



School Newsletter 544

Values – Care – Achievement

Thursday 13 February 2025

Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome to the sixth newsletter for the Spring Term 2025.

As we approach the end of another half term, I find myself reflecting on the experiences and achievements that have enriched our school life.

The Anne Frank exhibition has undoubtedly been a standout event. Our Year 7 students were granted a truly immersive experience, guided through Anne's poignant life story. This exhibition not only educated but also touched hearts, offering a profound understanding of history's impact on individual lives. I must extend my congratulations to our Year 9 students who acted as guides. Their confidence and empathy in delivering this emotive narrative were truly commendable.

Turning to academic pursuits, I'm thrilled to report on the success of our Year 11 mock exams. The dedication and maturity displayed by our students during this crucial week have been nothing short of impressive. Their conduct and attitude throughout the process have been exemplary, reflecting the seriousness with which they approach their studies. These mocks serve as a valuable stepping stone, preparing our students for the challenges that lie ahead in the summer exams. To our Year 11s, I say: well done, and keep up the excellent work! Your hard work now will undoubtedly pay dividends in the future.

As we conclude the term, our celebration Acts of Collective Worship have once again proven to be an eagerly anticipated event in our school calendar. These gatherings offer us a wonderful opportunity to recognise and applaud those students who truly embody our Christian vision and values. It's wonderful to see so many of our young people embracing all aspects of school life with enthusiasm and dedication. Their actions and attitudes resonate deeply with John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." This scripture encapsulates our aspiration for every student at Archbishop Holgate's – to live life abundantly, making the most of every opportunity for growth and fulfilment.

As we look ahead to the break, I encourage all our staff and students to rest and recharge, spending quality time with family and friends.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement with our school community.

Families of Previously Looked After Children and Adopted Children

As a school, we are always looking for ways to improve our support for key student groups. We would like to connect with families of adopted children and previously looked-after children to enhance the support we offer.

To formalise this, we are introducing voluntary Pupil Education Plan (PEP) meetings once a term for these students and their families. These meetings will be scheduled around academic data drops, ensuring discussions can focus on both academic progress and personal development. They will also provide an opportunity to address any additional support needs. If a student is also supported by the SEND department, we will aim to align these meetings accordingly.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Lauren Cahill at lcahill@ahs.pmat.academy in the first instance.

In addition, we will be offering informal drop-in sessions for PLAC parents, providing a space to share insights and help us further develop our support. The dates for the first drop-in session will be

School Show - 12-14 March

Students and staff are busy rehearsing and preparing the set for our next musical extravaganza – Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat!



AHS Feedback

We welcome all feedback and thank all parents for their valuable contributions. If you have a query or simply an observation about the school please complete the form online.



Social Media



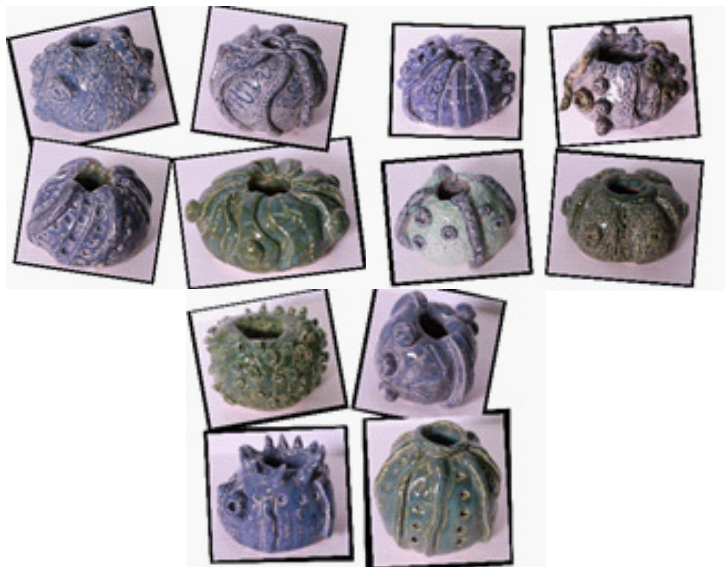
Please follow us on Twitter @AHSYork or Facebook to keep up to date with the latest news and events!



