate Pride; partaking in the inaugural SRPA Spelling Bee; and competing in the Lincolnshire Show School's Challenge, which saw SRPA students win first prize for their research into local sustainable foods. Furthermore, the Academy established the Rise and Read programme, which encouraged students to get into the library early to read or complete homework; and partook in the Restart a Heart initiative with St John's Ambulance, which sought to teach students the basics of CPR. Finally, there was a Red Nose Day dance-a-thon, which was attended by over 100 willing students, whilst trips saw GCSE Geography students travel to Flamborough, language students to Madrid; and Year 12s make their way to India as part of World Challenge!



Highlights from 2019: Restart a Heart (top left); Madrid (top middle); Dance-a-thon (top right); Rise and Read (right); Duke of Edinburgh (bottom right); Lincolnshire Show Trophy (middle bottom); World Challenge, India (bottom left)

Always eager to embrace change, SRPA took another leap into the digital world in 2019 and joined Instagram for the first time @sirrobertpattinson. This decision was based upon several factors (least of all the development of technology and worldwide social media trends) but primarily because it met the needs of our student body, with pupils following departments, activities, and celebrations

in unprecedented numbers ever since (over 1,500 followers at the time of writing!).¹³ Moreover, it is an effective and safe way to share our many achievements with the local community and beyond. As SRPA grows, so does its voice, its reach, its passion. It was an inspiration in 2019 and will continue long after the current cohort has said their farewells for the final time.

Arguably the most significant change of 2019 was the establishment of the RP-Hub, which garnered local and national attention and, in 2022, became known as the RCC, or the Ros Christopher Centre.¹⁴ Initially, the Hub offered students access to a range of intervention programmes, including those specially designed to support their confidence in reading and mathematics, as well as offering a welcoming place for students to come for additional nurture support. However, by 2021 its overall purpose had evolved into something much more focused. According to the SRPA website, the RCC is designed to “coordinate, execute and measure the impact of a range of wellbeing, pastoral, behavioural and therapeutic interventions in support of the ‘whole child’ at the Academy. The intent being that we can support more pupils to reach their full potential and to be happy, healthy and thrive in their

RP Hub

The RP-HUB has been transformed from the old 'Chicken Shed' into a state of the art Mental Health HUB for our community. We are very fortunate that the RP-HUB has been supported by local businesses and trades to help our dream come true and gave their time and labour (around £30,000) absolutely free! We would like to thank everyone who came to give what they could to help renovate our HUB, which will continue to reach out and help those in need.

Thank you to

- Bromhead Medical Charity
- Apss
- Nigel Smith plumbing
- Build Base Lincoln – Ben Adams
- Rick Reynolds Plumbing
- MGLadwins
- The Garden Tea Rooms
- Lincoln tea and coffee
- North Hykeham DIY
- Allen Signs
- Luxlite Lighting
- Freedom
- Crown paint
- Todd's Group
- Burley and Elsom
- SRP Hire
- Vic hire



Dale Hardy with Nigel Christopher in 2022, after the SRPA Hub is renamed the Ros Christopher Centre

Lincoln school opens community mental health hub

The school sent out a DIY SOS call with The Lincolnite at the start of the school year


endeavours.” This includes Mental Health/Resilience/Counselling, Happiness lessons, Social Emotional Mental Health groups including EBSA pupils, Year 7 transition nurture group, and much more besides. It is the jewel in the crown of SRPA.

¹³ This is in addition to other Instagram pages: 700 followers at #srpa_pe, 500 at #srpaenglish, and more besides!

¹⁴ Ros was a former colleague at SRPA, who sadly passed away during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr Hardy felt it appropriate to rename the RP-Hub in her honour – a fitting tribute.

2019 also saw a shift in tone and focus in academy bulletins, which became more student-led in focus. In particular, house news became a driving force in all communications, driving competition, good practice and sportsmanship. This was later supported in 2020 by dedicated departmental news, placing the curriculum at the heart of everything SRPA.


