

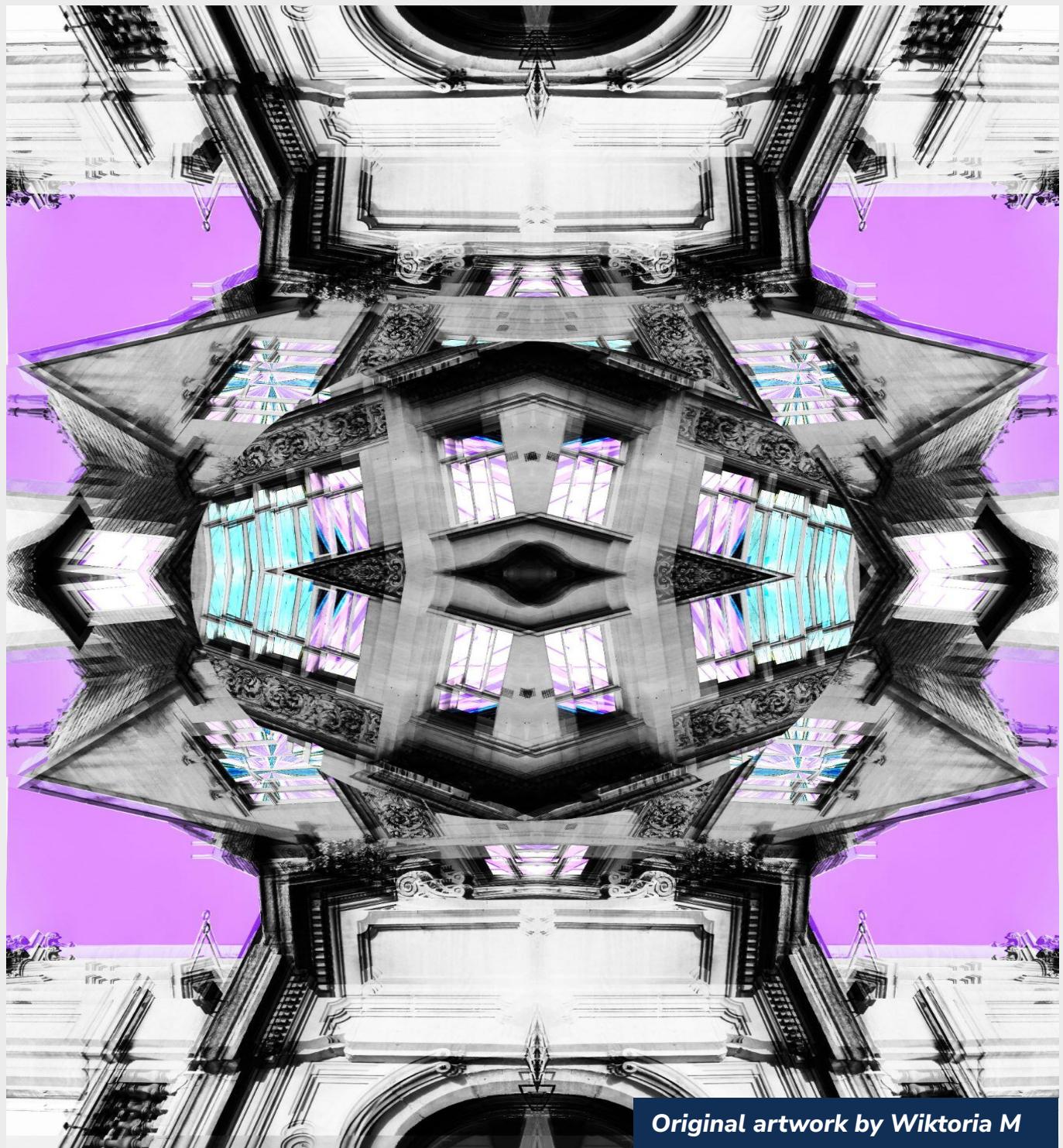
The Liberty Light

STUDENT MAGAZINE



“All things are possible for one who believes.” **MARK 9:23**

Issue 1: Autumn Term 2025



Original artwork by Wiktoria M

The Liberty Blessing Event

Written by Mrs Hagar

Walk into our Academy reception and you'll be greeted by a new sculpture: a magnificent white dove. The dove is more than just a symbol of our Academy's new name and logo. It is a symbol of our sense of community here at Liberty Academy. In your tutor groups, you each had the opportunity to create an individual feather for our Dove, and the range of designs was quite staggering. Some of you decided to write beautiful poems; some drew pictures that represented the idea of Liberty; some wrote prayers; some students simply wrote their name or gently coloured it in crayon. Whatever the design you chose, our Dove sculpture is an enduring symbol of all of us coming together for one purpose: to know that 'All things are possible for one who believes' Mark 9:23. This is our new Academy Vision, and it was also the driving force behind our Liberty Blessing Event. This event marked the rebirth of our new Academy name, and it was blessed by a very special guest.

On the 23rd of September 2025 - the start of our very first term as Liberty Academy - we gathered together our entire school community and many invited guests, including our Governors and the Bishop of Hull. For two weeks preceding this event, 47 students were involved in creating the wooden structure of our large dove sculpture, facilitated by local artist and Christian, Liz Dorton. These students created the skeleton or frame for our dove, which was then given hundreds of felt feathers, all made by students and staff. The dove was the centrepiece for our Blessing Event and hung proudly in the theatre.

The Bishop of Hull, the Right Reverend Eleanor Sanderson, blessed our Academy name and also blessed small wooden crosses, one for each student in the academy, to take home. We hope you have kept your cross as a memento that you are part of a very special community.



The Liberty Blessing Event

