



School Newsletter 575

Values – Care – Achievement

Friday 12 December 2025

Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parents and Carers,



What a week of Christmas cheer at Archbishop Holgate's!

It has been great to serve over 1500 staff and students for Christmas dinner. The atmosphere was truly festive, with Christmas jumpers and carols creating a wonderful spirit. It was particularly nice to see so many staff supporting, serving lunch and supervising. Our community came together beautifully, and we also demonstrated our charitable nature by asking students and teachers to bring £1 to support Save the Children. I would like to give special thanks to all the catering, cleaning and site staff for their extra work this week in ensuring events like this take place. Their dedication makes these extra-ordinary school experiences possible.

Thursday morning brought another moment of celebration as we recognised the winners of our Christmas card competition. The winning designs truly reflect the incredible artistic talent we have at our school. In fact, the winning design has been shared with staff and colleagues across York, showcasing the remarkable creativity of our students.

The final highlight of the week was undoubtedly our Minister Carol Service last night. I felt immensely proud of our singers, musicians, and performers, who were exceptional. It was wonderful to see so many students - both past and present - along with our dedicated staff, coming together to support the school. This truly was a special night that has launched us into the festive season and reminded us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

As we head into the final week of term, we have another exciting event to look forward to - the return of the Masked Singer at AHS, which is sure to bring more festive fun and excitement to our school community. I would like to thank those staff members involved, who have genuinely embraced the spirit of Christmas by giving their time (and losing their dignity) to bring smiles to students and raise funds for charity, thinking of others and not themselves.

Best wishes for the week ahead,
Lucie Pond, Headteacher

Curriculum Information and Revision Support on Our Website

We want all families to feel confident in knowing what their child is learning and how best to support them at home. To make this easier, our school website now includes a dedicated Curriculum overview section for every subject area. Here, you can find clear maps showing what pupils are studying each term, the key knowledge they are building, and how their learning progresses over time. Please click [here](#) to access this webpage.

We have also brought together the most helpful GCSE revision materials, including knowledge organisers, revision guides, and links to useful online resources. These materials are designed to support pupils in reviewing their learning regularly and preparing confidently for assessments and the external examinations. Please click [here](#) to access this webpage.

You can explore all of this by visiting the Curriculum tab on our website, selecting your child's subject, and opening the relevant learning and revision information. We hope these updates make it even easier for you to stay informed and support your child's success. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do get in touch.

Food for Thought

As we journey towards Christmas this Advent season, we join the rest of the Church of England in using materials produced by the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust entitled "The Joy of Christmas". We'll be exploring different ways of encountering Joy in the stories of Mary, the shepherds and the wise men. This week we look at the joy of the Shepherd's.



"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."

Norman Vincent Peale; leader in the Reformed Church in America

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.



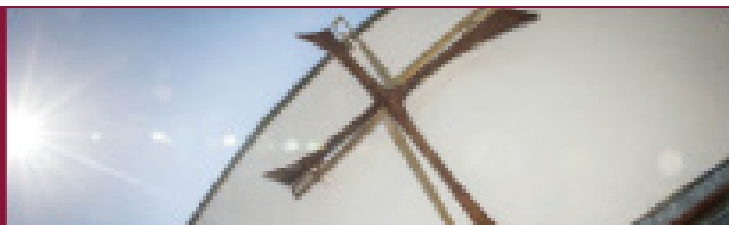
Social Media



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



This Week's School News



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 - May Gilbert, 8Cm
KS3 German - Charlie Brock, 7By
KS3 Spanish - Hattie Handley, 8MFr
KS4 French - Daniel Patterson, 10Al
KS4 German - Imogen Potter, 10CDe
KS4 Spanish - Ala Cheung, 10JDI
KS5 German - Ada Cole, 13CWs



Art - Work of the Week

Year 10 student Janice Chang has created a beautiful mixed media landscape study inspired by Van Gogh and David Hockney.



Government launches national conversation on SEND

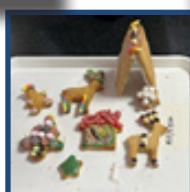
Government acts on commitment to make sure parents play a central role in helping shape the future Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) system, as it sets ambition to deliver the biggest national conversation on SEND in a generation.

There are several ways to get involved:

- Sign up to attend a regional engagement event [here](#).
- Sign up to attend an online event [here](#).