Art and Technology Department




Our Year 7 Artists have had an enthusiastic start to their Art journey by focusing on Vincent Van Gogh. Within the lessons they have focused on basic drawing skills by drawing from observation. During the first term, they were set a challenge homework to produce a 3D sunflower inspired by Vincent Van Gogh. The homework has filled classrooms around the department with colour and delight. With the creative use of media, straws, paper wrappers, sticks and glue to feathers and felt. This highlights our students' creativity outside of the classroom. Year 7 have set their standards high and we look forward to watching them develop all the way to Year 13. This term, students are moving onto more practical lessons focusing on applying their drawing skills to mark-making with poly-board printing.

Within Year 8 lessons, students have been exploring Pop Art and researched how it all began. They produced Pop Art research pages inspired by the artists, research and imagery around the art era. By working on producing research pages, our Year 8 students have been pushing their research and analysis skills in the same way our GCSE Artists create artwork inspired by researching other artists. This term, students are developing their drawing from observation skills, colour and printing skills by drawing cans inspired by Andy Warhol and then mono-printing them using varied colours and application styles.

Year 9 have made a confident start to their year by beginning a mini GCSE course on natural forms and they are relishing being back in the Art classrooms. They have focused on refining their skills learnt in Years 7 and 8 and expanding them by completing more drawings from observations in stimulating and explorative media. We have had classrooms covered in chalk, charcoal and biro, leaves, stones and sticks, sugar paper, wrapping paper and black paper. Students have used it all incredibly well and have produced some stunning artwork. This term, students are focusing on refining their research ability by producing artwork inspired by an artist who works with natural forms.



Within GCSE Art and Design, students have focused on developing their mark-making skills in mono printing, etching and lino cutting printing techniques. By working on the topic of natural forms, they have been able to explore different media in objects commonly found in their everyday life. They began the year focusing on developing the quality of their drawing skills by developing their confidence in working in multi-media art processes by completing varied observational tasks using pencil, pen and charcoal.



Lancaster House

A message from Mr Smith
Well that was a whirlwind of a term. Look how far we have come since June 1st. From bake offs, to litter picking, School productions to Spelling Bees. This term we have been amazingly busy. I am proud of every one of you for taking on the challenge of being made for more. Each and every week, we all did our part. We made sure that everyone felt the purple wave, and people knew that we were a House to be noticed. That the other houses have been put on notice.

Finally I would like to introduce our first ever House Captains. The youngest to be ever named House Captains and I am sure they will be amazing: Freddie Ayres and Anna Hoe. Both of them have embodied what it means to be a Lancaster member. Reliable, resilient, and strong.

I am very proud of our House and its achievements this term. The ground work that Mrs Fields laid for us, must also be recognized as it gave us the opportunity for success. Watching you guys soar this term has been amazing and much of that must be attributed to Mrs Fields.

Whilst our first year has been a good one, it is time to build on it. Time to rise into the sky and be successful. Time to overcome the odds and fly. Time to show we are Made. For. More.

Have a great summer and don't forget one thing:
Always be awesome.


A message from Mr Turner
Firstly, I'd like to introduce myself as the new Pastoral Lead for Lancaster house. I'm new to SRPA and I can honestly say that the welcome from all the staff and students has been incredible. I feel like I'm part of something very special at this academy and can't wait to share my experience in supporting your children.

Secondly, I would like to let you know that we are building something very positive within the Lancaster house and this will continue to grow. We want all children to reach their potential and to know that the sky's the limit. Between myself and Mr Smith, we will make sure your children realise that they are made for more. #purple reign


ACHIEVEMENTS
We had our first full sports day, and the Academy learned the meaning of 'Purple Reign'! Event after event we did our best and not once did we quit. Every time we took the field, we challenged for a win. Let us not forget that we were the loudest house to have been heard since the smashing of atoms created this universe! Big Bang has got nothing on the Purple Noise!

On top of that, we had cricket success and a rounders experience. We made sure that people knew that Lancaster was a house that gave our all.