This Week's School News

Art - Work of the Week

Our Year 8 students have been working really hard on their Sea Urchin inspired pots. From initial design, to modelling the clay to glazing their creations, the process has been long but the outcomes are fantastic. Here are some examples of their amazing work. Well done Year 8!



Year 9 Vaccinations

Students in Year 9 are now due to receive the DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio) and MENINGITIS ACWY vaccinations at Archbishop Holgate's school.



Vaccination UK

Please go to <https://yny.schoolvaccination.uk/dtp/2024/northyorkshire> and complete the consent form online, please do this as soon as possible.

If you do not wish to consent to your child having the vaccinations, please complete a formal NO consent via the same link. Community Clinics are also bookable by phone (01904 237680) at Selby Library, YO8 4EQ on Tuesday 18 February & Wednesday 16 April, 10.00-2.00; Regus House, YO30 4XL on Thursday 20 February, Friday 11 April & Wednesday 28 May, 10.00-2.00.

School Immunisation Team, North Yorkshire Administration Team (01904 237680)

Upcoming Events

17-21 Feb	Half Term
Mon 24 Feb	Students return
Wed 5 Mar	Y12 Progress Evening
12-14 Mar	School Show Performances
Thu 13 Mar	Lent Reflections (School Chapel)
Mon 17 Mar	Y9 Vaccinations
Wed 19 Mar	Y11 Progress Evening
Thu 20 Mar	Lent Reflections (School Chapel)
Thu 27 Mar	Lent Reflections (School Chapel)

Food for Thought

This week our Form Tutor Act of Collective Worship is entitled 'What is Love'. It looks at St Valentine's Day and also the Christian faith of the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury and how this inspired his life. Our daily quotes are all on Love.

"Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends."

The Bible, Letter to the Corinthians 13:7-8

To receive the daily Thought for the Day straight to your phone or other electronic device sign up to @AHSChaplaincy on Twitter.



MFL Stars of the Week

Students were nominated by Language staff to receive an Effort merit, a postcard home and appear on the 'Stars Wall' for all their hard work:

KS3 French - Robin Weaver, 7CMm & Henry Tyson, 7MSt

KS3 German - Charley Ayre, 9EPy

KS3 Spanish - Amelia Hanks, 9BDu

KS4 French - Charlotte Sykes, 10ABt

KS4 German - Lily Goldsmith, 10ECs

KS4 Spanish - Brooke Watson, 11Di



What's On in York this February Half Term

Looking for ways to keep the family entertained over the half term break? There are plenty of fantastic activities and events happening across York! Take a look at these websites for inspiration:

York Mumbler – [February Half Term Guide](#)

Little Vikings – [February Half Term in York](#)

Whether you're looking for outdoor adventures, creative workshops, or fun family-friendly events, there's something for everyone.

Kids Eat Free! Half term days out can add up, so why not take advantage of local eateries offering free or discounted meals for children? Check out this handy guide to places where kids eat free or for £1 this half term:

[Kids Eat Free in York](#)

We hope you have a fantastic break!

PLEASE SHARE: If you would like to share students' achievements and events in the community, please email jsissons@ahs.pmat.academy. It's always nice to celebrate our school community.



REWARD & RECOGNITION

Well it's been an incredibly busy but short half term. We seemed to have crammed so much in!

Our first Employee of the Month, Headteacher's Breakfasts, CEO Lunches and a Signature Tie Afternoon Tea.

We really are thrilled and impressed with all of our students here at AHS, here are a few picture highlights from the Signature Ties Afternoon Tea that took place last Thursday. Congratulations again to Nathaniel Greenhouse, Alfred Griffiths and Phoebe Riley-Ennis.



As our Reward ACW take place this week, we are thoroughly enjoying awarding students for a range of achievements, these include gold achievement pins, HOY awards, 100% attendance recognition, top merit earners and much, much, more.

Letters are being sent home this week for the winners of next half term's Headteacher Award, we can't wait to see them for breakfast.

Whilst we do love to recognise and celebrate each and every success, it's important that all parents and carers appreciate that we do really strive to get this right. With this in mind, I would like to apologise for missing a name off the Headteacher's Award winners list in last week's newsletter. This individual has contributed massively to the school and I am very very proud of his hard work and determination.