Gingerbread House Challenge in Year 9 Nurture

The Year 9 Nurture group spent this week making and decorating their own gingerbread houses. It quickly turned into a friendly competition, with each student putting in an impressive amount of effort and creativity. Every house showcased unique designs and imaginative touches, but in the end, Meleksu was crowned the winner. The whole group worked incredibly hard and should be proud of what they created.



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

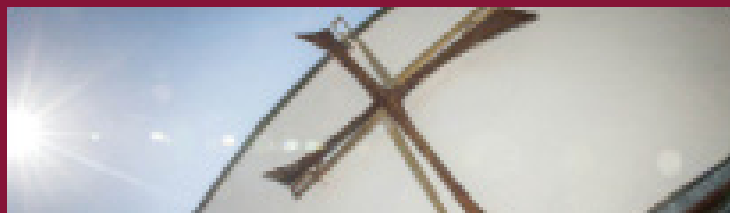
Upcoming Events

Fri 19 Dec
Mon 5 Jan
Tue 6 Jan

Students break up for Christmas, 12.30pm
Staff Training Day (school closed to students)
Students return



This Week's Sixth Form News



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

Visit by Luke Charters, MP

Luke Charters, MP, visited Archbishop Holgate's to meet the newly elected AHS School Parliament members (KS3-4) and also spent time speaking to Year 12 and 13 Politics students about his role as an MP. He spoke about what it's been like being an MP for almost 18 months, the youngest MP with children in Parliament, and gave advice on how the students can have a positive impact during their time as a Parliament member. He also took questions from students on how they might persuade people to agree with them, what his plans were for his constituency, had he always wanted to work in Politics and what was the most challenging speech he'd ever done. It was great to hear from two Members of Parliament over the last week and we hope our School Parliament and A Level students have learned a lot from their visits! We now look forward to visiting them in Westminster during 2026.



Book Recommendation

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.



What Does It All Mean?: A Very Short Introduction to Philosophy by Thomas Nagel

A highly accessible, short and readable introduction to key philosophers and philosophical ideas. Free will, right and wrong, and the mind, body and soul are discussed with examples, contradictions and opposing points of view. The reader is invited to form their own opinion. It's ideal for students considering philosophy or political theory at university, or just to provoke blindingly erudite and eyebrow-raising discussion at the dinner table.



**AGED 13-25 AND LIVING
IN ENGLAND OR WALES?**

**HAVE YOUR SAY ON
POLICING NATIONALLY**

The IOPC Youth Panel wants to hear your views on policing in your community and the police complaints process.



**Take the
survey
now**

Deadline 11th January 2026

Responses will be used to produce national recommendations for change for police forces, PCCs and partner agencies.



IOPC Independent Office for Police Conduct

**LEADERS
UNLOCKED**

As we head to the final week let's reflect on so many positives:

- This week we welcomed the NHS Wellbeing Team leading Act of Collective Worship on 'Being Kind at Christmas'
- We were blown away by Christmas Dinner and our fabulous Carol Service at York Minster.



Next week we have our ACW Celebrations and The Masked Singer!

The Masked Singer

The live final of The Masked Singer will take place on Thursday 18 December, 4.30-6.00pm.

Tickets **NOW ON SALE** on Parent Pay and cost £5. No physical ticket will be given but students will be registered at the event.

All money raised will be split between two charities 'The Unity Fund' and 'Uganda 2027'!



AHS Personal Development Hub and Merit Mart

At the Personal Development Hub, students are able to collect information about everyday life, extracurricular activities, trips and visits and careers. There will also be a number of opportunities for students to take part in 'Pupil Voice' to give feedback on a number of 'hot topics' based on the school community.



The Merit Mart is our students' happy place, where they can enquire about their merits and spend them on various items in the shop. Items include:

Stationary Key Rings Board Games
Books Water Bottles Vouchers
The opportunity to enter termly raffles

Students will be able to access the Personal Development Hub in line with the Merit Mart opening times, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 1.30-2.00pm.

Head of Year Award Winners

Each week we are thrilled to celebrate students outstanding achievements. This week we are celebrating the following HoY winners:

Year 7	
M S	For hard work and living out the school values.
Walter Wright	For hard work and living out the school values.
Year 8	
M C	Historian of the week
Lamar Sabeeh	For her support with the Anne Frank Exhibition
Year 9	
Jack Bexon	Jack has chosen to use his logistical and creative talent to make the school look Christmassy; giving his time freely, his ideas willingly, his technical acumen appropriately and working hard to make the school look great for everyone.
Covenant Oluwasuyi	Covenant is an absolute delight to teach - she always works incredibly hard and shows great enthusiasm and passion for History. Well done!
Year 10	
Nursel Anar	Nursel is working so hard in Textiles and is a delight to have in the group!
Gerrard Humphrey	Showing kindness in IT and supporting new students to settle into the class.
Year 11	
Daniel Ajulo	Working really hard towards his exams and receiving the most positives during this time.
Kacie-Mai Bland	Fantastic to see you in the exams and part of the yeargroup. Keep it up.