We also rounded ourselves off outside of sports, participating in the school production of 'High School Musical', French Vocab competition and the Spelling Bee. 3rd place in the book wrapping competition. Oh and the Bake Off, even though we are the smallest house, we had more cakes per-capita and we came in second place! Let's also not forget our academic success, where engagement in lessons was up across the board, lateness was down and behaviour improved.



House Student Leadership
House Captains
Anna Hoe
Freddie Ayres
Deputy House Captain
Evie Elley
Hadley Roberts
House Prefect
Shannon McMahon
Milena Rosinska



Shift in tone of Academy newsletters to a more departmental / house-centric approach

2020 was a year to forget in many ways as it was the year that COVID-19 swept across the world without remorse. The impact on the Academy was unprecedented, though, like in many other educational institutions across the United Kingdom, it did not go down without a fight. In fact, SRPA fought back in ways that have left an indelible mark on the Academy and community forever.

Despite the partial closure of much of the school site in March 2020, the Academy continued to provide face-to-face support for vulnerable students as per NHS guidelines. By May 2020, video conferencing was also offered to every student in school so that tutors were able to keep in touch with their tutees, and online lessons were provided for all core subjects. In July, too, a Virtual Open Day was given to incoming Year 7 pupils, allowing them some semblance of normality, however amorphous that might have initially seemed.



But the greatest sense of pride emerged from the truly outstanding efforts of the Academy to provide PPE for the NHS sector, providing over 3,000 visors for hospitals, GP surgeries and care


homes, as well as PPE for Lincolnshire Police.¹⁵ As the PCC Marc Jones stated in an interview with the *Lincolnite*, “The support being offered to all the emergency services and health staff from the school is absolutely wonderful. I want to thank the head and the technology department for their selfless dedication to helping those on the front line. It really will make a huge difference in allowing them to continue their work safely.” The impact of these provisions was so great that the head of technology, Dave Palethorpe, was invited onto Radio 2 to discuss the Academy’s dedication to its fight against the spread of COVID-19.

the LINCOLNITE

Lincoln school provides face masks for police staff

A great gesture by Sir Robert Pattinson Academy



North Hykeham school makes 1,000 face visors for the NHS with 2,500 more on the way

The Academy’s support for the NHS and Police was a moment of great pride gaining national attention

By September 2020, students began to return to the Academy and were separated into year group ‘bubbles’ with teachers being the ones moving from classroom to classroom and it was mandated that all returning pupils were to wear face masks for personal safety. Although this was arguably one of the most difficult moments since the Second World War in the United Kingdom – and the whole of the Academy’s existence – SRPA’s students proved themselves time and again to be up to the challenge. It was by no means easy and there were more than a few tears shed, but it served

 JDRF <small>IMPROVING LIVES. CURING TYPE 1 DIABETES.</small>	 MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT <small>St Robert Pattinson Academy</small>	 ANTHONY NOLAN <small>saving the lives of people with blood cancer</small>	 Sophie's Journey <small>Sophie's Journey was set up to remember and honour Sophie Robinson from Lincoln, who sadly passed away in January 2016, aged 13, after a hard year battle with neuroblastoma - an aggressive tumour in her brain.</small>	 St Barnabas <small>Hospice Care Support</small>
£851	£1830	£667	£631	£1406

Despite the pandemic, SRPA continued to raise money for designated charities in 2020

¹⁵ For accounts of SRPA’s contribution to the NHS and beyond, see: <https://www.lincolnshirelive.co.uk/news/north-hykeham-school-makes-1000-4041397/>; <https://thelincolnite.co.uk/2020/04/lincoln-school-provides-face-masks-for-police-staff/>; and <https://www.granthamjournal.co.uk/news/grantham-care-homes-grateful-for-amazing-response-by-the-community-9107719/>

simply to show how staff and students were in this for the long haul together. As Mr Hardy stated in the Winter newsletter of 2020: 'This calendar year has been like no other and certainly wasn't planned for on a national scale. However, we have rolled our sleeves up and cracked on.' That's what we did at SRPA and it's what we would do again if called upon.