Headteacher's Breakfast

It was nice to welcome students from Year 12 and 13 around the Headteacher's table this week to listen to their thoughts on life in Sixth Form and what their next steps may be.



Congratulations to:

Year 12/13 Winners	Reason
Sharanyo Mazumdar	For being a fantastic asset to form. He has contributed to a variety of activities during PM reg and created brilliant discussions that include everyone.
Molly Anderson	For her volunteering work in the community and working with younger students as a paired reader. Well done.
Jamie Smith	For being an extremely polite and engaged member of the group who exemplifies the school values! Well done on having such a brilliant first time in Year 12!
Alfie Bagnell	Superb reported in all of his subjects and transitioned well into AHS life. You are SO FAB!
Arien Murray-Kydd	Perfect report and all round fantastic first term of Year 12. Student Leader/voluntary work.

Reuben Moore	Always gets involved in discussions in form, is happy to share and discuss his views with others. Reuben often has a positive attitude and makes a lot of people smile. He has become an integral part of our form, takes active part in the quizzes and has also helped others with subjects they are struggling with.
Clementine Ensor	Shown a fantastic attitude to her studies and all aspects of school life. Friendly, polite, hard-working and thoughtful. She achieved a perfect report in terms of effort, behaviour and homework. A real role-model for anyone wanting to see how to succeed at AHS.
Thea Maunder-Wood	For showing an outstanding attitude towards all aspects of school life, and holding yourself to the highest standards in all you do: being industrious and self-disciplined in your studies, energetic and dedicated as a Student Leader, and thoughtful and generous of spirit in every interaction you have with every other person in the school.
Lily Walker	Great attitude to learning and a pleasure to have in the form group! Really supportive of her peers also.
Betsy Greenway	For all her stunning work with the film about the history of the school!
Lucy Toulson	Working hard consistently across all subjects and always willing to help out- currently doing peer assisted learning for Biology Year 12.
Flossie Harris	For working hard, continually offering support in form time and for effort every day.
Evan Bartholemew	The voice of 13Lv! Always happy to contribute and to lead our discussions in form time. Thank you!
Leland Stagnell	Consistently good attendance, involvement in form time activities, effort with judicious marking in the UC Quiz every week!
Eve Arundel	For her ongoing support to the younger members of our school community.
Jorja Geesing	For always being kind to others in form, making the effort to do nice things for everyone. Just such a nice person.

Headteacher's Breakfast - Future Dates

Dates of the Headteacher's Breakfasts next half term are as follows:

Year 7 - Tuesday 25 February
 Year 8 - Tuesday 4 March
 Year 9 - Tuesday 11 March
 Year 10 - Tuesday 18 March
 Year 11 - Tuesday 25 March
 Year 12 and 13 - Tuesday 1 April

Head of Year Nominations and Award

Well done to our nominees...

KS3, KS4 and KS5		
Gideon Gates	Anna Davies	Scarlett Stockwell
Isla Summerbell	Evie Glaves	Tom Cain
Horus Wong	Jennnifer Abernethy	Harvey Ellerby
Sam Bidinotti	Penny Adlam	Ronald Hui
Ruby Carter	Masal Altun	Silas Ball
Taylor Camp	Kai Belder	Anna Roberts
Ro Shepherd	Beryl Cheung	Cream Suntornsawet
Sam Thompson	Zoe Cheung	Joshua Adams

Poppy Richards	Della Collins	Brooke Watson
Bram Stockdale	Charlotte Crowe	Edward Smith
Ethan Lo	Eunice Dada	Hazel Robinson
Tyler Dennis	Lacie Vialle	Kate Weatherall
Ava Holland	Leah Ward	Milo Abberton
Harry Parkinson	Isabel Weyman	Aiden Fewlass
Elsa Ferrari	Dexter Dowson	Harry Smith
Meleksu Zengin	Amy Arrand	Felix Gomes
Phoebe Neal	Joe Keech	Nelly Hill
Isaac Moor	Isaac Moor	Lois Connell
Annabel Moat	Levi Buys	Chloe Gill
Nelly Hill	Dylan Rankin	Emily Gibson
Sofia Micheli	Lily Walker	Fran Lawson



Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Gideon Gates	Harry Parkinson	Anna Davies
Isla Summerbell	Meleksu Zengin	Evie Glaves

Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
Isabel Weyman	Scarlett Stockwell	Aiden Fewlass	Nelly Hill
Dexter Dowson	Tom Cain	Harry Smith	Isaac Moor

AHS House News



I'm really happy to report that we have had some fantastic results in relation to our house competitions that have been taking place. Alongside the fantastic sports results we also have awards in our D&T competition:

Year 7

1st - Hattie Handley (Snow Leopard)

2nd - Daisy Johnson (Lion)

3rd - Lucy Taylor (Red Panda)

Runner up - Lamar Sabeeh

Runner up - Horus Wong



Year 8

1st - Anu Bell (Blue Car)

2nd - Isla Clark

3rd - Lukas Mitchell-Currey

Runner Up - Alexis Picken



Year 9

1st - Camille Watling (middle)

Runner up - Eve Bate (right)

Runner Up - Oscar East (left)



Year 7 Bright Sparks Challenges

	Name of Competition	Date of competition	Names of Entrants	House Name	Points Outcome
Y7	Bright Sparks Challenges	HT 3	Elizabeth Shevchuk	Bootham	10
			George Mcshane	Bootham	10
			Saby Basu	Micklegate	10
			Cobbie Barrow	Monk	10
			Leina Elgab	Monk	10
			Cora Hawkins	Micklegate	10
			Elisa Romanillos	Bootham	10
			Mickey Sotgiu	Micklegate	10
			E V	Micklegate	10
			Wallis Wrathmell	Bootham	10

Maths Sparx

	Name of Competition	Date of competition	House Name	Points Outcome
Y7	Sparx XP competition	HT3	Bootham	200
			Micklegate	100
			Walmgate	400
			Monk	300
Y8	Sparx XP competition	HT3	Bootham	300
			Walmgate	200
			Micklegate	100
			Monk	400
Y9	Sparx XP competition	HT3	Walmgate	400
			Micklegate	300
			Bootham	100
			Monk	200
Y10	Sparx XP competition	HT3	Bootham	400
			Micklegate	200
			Monk	100
			Walmgate	200
Y11	Sparx XP competition	HT3	Monk	200
			Walmgate	300
			Bootham	200
			Micklegate	100

Half Term House Totals

4th Place Monk	332,174
3rd Place Bootham	334,748
2nd Place Walmgate	340,800
1st Place Micklegate	343,760

Careers Corner



Year 10 and Year 12 should now be well underway with finding a work experience placement.

Please encourage your child to reach out to employers to request placements or to use connections like family and friends.

Year 10 Work Experience w/c 19 May

Year 12 Work Experience w/c 14 July

Head of Year 10, Mr Wells

It has been a busy and eventful first half term as Head of Year 10. It has been a pleasure to get to know as many of the Year 10 as I did this half term, but I know there is still a student I have yet to meet. I look forward to meeting everyone by Easter. They have had a fantastic start to 2025, with some amazing feedback from teachers about their achievements in lessons. This half term our focus in Acts of Collective Worship has been on Anti-Social behaviour. We are sending out a clear message about expectations of behaviour from students in school but also within the community. Students in the year group continue to thrive in Extra-Curricular activities with key contributions in the school musical and sporting fixtures. Our focus moving forward is a continued drive to raise overall attendance in Year 10 and we are working closely with students and families to support this. We also continue to work with students on their work experience placements which will begin w/c 19 May. Students who have not yet secured their work experience placement are asked to please speak to Form Tutors as soon as possible. I wish everyone an enjoyable and re-energising half term break and look forward to seeing you all upon school's return.