Written by Mrs Hagar

The event also included a beautiful vocal performance from Ava H (Year 9), a poem reading by Tilly B (Year 8), an introduction to our new Student Leaders and very proud and emotional words from our Principal and Executive Principal, Mrs Beasley and Mr Mulqueen.

Many of you attended the event in the theatre, with hundreds more joining virtually from your classrooms. One Year 11 student at the event said: *'I really felt something when we were in the theatre. It was like I now really understand what we are.'* The Blessing Event marks a hopeful and exciting new era for our Academy and helps us all to remember that "All things are possible for one who believes" (Mark 9:23).



The Meaning of Liberty

By reporter Abigail T (Year 10)

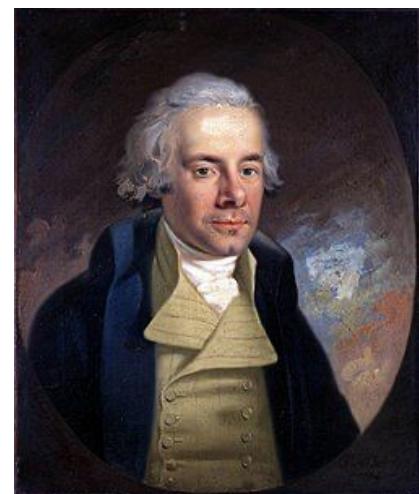
So now we know how we celebrated our new name, but what does the word 'Liberty' actually mean to our school, our history, and our faith? I had to dive deeper...

Well firstly, Liberty means freedom. In history, this can mean being free from oppression and slavery. In our local history, we have a strong connection to Liberty through one amazing man: William Wilberforce. Born in 1758, Wilberforce grew to be a well respected politician in Hull, and is most known for his efforts as a leader of the movement to abolish the transatlantic slave trade. He bravely stood against the Slave trade for 20 years, until the Slave Trade act was passed in 1807. Wilberforce continued to fight for the rights of enslaved people in parliament until 1826, where he resigned from parliament due to failing health. His campaign led to the signing of Slavery Abolition Act in 1833, which notably helped abolish slave trade in most parts of the British Empire. However, Wilberforce passed away only 3 days after learning that the act had been passed through parliament. Hull remembers Wilberforce as a brave man and pays tribute to him in many ways; you can even visit his home in the museum quarters in Hull Town. We are honoured, then, to also have links to him in our Academy name and the Liberty he gave to others.