Despite the manifold challenges of 2020, the Academy nevertheless continued to push on with many of its planned activities and initiatives, including the establishment of the first Personal Development Day in October. These days were designed to expose students to life outside the classroom and to instil British Values. This went hand in hand with the introduction of SRPA Core Values, which focused on six key ideals: Community, Aspiration, Respect, Engagement, Environment, and Reflection.

Three other developments were introduced in 2020. The first was the Attitude to Learning Initiative, which sought to focus on *how* students engaged with their learning and how they might reflect positively on their own educational journey. This initiative not only allowed students to take control of their own destiny in new ways, it gave them autonomy to shape their own relationships with other staff and students.



The second development was the establishment of the Student Senior Leadership Team, or SSLT for short, which greatly expanded the roles of Key Stage 5 students which was carefully interwoven with and framed by the SRPA Core Values. Again, this allowed the more senior students in the Academy to play a direct role in the everyday running and planning of activities. Such a position was not easily gained, however: not only were they interviewed by Mr Hardy and his deputies, but they were mentored by them too!

The final change was the introduction of the Peer Mentoring scheme, which paired Key Stage 4 and 5 students with those from Key Stage 3 in order to provide support and guidance to those who found school a challenge, in particular in the aftermath of the pandemic. Since 2020, all three initiatives have gone from strength to strength and have benefitted students greatly.

SRPA students responding in the only way they know how

Following the impact on mental health during the global pandemic, SRPA sought, wherever possible, to strengthen its commitment to support the mental health of students and staff in 2021, building on the outstanding work of the RCC and peer mentoring programme. In this, the Academy looked to the expertise of the University of Lincoln, who were one of the first universities in the UK to sign up to the Student Minds University Mental Health Charter. As a result, students from the Academy and other local schools visited the university to meet with the mental health ambassador for the UK, Dr Alex George, for an in-person session at the Brayford Pool Campus on Wednesday 17 November. The session itself included useful tips on how students might de-stress before examinations, how to prepare for the often-tricky transition to university, and how to manage general mental well-being.



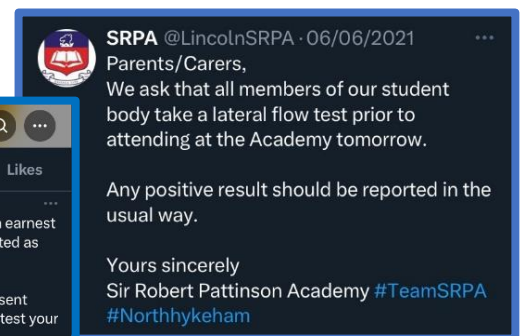
SRPA students attending Lincoln University



Working hard for the Community Action Project

In this post-pandemic backdrop, safety was an oft-quoted watchword across all avenues of the Academy and, as early as January 2021, it was a requirement for students to take a lateral flow tests both before and in school to ensure that potential health risks to staff and students were minimised, a policy students willingly accepted in the face of these unprecedented pressures.

A concomitant concern brought to the fore by the Academy was the re-establishment of the Community Action Project. As issue 122 of the SRPA newsletter put it: the Community Action Project aimed ‘to identify areas of our community to which we can make a positive contribution and offer support. After an excellent first year of the project last year, we hope that we can build on these successes again for this academic year. Our previous fundraising efforts, despite the coronavirus restrictions, allowed us to raise enough money to create high quality hampers for our three chosen care homes. The hampers included a wide range of much needed resources for the care homes, along with a few luxuries for the residents to enjoy.’



Staff and student safety became paramount to Academy policy

Lancaster



Stuart



Tudor



Windsor



York



With life steadily settling back to into a normal routine, the Academy began to spread its wings once again and reach out to the wider world in 2021. Charities were chosen for the year (*on the left*), adventures were had, and great efforts were made to catch up on lost time in the classroom. Visiting speakers to the Academy included Professor David Petts, archaeologist from The University of Durham, who discussed his recent work on the Viking site at Lindisfarne; Dr Derwin Gregory from Bishop Grosseteste University, who discussed the Cold War from the perspective of a Holocaust survivor; the SCiP Alliance (Service Children's Progression Alliance), who gave a virtual tour of RAF Thorpe Abbots in Norfolk to budding Year 10s; and a former RAF linguist, who regaled students with stories about the application of languages in the harsh environments of Iraq and Afghanistan. Exposure to and preparation for life beyond the Academy's walls remains a key principle of SRPA.