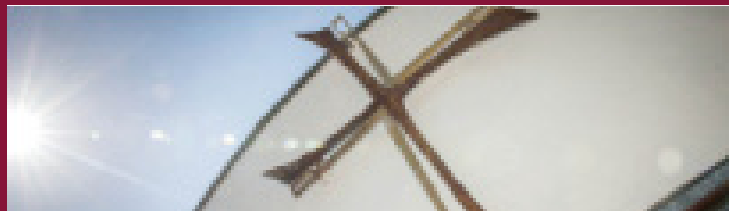


School Menu - 24 February

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mains	Chicken Korma Vegetable Tikka masala (V)	Meat feast Pasta Bake Vegetable pasta Bake (V)	Roast Joint of Beef Covent Garden Crumble (V)	Beef Bolognaise Vegan Bolognaise	Freshly Battered Fish Vegetarian Quiche (V)
On the side	Steamed rice & Naan Bread		Oven Roasted Potatoes Yorkshire pudding	Spaghetti Garlic Bread	Chips
Vegetables	Selection of seasonal vegetables served each day				
Snack selection & Daily Special	Baked Potato & fillings Homemade Sandwiches	Baked Potato & fillings Homemade Sandwiches	Baked Potato & fillings Homemade Sandwiches	Baked Potato & fillings Homemade sandwiches	Baked Potato & fillings Homemade Sandwiches
Family Favourites	Apple Crumble & custard <i>A selection of: Traybake/muffin Cookies Yogurt Fruit</i>	Steamed Syrup Sponge & Custard <i>A selection of: Traybake/muffin Cookies Yogurt Fruit</i>	Lemon Drizzle Cake & Cream <i>A selection of: Traybake/muffin Cookies Yogurt Fruit</i>	Jam Roly- poly & Custard <i>A selection of: Traybake/muffin Cookies Yogurt Fruit</i>	Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate Sauce <i>A selection of: Traybake/muffin Cookies Yogurt Fruit</i>



This Week's Sixth Form News



Message from Mrs De Lashley, Assistant Head: Director of Sixth Form

Year 12 Progress Evening

Letters have been distributed. A reminder that this takes place on Wednesday 5 March. Appointments go live on SchoolCloud at 6.00pm on Monday 24 February.

Sixth Form Social

Movie Night: Friday 14 February, 5.00-7.00pm, Sixth Form Library

Theatre Trip: York Theatre Royal, Thursday 27 March. Letters on request from the Sixth Form Office

London Cultural Experience: 3 day, 2 night stay, May 2025. Letters distributed to all Sixth Formers on Thursday

Krakow Auschwitz-Birkenau: 4 day, 3 night stay, March 2026. Letters distributed to Year 12 and current Year 11 on Thursday.

Year 13 Spring Mock Exams:

	08:55	11:15
Monday 24 th Feb	RE 1hr Physics 2hrs	Geography 2.5hrs
Tuesday 25 th Feb	Sociology 2hrs Media 2hrs	Further Maths 2hrs English Language 2.5hrs
Wednesday 26 th Feb	Chemistry 2hrs	History 2.5hrs French 2.5hrs Spanish 2.5hrs
Thursday 27 th Feb	Biology 2hrs Politics 2hrs	Psychology 2hrs
Friday 28 th Feb	English Lit 3hrs	RE 1hr
Monday 3 rd Mar	Biology 1hr 15min Politics 2hrs	Maths 2hrs
Tuesday 4 th Mar	Sociology 1hr	Further Maths 2hrs
Wednesday 5 th Mar	Media 2hrs Chemistry 2hrs	History 2.5hrs Spanish 2hrs French 2hrs
Thursday 6 th Mar	RE 1hr Physics 1hr 15min	Psychology 2hrs
Friday 7 th Mar	Maths 2hrs	Music 2hrs 15min

Book Recommendation of the Week

A reminder that each week we share a recommendation from the post-16 reading list that we hope our students will engage with. This reading list is one of many that can be found online, but one that we think is broad, challenging and accessible. A copy of all of the listed books can be found in the Resource Centre.



Living Better: How I Learned to Survive Depression by Alastair Campbell

A must-read for teens before they leave home, start university, or enter the workplace, Living Better explores depression, what causes it, how it affects people, how to live with it, and how to use it. This frank, honest and eye-opening autobiographical account offers hope and encourages readers to talk about their feelings. Through discussion of real-life events, it offers fascinating and useful skills. Highly recommended.



School Show - Mini Tour

This week, some of the students involved in our forthcoming production of "Joseph" kicked off their Primary School mini tour! Their first visit was to Badger Hill School with trips to St Lawrence's and Lord Deramore's planned for after half term! Go Go Go Team Joseph!



Student Success

Lexi Thompson, Year 10, attended a dance competition with her team from Fantasy Cheer and Dance at Winter Gardens in Blackpool last weekend. Lexi's team were awarded an incredible three 1st places and an Allstar Worlds bid to compete in Florida next year - Congratulations!