In addition to this, our new logo, the white dove, also holds powerful meaning. The dove is a common sign of peace, and is a regular symbol in Christian theology as the embodiment of The Holy Spirit. As a Church Of England Academy, the dove means freedom, guidance, and hope, symbolising our new beginning as Liberty Academy.

As you progress through our school, we hope that Liberty gives everyone the freedom to be themselves: the freedom to learn, and the freedom to follow your dreams and aspirations, even as you journey through the next part of your education.

That's what Liberty means to us!



Liberty Poetry Corner

Poems by Evelyn B (Year 7)

This edition, Evelyn B in Year 7 has used our new Academy name as an inspiration for her wonderful poetry.

Poem 1: LIBERTY

Liberty is free; Liberty is me...
In need? They will help!
Beautiful people; Beautiful place...
Everything I have ever dreamed of
Rich source of knowledge...
Teachers that teach us to hope and to cope
Your perfect start to a new curriculum!

Liberty is free, Liberty is me...

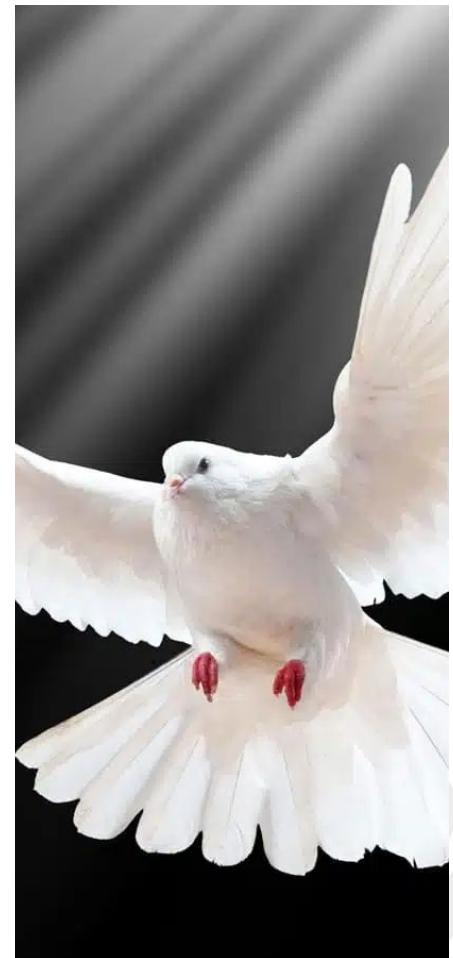


Poem 2: Freedom

As I walk through the gates,
I take a deep breath in.
Hurrying, so I don't get any lates,
I can't wait for what the day ahead will bring...

Freedom is the name, but school can be like a stressful game,
Some people believe school is bad because of stereotypes or that it doesn't matter.

However people are so wrong, thinking schools are all the same,
Sure there are busy halls; sometimes a lot of chatter,
But in Liberty, it's different.... every day is like a learning adventure,
A chance to make new friends and memorable moments.
This is the Liberty we have shaped it to be: free.



FEATURED EVENT: Remembrance Day

We Will Remember Them: Remembrance Day at Liberty Academy

Written by Mrs Hagar

Remembrance week at Liberty Academy was filled with opportunities to remember, respect and pay tribute to those who gave their lives for our freedom. As part of our Academy community, Reverend Anne invited all houses and tutor groups to create poppies in Collective Worship to honour service personnel. We used these individual poppies to create our 'Remembrance Waterfall' which cascaded down into our theatre space. Your poppies were thought-provoking, heart-felt and touching, with some writing poems and others expressing their thanks for the soldiers who fought so bravely. Logan H wrote on his poppy "We shall always remember, lest we forget. My poppy for the fallen", whilst Hallie F "Thank you for your sacrifice that gives our freedom today". In theatre Collective Worship, students read out their own war poetry, dedicated to those who lost their lives in war, such as the poem below, by Lily B, in year 10:

Remembrance

*Beneath the skies of silent grace,
the poppies bloom, the flags embrace,
the whispered wind, the church bells chime,
carrying echoes in lost time.*

*We stand today in stillness deep,
to honour those who couldn't keep
the life they dreamed, the dawn they fought,
the freedom which was the gift they brought.*

*So as the silence softly plays,
and children learn their names and ways,
we promise this —
we will remember those soldiers that fell,
and will forever know they fought well.*

FEATURED EVENT: Remembrance Day

We Will Remember Them: Remembrance Day at Liberty Academy

Written by Mrs Hagar

Thanks also to Luke M, who also bravely read out his war poem. It was a truly amazing moment to listen to these touching tributes.

As part of a history trip, a small group of year 9 students joined Reverend Anne and Mrs Hardisty to visit Alexandra Court care home to share in their memories of the war. Being able to listen to the stories of those who lived through such challenging times was a unique and very special opportunity, with residents sharing their own tales of losing loved ones.

Overall, Remembrance week here at the Academy has been very memorable this year and our waterfall remained in the chapel for several days as a lasting reminder that we must never forget.



Liberty Reads

Written by Mrs Suddaby and Mr Williams

Library updates:

The Academy hasn't just got a new name this term, it's got a new library space too! Come and join us in our new library on the ground floor to see our amazing new space that's filled with all kinds of incredible books for you to enjoy in a relaxing, quiet environment.

Discover New Worlds – Join Our Liberty Academy Book Club!

students and staff welcome

Do you love getting lost in a good story? Or maybe you're looking for a fun way to hang out with friends and share ideas? Our school book club is the perfect place!

Each term, we pick an exciting book to read together — sometimes funny, sometimes full of mystery, sometimes inspiring — and meet to talk every Wednesday lunchtime about what we think. You'll get to share your opinions, hear what others think, and even suggest future books for the club to read.

No tests. No homework. Just a friendly group of readers who enjoy stories and snacks.

Whether you're already a bookworm or just curious about trying something new, you are welcome here.

Please speak to Mrs Suddaby, the School Librarian, if you're interested.

Come join us, make new friends, and discover worlds you never imagined — all between the pages of a book!



Liberty Reads

Written by Mrs Suddaby and Mr Williams

Guest Author: Helen Rutter

This term, We're thrilled to be able to welcome Helen Rutter, acclaimed author of The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh, to Liberty Academy on the 10th December as part of our 'One Hull of a Read' celebration! Helen will be inspiring our Year 7 pupils with a lively talk about her writing journey, the power of storytelling, and how her characters come to life on the page. Some students will also have the exciting opportunity to take part in creative workshops, exploring their own ideas and voices as budding writers. It promises to be a fun, motivating, and unforgettable day celebrating the joy of reading and creativity!

Book Swap: Swap a Story, Find a New Favorite!

Got books gathering dust on your shelf? Trade them for fresh reads at our Book Swap! It's simple: bring a book (or a few), drop them off, and discover something new to take home.

Whether you love mysteries, memoirs, or magical worlds, there's a story waiting for you. Come share your favorites, meet fellow book lovers, and give stories a second life.

Where: School Library, G04

Bring a book, take a book, and let the stories keep traveling!

Reading Plus Programme: Liberty Literacy Legends

Well done everyone for making exceptional progress with Reading Plus, our weekly reading programme in English lessons. Remember you can complete Reading Plus at home too. You can log-in exactly the same way as you do at school. Please see your English teacher or Mr. Williams if you have any issues. Here are our top readers:

- Year 7 top reader = Jimmy A
- Year 8 top reader = Oliver G
- Year 9 top reader = Zachary W
- National Reading Plus Award Nominee: Tilly B, Year 8

Congratulations to our reading leaders!

Liberty Leaders

By Ms Hossack

Youth Parliament: Finding a Voice in Student Leadership

On Thursday 23rd October Ms Hossack and Mrs Murphy-Corish had the pleasure of taking a group of our student leaders to the Guild Hall in Hull for an exciting Youth Parliament event.