2021 also saw students make great strides on the Academy's green policy by the establishment of the Green Team which, in time, would go on to establish a relaxing garden space, introduce more hygienic bins into the playgrounds, and establish an effective energy saving policy across the school site, achieving a nationally recognised EcoSchools award less than a year later! SRPA students continue to pave the way at every turn.

Like in many other years, SRPA's sports teams started the year in spectacular fashion with the Year 7, 8 and 9 boys winning *all* of their fixtures in the first few months of the year. There were, however, more mixed results for the boys' football teams in Year 10-11 and the girls' netball teams in Years 7, 8 and 9 but their efforts were nonetheless outstanding.



Dr Gregory from BGU explores archaeology with Y10 (left); SRPA's annual Remembrance Day commemoration (below right); Y7 football team after a 4-2 home win against the Priory (below left)



With the world opening up more and more in 2022, SRPA students continued to be the beneficiaries of outstanding extra-curricular opportunities as we fought hard against lost time: Humanities partnered with the University of Lincoln to organise webinars for students on the material objects of the British Empire; English took students to the *Poetry Live!* trip in Nottingham in support of the Literature GCSE; MFL saw visiting speakers explore career opportunities through the lens of Russian, German, French and Spanish voices; Business and Computing saw students visit Bishop Grosseteste University to explore undergraduate opportunities; whilst a group of Year 8 Art and Technology students visited the Whirlpool factory in Peterborough for a competition to design a new economical kitchen appliance, and they only went and won the whole thing! Such activities could easily be duplicated across a typical term, or year, or even a decade, revealing the wonderful opportunities SRPA continues to offer students.



Easter eggs delivered to Lincoln Hospital



Prom Wardrobe

Beyond this, SRPA's Community Action Project saw hampers of Easter eggs delivered to Children's wards at Lincoln hospital in time for the holidays, whilst SRPA PE champions continued their outreach in the community by working on their coaching skills with Year 5 students from Fosse Way Academy, Manor Leas Academy, Witham St Hugh's Academy and South Hykeham Primary, coaching key cricket and rounders skills.

the SRPA Prom Wardrobe, which meant that students were not only able to choose from a broad selection of prom dresses and outfits at no cost, but it supported all those wishing to attend, regardless of personal circumstances.

In 2022, SRPA also continued to support the needs of its students through a variety of new initiatives driven by student voice. The first was the establishment of catering pods in the Academy playgrounds. The names for these were chosen by students: *Nom Nom* in the Key Stage 3 zone and *Pit Stop* in the Key Stage 4 zone. These pods served a variety of food and drinks (hot and cold) and eased the burden on the canteen, all the while providing students with a greater



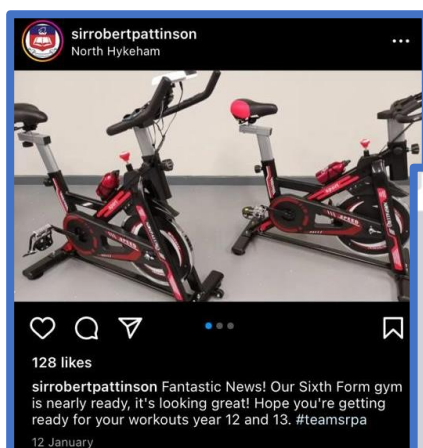
Nom Nom in the Key Stage 3 playground

variety of choice than ever before. The pods were an immediate smash hit with students and there appears to be no sign of their popularity waning at the time of writing.