Physical Education Department

"Equipping students with the knowledge, skills and motivation to live active, healthy lives."



Football

AHS hosted St Aidan's for a Y10 cup fixture on Wednesday afternoon. The visitors were very physical and played some good football right from the start, but the AHS boys soon got a hold of the game and tried to play some really good football. AHS were 1-0 up within 20 mins. They added to this via a Lucas A 'Worldie' from a Freddie J-N corner kick.

The game was played at a high intensity right up until the final whistle. Both teams put in a top performance. AHS were strong in every area, particularly in defence.

Netball

The Y8 netballers were on flying form last week playing a home game against Manor winning 16-6. Star player goes to Imogen Stevens for her work in defence. The girls all showed passion and determination to win and it has been impressive to see their growth over this season, improving each game on their ability and tactical awareness of the sport. Well done to all who played.

The Y7 and 8 ladies were playing a home netball fixture v Millthorpe last week. Y8 played a very closely contested match to the very end with very few points in it, but unfortunately were not able to produce a win on this occasion (12-9). Each player showed resilience and determination and played a very fast-moving game of netball.

The Y7's were playing tough opposition against a year above them. Again, they showed excellent resilience and passion for the game and worked incredibly hard as a team, but unfortunately the opposition were too strong for them on this occasion. Star players go to Daisy Johnson, Ini Olanipekun, Janelle Mak and Hannah Moffatt.

Basketball

The Y7 and 8 basketball team did incredibly well to reach the U13 trophy final, beating strong opposition teams along the way including Joseph Rowntree and Bootham schools. Unfortunately, during the final the team could not sustain their unbeaten run and fell short to a good All Saints team. The team represented the school very well, living out the core values wholeheartedly. The MVP award goes to Jake R who demonstrated fine skill and knowledge on many occasions leading the team to multiple victories as the highest point scorer. Raylan D had the most success from downtown, shooting multiple 3's throughout the campaign. And a final shout out for Rafferty W for his grand enthusiasm and team spirit.



Have you signed up for the Do it 4 Youth 120 Mile Challenge?

Join hundreds of others this March to walk, wheel or run 120 miles, anywhere and anytime you choose, to help the DoFE charity transform the lives of more young people.

The challenge is FREE to join and when you sign up you'll receive a free Do it 4 Youth t-shirt.

If you complete the challenge and raise at least £50 for the DoFE, you'll earn an exclusive Do it 4 Youth pin badge!

Whether you take on the challenge solo, with a group of friends, family, or work colleagues, you'll be raising vital funds to support young people who might struggle to access the DoFE. You've seen first-hand how the DoFE transforms lives, your support will ensure that we can reach more young people from all backgrounds to build lifelong belief in themselves.

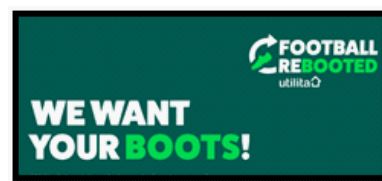
Use the link below to sign up or go to the DoFE website.

Kit Reminders

Please can we remind students that everyone needs to have a school hoodie or reversible for their outdoor PE lessons. As the weather is turning cold, students need to be dressed appropriately for their lessons as we will be outside in all weathers. Students will also need to ensure that they have shin pads, navy blue football socks and boots for their football and rugby lessons due to health and safety. All PE kit is available from Keal Teamwear on Walmgate or through the secondhand school UNIFORMD shop. Please see the school website for more details.



Boot Donation Scheme



We've re-joined the mission to help rehome at least one million pairs of football boots across the UK and stop them ending up in landfill. If you've got football boots at home that are no longer being used and taking up room – then help us to get them back out on the pitch and save them from ending up in landfill! The donation box is in reception, so give them a clean and pop them in the box.



Tweet us @ [@AHSPhysEd](https://twitter.com/AHSPhysEd)





Swimming Gala

Congratulations to all those that took part in the swimming gala for their house last week. We had a fantastic, and very noisy, time with some superb performances and compassion shown throughout.

Well done to all the Sports Captains for their fabulous organisational skills.



