Team MINSTHORPE

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EDITION 3

WINTER TERM 2020

Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation • Commitment • Care

As we come towards the end of this momentous first term following the college closure we would like to say a huge thank you for the amazing support everyone has shown in getting the college back up and running. We have done lots of things differently this year, including the Year 6 open evening, the Post 16 information evening and lots of virtual communication with students, parents and staff. We have also experienced doing parents' evenings in a different way with our new virtual parents' evenings app which began with Post 16. The students have a new learning platform where they can now find all their home learning, revision materials and, of course, remote learning when we have to unfortunately ask students to isolate. Students across all year groups really have risen to the challenge this term, following the guidance we have put in place







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to keep everyone safe.

As we enter December we thought this was a good opportunity to let you see some of the key events that have taken place this term and although we have not been able to run our immense after-college programme or take trips and visits we are sure you can see there have been many outstanding experiences that have taken place throughout this term.

As you know we love to celebrate the achievements of our wonderful students and we love rewarding them for following our values of Motivation, Commitment and Care. Students who have gone above and beyond with their efforts and attitudes have been rewarded in our special virtual rewards assemblies. We have also met with students who have done this across all their subjects to personally congratulate them for a great term.

Please take a few minutes to browse through our newsletter and join us in being truly amazed by our students and staff!

Finally, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Christmas is a wonderful time, especially for young people, but it is more important than ever that we continue to stay safe and look after one another. We look forward to seeing our wonderful students again on the 4th January 2021, but please remember that COVID-19 restrictions will continue into the new year, so a reminder that if you are feeling unwell, please do not come to school.

Thank you

Mr Gilmore Mrs Merritt

Year 7 Great Book Give Away

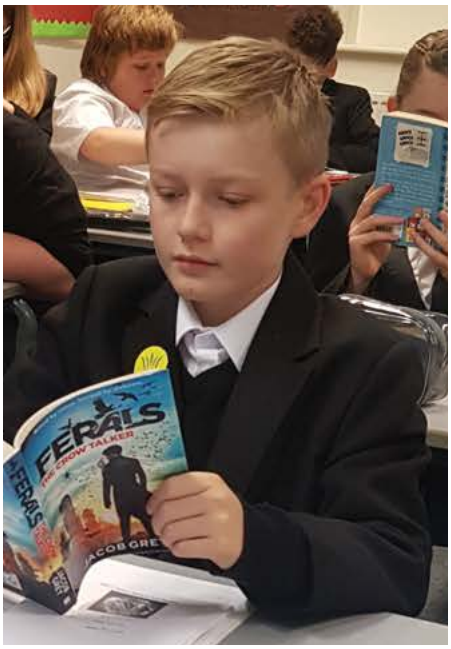
It is that time of year again for the Minsthorpe Great Book Give Away!

We are on a relentless mission at Minsthorpe to get all children reading! Why? Because...reading for pleasure has a dramatic impact on educational outcomes, wellbeing and social mobility, and is also a huge pleasure in itself! Each year we purchase every Year 7 students a book and this year is no different! Our Year 7 students have received an early Christmas present and have all chosen a book to take home and read! It was great to see excitement around choosing a book and their smiling faces as they opened the front covers and began to read!













Year 11 Take to the Track

A number of our Year 11 GCSE students have completed their 800m as part of the individual Athletics practical grade.

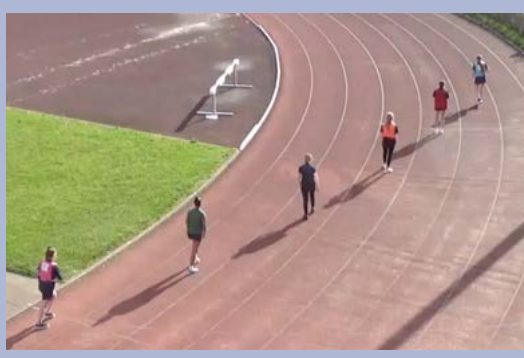
All students listened well and worked to their best possible levels.

It was a really positive experience for everyone involved.





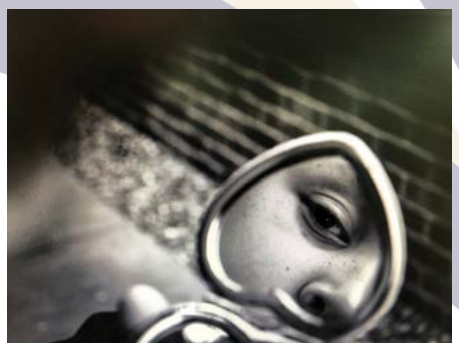




Post 16

Minsthorpe has seen a fantastic number of students return to its Post 16. The range of courses allow learners of all levels to access the provision and develop their skills and understanding. The photos demonstrate both the wide selection of courses that Minsthorpe Post 16 offers but also the incredible skills and talents shown by our learners. The current Post 16 cohort have shown a maturity beyond their years and act as role models to younger student with how they have responded to the new systems and procedures that are in place to keep students and staff safe.













Introducing our new School Police Officer

Some of you may have already seen PC Vollans at Minsthorpe over the past few weeks.