A reminder of rewards and recognition available throughout the year within the table below:

Daily/Weekly	Half Termly	Termly	Yearly
House Merits (ALL Staff)	Subject Certificates	AHS Accolades	Reward and Recognition Mornings
HOY Award Nomination (ALL Staff)	Headteachers Breakfast	CEO Award	Sport Day
HOY Award (Year Teams)	House Competitions	Awarding of House Ties/Signature Tie	Announcing the House Winners and Presentation of the House Cup
Positive Messages / Phone Calls (ALL Staff)	Celebratory ACW and Award Distribution	Whole School Celebrations (Christmas, Easter and Summer)	
House Competitions		House Competitions	
		Whole School Celebrations	

Physical Education Department

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



Football

The Year 7 & 8 girls attended a football tournament on Tuesday and played some great football and displaying some impressive link up play! There were some very good opponents that gave them some tough matches! Despite a few own goals, they finished 5th out of 8, well done girls!



Trampolining Success

Oliver Matthewson, in Year 7, had another trampolining competition this weekend, the Regional Challenge Cup qualifier 1 in Harrogate. Oliver competed in the 11-12 age group and finished in first place. This means he will progress onto the next round in March. Well done Oliver and good luck for the next round.



PE 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 starts to turn cold, students need to be dressed appropriately for their lessons as we will be outside in all weather. 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 second-hand school UNIFORMMD 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. Thank you.



Duke Of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Mr Goldsmith was delighted with the amazing turn out at the Duke of Edinburgh meeting before half term. Please return the reply slips to him as soon as possible.



School Menu - Monday 15 December

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mains	Pasta Carbonara Roasted vegetable pesto pasta (v)	Chicken Curry Vegetable Curry (Vegan)	Pork Sausages Vegan Quorn sausage	Beef Lasagne Oven Roasted Vegetable Lasagne (V)	End of term Merry Christmas from All the Catering Team
On the side	Garlic bread	Rice	Mashed potato Yorkshire Pudding	Garlic Bread	
Vegetable	Selection of Seasonal Vegetables served each day				
Snack option & Daily Special	Baked jacket potato a selection of fillings Homemade sandwiches	Baked jacket potato & fillings Homemade Sandwiches	Baked jacket potato & fillings Homemade Sandwiches	Baked jacket potato & fillings Homemade sandwiches	
Family Favourites	Fruit Crumble & Custard A selection of: Traybake/muffin Cookies Yogurt Fruit	Jam sponge & Custard A selection of: Traybake/muffin Cookies Yogurt Fruit	Fruit Jelly A selection of: Traybake/muffin Cookies Yogurt Fruit	Chocolate sponge & chocolate sauce A selection of: Traybake/muffin Cookies Yogurt Fruit	

 This week at SEND CENTRAL 				
15-19 December 2025				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along
Wellbeing in Mind- Elective Home Education Offer Identifying and responding to big feelings 11am-11.45pm Home educated young people and their parents/carers come along- no booking.	Portage Music Group 1.30pm-2.30pm Workshop- Invite only	Early Years SEND Playgroup Seedlings CHRISTMAS PARTY 10am - 11.30 am All welcome no booking required	SEND Casework Duty Worker 10am-2pm Advice and information bookable slots. Please book via SENDCENTRAL@york.gov.uk or call 01904 555076	NHS Preparation for Adulthood 10am - 4pm Drop in - advice and information- All welcome no booking required.
INFORMATION SESSION - Understanding local support for Children and Young People with Sensory Processing Differences 1pm-2pm Everyone welcome no need to book just come along.	YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm-6.30pm Bookable Only via YIKS	Think Together Team running planned workshops - invite only 10am-4pm	YIKS Parent/carers SEND drop in 9.30am-11am All Welcome no booking required	YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm- 6.30pm Bookable only via YIKS
YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm- 6.30pm Bookable Only via YIKS	YIKS Siblings Group 6.45pm- 8.00pm	YIKS Autism Hub 4.30pm- 6.30pm Bookable only via YIKS	Healthy Child Team 9am - 12pm Drop in - self weigh 0- 5 years 2pm - 3.30pm 4 month workshop- invite only.	
			YIKS Post 16 Group 6.30pm -8pm	