Students got involved in debates about everything from whether pineapple belongs on pizza to the future of Hull for its young people. The student leaders got so much out of the event and we are hoping to follow it up with a visit from Hull's Young Person's Voice and Influence team to help us set up our own Youth Parliament and get the voices of HU9 out there!

Thanks to all the leaders who took part. They were a credit to the Academy.



Liberty Literacy:

Our showcase of your writing talents

By Amelia W (Year 8)

Every edition we will be sharing some outstanding writing talents from you: our students. This edition it's the turn of Amelia W in Year 8 whose thrilling horror story has a twist in the tale! Enjoy!

Silence

I woke up to the sound of a yell coming from Kat's room. Knowing no better, I believed I was still dreaming. I lightly pinched my skin, then glanced at the clock. 2:12 AM. The odds are that this was real. But did I actually hear her yell? I was likely just disorientated from only waking up a moment ago. Having said that, I still wanted to investigate, just to be certain...

I carefully opened my bedroom door, looking out for any potential jump scares. My body was tense. I knew I was being paranoid, though I didn't trust new places. Especially this house. Something about the eerie silence that flooded my ears every time I stopped moving made me feel uneasy. No cars passing the street, not even the sound of the radiators running.

Cautiously, I knocked on Kat's door. It seemed ominously quiet for a moment, before I heard her raspy voice.

"What do you want.." I heard faintly from behind the door. It sounded like she had only just woken up. Did I really imagine that yell? She sounded afraid, as if she'd seen something that would be in a horror film.

"Come out here for a second." I asked uncertainly, now unsure of what was happening. I knew that I'd heard her, it was unmistakably her yelling.

Shortly after her light switched on and the door opened. Her slim figure stood before me, rubbing her eyes and trying to fix her messy, knotted hair.

"Seriously, it's 3 AM. What could be so urgent at this time?" She questioned, and honestly, she had the right to be frustrated.

"I heard something." I replied quietly, like I was scared that someone could hear us. "It was a yell. At first I thought it was you, but now I see that's not the case."

Liberty Literacy:

Our showcase of your writing talents

By Amelia W (Year 8)

"You woke me up for that?" She seemed slightly more awake now, but I could figure that she wasn't pleased about me waking her. "You probably heard it in a dream and it woke you up, Jade." She began to explain with annoyance. "Or you're imagining it. I know you don't exactly trust this house, but we finally get to stay together. Just go back to bed.. I need to sleep before my body thinks that I want to wake up at 3 in the morning."

She turned to go back into the bedroom, but as her back turned, the door slammed shut forcefully. Right in front of our eyes, completely on its own. Or so we thought.

"What?!" I heard her say, jumping back at the sound. I was no less surprised.

"I knew something was off about this place!" I exclaimed with unintentional pettiness. Jade turned to me with a mildly frustrated look.

"I see that now, no need to rub it in.." She replied, though now more concerned than annoyed.

For a moment we remained silent, head twisting and turning to try and figure out what was going on. Was it the wind? We would've heard the gust.

"I think I'm still dreaming.." I heard Jade say with a tint of uncertainty in her tone. She opened the door again, and it seemed to remain open this time as she warily stepped back into her bedroom. I walked forwards, hoping to ask to stay with her for the night. I was meant to be the older, more mature one, but I couldn't deny that I was uncomfortable going back alone. As I was about to follow her into the room, the door swung shut again. And before long, I heard it. That identical yell I swore I'd heard when I woke up.

"Jade?" My now trembling voice called out.

Silence.



ADVERT: Want to get involved in our next edition?

Here's how...

Liberty Life **MAGAZINE**

ARE YOU A BUDDING JOURNALIST?

DO YOU LOVE CREATIVE WRITING?

Please come and join our **Liberty Life Magazine** team.

We run a lunch club on Thursday, Week A, in Room 208.

Please see Mrs Hagar in Room 208 (or *if you see her on duty*) for more details and a lunch pass.