Inter house Swimming Gala RESULTS



Year 7 Girl's Gala

1. Walmgate
2. Monk
3. Bootham
4. Micklegate

Year 7 Boy's Gala

1. Micklegate
2. Walmgate
3. Monk
4. Bootham



Inter house Swimming Gala RESULTS



Year 8 Girl's Gala

1. Micklegate
2. Bootham
3. Walmgate
4. Monk

Year 8 Boy's Gala

1. Bootham
2. Walmgate
3. Monk
4. Micklegate



Inter house Swimming Gala RESULTS



Year 9 Girl's Gala

1. Bootham
2. Micklegate
3. Walmgate
4. Monk

Year 9 Boy's Gala

1. Bootham
2. Micklegate
3. Monk
4. Walmgate

The next Inter House PE competitions will be at the end of next half term.

AHS Maths Dept. – Sparx Update:

Spring (Feb 2025)

Sparx competition

Our house competition has been very close this half term! Students have been using their Sparx to gain extra merits for their houses. There have been separate results for each year, but here are the overall, school wide results – congratulations WALMGATE!

House	Total Points
Bootham	1200
Micklegate	800
Walmgate	1500
Monk	1200

Sparx Support Sessions

Need a quiet space to sit and do your homework?

Want to ask a maths teacher for help on a particular question?

Drop-in support sessions run EVERY LUNCHTIME in MA12 😊

Most Successful Form

9BI

Most Successful Year

Year 7

Most Successful Class

7MPE/Ma

Student of the ½ Term

Ethan Paul

Independent learning
champion

Ashley Tseng

HT3 Average Completion Rate

76%

We're still aiming for 100%!



AHS Maths Dept. – Sparx Update:

Spring 1 (Feb 2025)

House competition:

Any pupil who wins these competitions not only win an individual prize but also earns some house merits!

Research has suggested that students who spend more time working on their XP Boost and Target homework as well as their Compulsory homework tend to make better progress in their learning.

What is XP Boost? XP Boost homework is an opportunity for each student to continue their learning by answering more consolidation and revision questions from topics previously covered in homework.

What is Target? Target homework is made up of up to 6 questions that Sparx thinks each student will find challenging. Parents & carers receive emails each week with information about the current homework and a link to a video that can be used to support their child in answering their first target question.

YEAR 11 FOCUS

The ‘independent learning’ feature on Sparx is a must for Students have their QLA sheets from their mock results with information on what to revise and work on. They simply type the topic name or Sparx code into the search box and they will be provided with lots of revision questions. Studies have shown students who complete all Sparx will achieve at least a whole grade higher than those who don’t!



Parkhill Business Centre, Walton Road, Wetherby, LS22 5DZ

Half Day Workshop for Parents and Carers 'Autism and Adolescence'



Guest speaker, Geoff Evans, will explore the possible reasons why adolescence can be a difficult and stressful time for many autistic young people and their families

Saturday 8th March 2025

09.30am to 12.30pm

**Temple Moor High School and Sixth Form, Field End Grove,
Selby Road, Leeds, LS15 0PT**

Subsidised booking fee of £5

Additional voluntary donations are welcome



To book your place please email;

enquiries@livingautismfoundation.org

Bank details: Living Autism Foundation

Sort Code: 55-81-11

Account No: 85198951

Previous Feedback: 100% positive

- *Excellent presentation*
- *Sharing views*
- *So helpful, insightful*
- *A wealth of information*
- *Better understanding of what works and doesn't work*

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE RELATIONSHIPS & DATING APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Dating apps are used to help people find new relationships – whether casual or more long term – matching users based on age, interests, gender and more. Some may consider dating apps harmless to under-18s because they aren't able to use them, but effective age verification measures are quite scarce, and it's been known for young people to end up on apps of this type.

EASE OF ACCESS

The relatively lax age verification process of many dating apps makes them incredibly accessible to children who really shouldn't be using them. This carries the obvious risk of exposing under-18s to a dating scene populated by adults – who may not even be aware of the young person's true age. This is concerning when we consider the 'hook-up culture' common on these apps – with many people using them to arrange casual sexual encounters.

CONTACT AND CONDUCT RISKS

Once someone is active on a dating app, their social media profiles can be linked to the app and might be accessed by others. This can lead to random users 'sliding into their DM's' (sending a direct message) without consent. Complete strangers could start bombarding a young person's inbox with pictures, messages and sexual comments.