Happy Healthy Holidays

WHAT: Holiday football fun course

WHEN: Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd December

WHERE: LNER Community Stadium, YO32 9AE, 3G

TIME: 10-3pm

REFRESHMENTS: Water, Snacks and packed lunch will be provided

WHO: Families eligible for benefits-related free school meals living in York



How to book:

Please use your voucher code at
www.holidayactivities.com

These Free holiday Activities are designed to give young people the opportunity to get active using football as the tool in a FUN, SAFE and SECURE environment.

If you would like any further information or to book in ADVANCE please contact
inclusion@yorkcityfcfoundation.co.uk



Happy Healthy Holidays

WHAT: Holiday football fun course

WHEN: Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd December

WHERE: Millthorpe School, YO23 1WF, 3G

TIME: 10-3pm

REFRESHMENTS: Water, Snacks and packed lunch will be provided

WHO: Families eligible for benefits-related free school meals living in York



How to book:

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Happy Healthy Holidays

WHAT: Holiday football fun course

WHEN: Friday 2nd January 2026

WHERE: Millthorpe School, YO23 1WF, 3G

TIME: 10-3pm

REFRESHMENTS: Water, Snacks and packed lunch will be provided

WHO: Families eligible for benefits-related free school meals living in York



How to book:

Please use your voucher code at
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WHEN: Friday 2nd January 2026

WHERE: LNER Community Stadium, YO32 9AE, 3G

TIME: 10-3pm

REFRESHMENTS: Water, Snacks and packed lunch will be provided

WHO: Families eligible for benefits-related free school meals living in York



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OUR SCHOOLS ARE RECRUITING



Support Staff Vacancies

For details and to apply, visit our [website](#) or scan the QR code

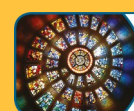
Job	MSA
School	Hempland Primary School
Details	Grade 2 Level 1-4 (24,309—24,399 pro Rata) 6.25 Hours a week—11.45—13.00 Permanent Term Time Only Required from: 5th January 2026 or sooner if available
Closes	Monday 15th December at Midday

Job	Breakfast & After School Club Assistant
School	Heworth CE Primary School
Details	Grade 3 Level 1-4 Full time equivalent starting salary = £24,483, reduced pro-rata. Hourly rate payable is £12.73. Permanent, Term Time Only
Closes	Monday 5th January 2026 at 09.00am

Job	After School Club Assistant
School	Rufforth Primary School
Details	Grade 3 Level 1: £24,483 per annum (reduced pro rata) Monday—Friday 3pm– 6.00pm. Term time only.
Closes	Friday 19th December at 08.00am

Job	Head of Year
School	Malton School
Details	NJC Payscale Grade H, Scale Points 18-23. 37 hours per week. Term time plus one week (incl. training days) £27,655—£30,195 per annum Actual Salary Based on £31,537—£34,434 per annum FTE Required ASAP
Closes	Monday 12th January 2026 at 09.00am

Job	Teaching Assistant Early Years
School	Poppleton Road Primary School
Details	29.25 hours Monday - Friday 8.30am to 3.15pm (including some lunch and break duties) TA2 Grade 4, level 1 –4 (£25,114 - £26,319 per annum, reduced pro rata)
Closes	Thursday 8th January at 12pm



OUR SCHOOLS ARE RECRUITING



Support Staff Vacancies

For details and to apply, visit our [website](#) or scan the QR code



Job	MSA
School	Rufforth Primary School
Details	Grade 2 Level 1 – 4 (24,309 pro rata) Fixed Term contract. 2 days a week, days to be discussed 12.00-1.00pm term time only Required week commencing 3rd November 2025.
Closes	N/A

Job	Finance Officer
School	Archbishop Holgate's School—York
Details	Permanent Full Year (flexibility around hours/days for the right candidate) Hours of work: 14.8 hours per week Grade 9 Levels 1-4 (£38,212-£42,849 Pro Rata)
Closes	N/A

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

Job	Cleaning Assistant
School	Archbishop Holgate's School
Details	Currently £12.60 per hour Full Year or Term Time 20 hours per week, Monday-Friday, 3.30-7.30pm Salary paid monthly over 12 equal payments Required as soon as possible
Closes	N/A