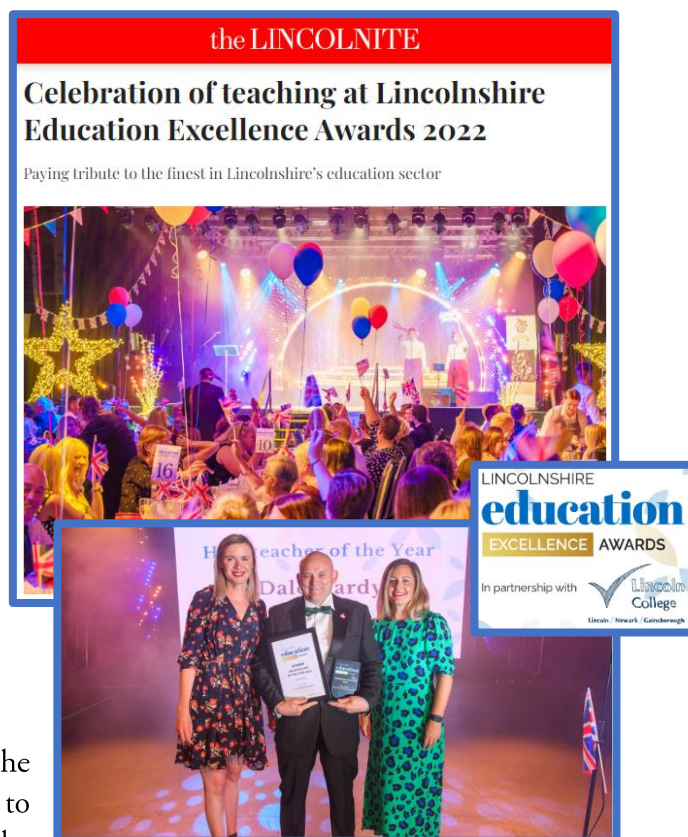
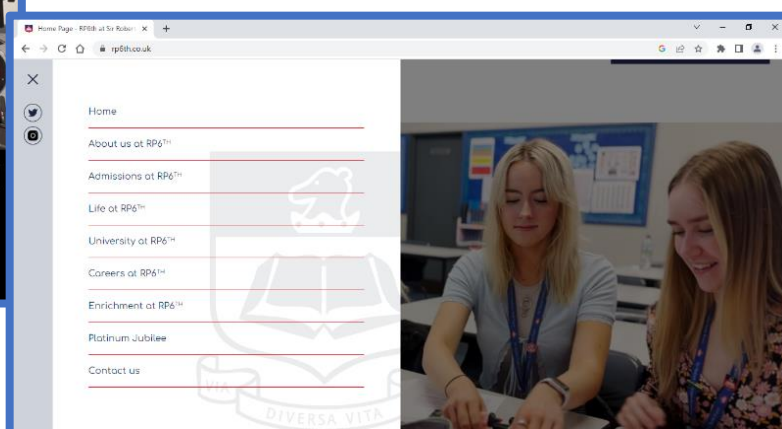
It seems that SRPA is never too far away from success and, in summer 2022, Dale Hardy was voted Head Teacher of the Year at the inaugural Lincolnshire Education Excellence Awards.¹⁶ It was acknowledged that Mr Hardy had steered the Academy through the extremely difficult pandemic years, all the while supporting the community at large in their efforts to fight off the COVID-19 disease through the manufacture and distribution of PPE for the NHS and police. It was a night of celebration and a fitting recognition to Mr Hardy and all his staff at SRPA.

The sun had barely set on 2022 when it became patently clear that SRPA was incapable of standing still, with many more changes being made for the good of the building, the staff, and most importantly of all, the students.

In the first few months of the year, 2023 saw the launch of the new RP6th initiative, which sought to continue the modernisation and development of the Academy's rapidly growing Sixth Form. This change coincided with new gym equipment for sixth formers, designed to support student health and well-being. In



New 6th form gym equipment (above); new RP6th website (right)



Mr Hardy accepts the inaugural Head Teacher of the Year award for 2022

the lower school, canopies were built in the playground areas allowing students to stay outside in all weathers, whilst the main hall was redecorated and refurbished in Academy colours.