SCAMS AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Some young people may feel they've formed a real bond with someone through online dating, but there's always a risk that it's not genuine. Scammers on these apps often build romantic connections with their victims – then once they feel they have their victim's trust, they begin asking for money under false pretences (such as suggesting they meet in person and requesting a 'loan' to cover a train ticket).

UNVERIFIED ACCOUNTS

As with all online interactions, you may not be talking to whom you think you are. Without paying a subscription, users of dating apps can often only view a certain number of profiles at a time. A TikTok trend has advised young people to set their age limit to 80 years and over – putting them in a sparse and more 'exclusive' category to bypass the usual restrictions. Unfortunately, this can lead to matches with someone much older.

PEER PRESSURE

The pressure to be in a relationship can be huge, and many young people use online dating apps as a cost-effective way to meet others. Some users find it difficult to meet people organically due to their lifestyle, and may not have the time or money to go out and socialise. It's also common for young people to set up accounts for their single friends in the hope of finding a match for someone they know.

SKEWED PERSPECTIVES

Dating apps can promote an unrealistic view of what makes someone attractive. With such vast options, some users can become both picky and extremely harsh about others' appearance. Ultimately, all you see on these apps are pictures (with no insight into someone's personality), and some young people struggle with the fear of being judged. Even when someone does start dating, there's a persistent paranoia that their partner is only one swipe away from a potentially better match.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK ABOUT DATING APPS

Let young people know that they can talk to you about anything, even something as private as their dating life. At school, the relationships, sex and health curriculum can assist with conversations around healthy relationships, consent and online safety. Emphasise the message that you want to help them make healthy, safe and informed choices. If they feel embarrassed talking to you, make sure they have a trusted adult who can help them.

ENCOURAGE DATA PROTECTION

Empower young people to protect their data and personal information. Explain why including things like their school, age and surname in their profile could potentially be dangerous. Make sure they know never to give out personal details, and that there's no reason for other users to ask for them. If they feel uneasy about a situation online, they need to speak to someone that they can trust.

VERIFICATION STAMPS

Explain that someone using a dating app should only communicate with those who have gone through a verification process. Online dating apps use a variety of methods to ascertain a user's identity, including scanning valid documents (such as a driver's licence or passport). Verification can also involve users taking a selfie to ensure that the photos on their profile match it.

REPORT AND BLOCK

Remind young people that they can always report or block (or both) anyone who makes them feel uncomfortable on any platform. Ask if they know how to do this and offer to help them figure it out if they're unsure. Every app should have advice on how to report or block another user, so be sure young people are familiar with the settings.

Meet Our Expert

Rebecca Jennings works at RAISE (www.raiseducation.org.uk) in the field of relationships, sex and health education, providing educational, age-appropriate workshops for pupils around the more sensitive areas of the curriculum – including online safety and healthy relationships.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/online-relationships-dating-apps>

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Support Staff Vacancies

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Job	After School Club Supervisor
School	Welburn Community Primary School
Details	Grade: Scalepoint 5 (£24,790 per annum pro rata). Contract Type: Term time only Hours: 6 hours per week with a possibility of up to 9 hours.
Closes	Friday 28th February at Midday

Job	Supply Teaching Assistant
School	Applefields School
	External Vacancy - Please follow link
Details	Salary: NJC Grade 4 Level 1-4. Includes 5.65 weeks annual leave during school holidays. Job type: Full Time, Part Time, Supply Start Date: ASAP
Closes	6th April 2025

Job	Teaching Assistant (Level 2)
School	St Lawrence's CE Primary School
Details	Grade 4 Level 1 (£24,335 per annum) reduced pro-rata. Fixed term contract initially until 22nd July 2025. Term time only. 18.75 hours per week – Monday, Tuesday and Friday's. Flexibility on days worked would be advantageous.
Closes	Friday 14th February at Midday

Job	Exam Invigilator
School	Malton School
Details	£12.45 per hour. Casual Contract
Closes	N/A

Job	SEND Classroom Teacher
School	Applefields School
	External Vacancy - Please follow link
Details	Salary: Main scale pay range 1 to 6 plus SEN point 1 Job type: Full Time, Fixed Term Start date: 2nd June 2025
Closes	23rd February 2025