¹⁶ <https://www.lincseducationawards.co.uk/2022>

As we approach the present day, it is important to reflect on not only how far the Academy has come in the last ten years, but over its entire 70 years. By constantly reflecting, re-evaluating, and reimagining what it means to be a school that provides care, passion and dedication to its student can we keep SRPA at the forefront of the local community and as the secondary school of choice in North Hykeham and southern Lincoln. As a recent article published in Lincolnshire Life Magazine shows,¹⁷ the vitality of the Academy endures and will continue do so well into its eighth decade and beyond.

LINCOLNSHIRE LIFE

THE COUNTY'S FAVOURITE MAGAZINE

Home	Culture	Food & Drink	Lifestyle	Leisure	Heritage	Business	Shop
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SIR ROBERT PATTINSON ACADEMY DELIVERS A BRIGHT FUTURE

There's no doubt that Sir Robert Pattinson Academy is a school with a growing reputation and a growing roll call to match. The school has rightly earned its status as a community where pupils are safe, valued, challenged and strive to achieve their best.

High value has been placed on creating a safe environment and encouraging students and staff to play a positive role in the community.

Headteacher Dale Hardy has high expectations of both teachers and students. Challenging targets are set for all and pupils and teachers support each other to achieve them, monitoring accurately the progress of students during the year.

Recently the school completed a £400,000 project to install new fencing, new gates and 90 new CCTV cameras to deliver on its commitment to student safety.

New facilities designed for students who need extra help have also been opened creating two "hubs" dedicated to providing professional counselling and specialist learning.

Little wonder that the school – and Mr Hardy himself – have amassed an impressive array of awards in the past year – including a national award from The Children's Society and Carers Trust for the support it provided to young carers during the pandemic, as well as the Eco-Schools Award.

The Anti-Bullying Alliance awarded the academy Gold Award status – marking the school's commitment and actions in promoting positive attitudes and behaviour and Mr Hardy scooped Headteacher of the Year for his commitment and dedication to his work.

Communication with parents and residents is seen as paramount and investment has been made in a new phone system. The Head also writes to every parent every week to update them on progress.

All this contributes to a strong school ethos that every student should value, enjoy, respect and be excited by learning and the world around them – giving them a unique opportunity to achieve and be successful in a safe and nurturing environment.

For more information visit www.srpa.co.uk

*Lincolnshire Life article
on Sir Robert Pattinson
Academy, published
January 2023*

¹⁷ <https://www.lincolnshirelife.co.uk/heritage/education-january-2023/>



New Academy motto, 2023

One final change to the Academy deserves a mention. In early 2023 it was decided by the Academy's governors that the school '*Via Diversa Una Vita*' ('One Life, Many Paths') ought to be replaced to reflect the modernisation of the Academy and its continuing growth. After a vote of students, parents, carers and staff, it was agreed that the new motto – '*Sapientia et Doctrina*' ('Wisdom and Learning') – should be adopted from September 2023. It seems fitting that, as a new chapter begins, a new direction is taken.

And so, as the summer term for 2023 comes to a close, just like this account of the last decade of the Academy, it is with great pleasure to say that SRPA has enjoyed twelve weeks of celebrations, activities and lessons on the history and origins of the school. Students have

toured Lincoln on an open top bus, welcomed the voices of students and former pupils into their thinking and enjoyed singing, dancing and games. This very week (on Thursday June 29), the Academy welcomes the mayors of Lincoln and North Hykeham and other local dignitaries into the Academy to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee and to share, as it always has done, what makes SRPA what it is, what makes it special. We do these things for the love of the Academy, for the furtherance of education, and for the knowledge of how we came to be where we are today. We do not do this alone. SRPA's students have, once again, thrown themselves into the Jubilee and come out the other end smiling. They will, in time, come to appreciate what a truly special place the Academy is. But until then, they remain a credit to their teachers, the support staff, and the local community. There is no doubt they will go on to reach the stars again and again, for us and you too, dear reader.



School Cohort, May 2023