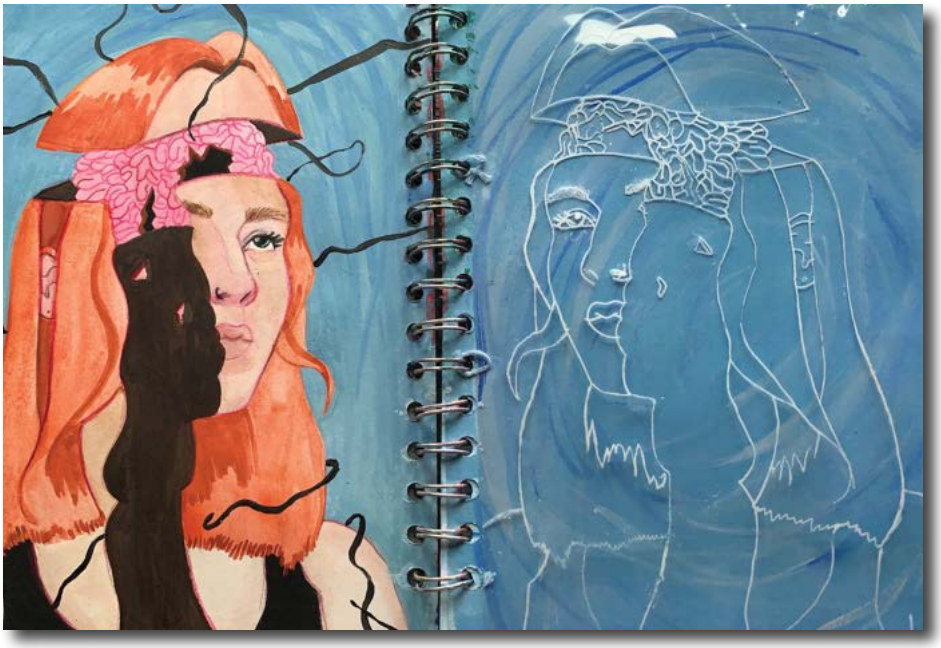
He will mainly be in College on a Wednesday and will work with us to help support the college and our community. Students will start to see him in key lessons such as SMSC/L4L.

He will also deliver some small group or individual sessions
He has been with West Yorkshire police for 16 years as a PC in and around the Wakefield area.

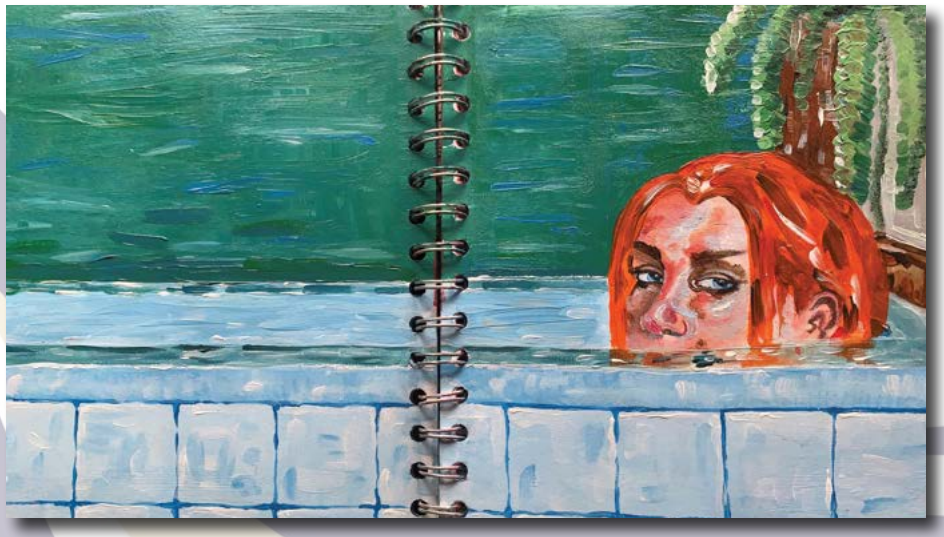
He has been supporting Castleford, Airedale & Kettlethorpe High Schools for the past 3 years and works with the Youth Service with the 'Branching Out Project' in the school holiday period.

Please make him feel welcome and ask him for advice or support if needed.









A Level Art Showcase

Drew Staniforth

Post 16 Photography

This is Drew Staniforth's Photography work. She is consistently wanting to better her skills by seeking advice and then putting that into practice. We are extremely impressed with her both in Art and Photography.

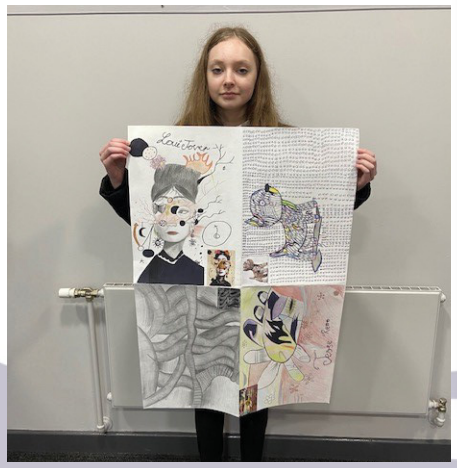


Year 10 Art Showcase









Year 7 Hit the Ground Running

Mrs Drysdale is so pleased with how the vast majority of our new students have started with us here at Minsthorpe so she wants to say a big well done to our Year 7 cohort! We are proud of the way they have been learning in the Minsthorpe Way in all their different subjects. We know that they have enjoyed meeting all their new teachers and starting learning the different subjects and brand new topics.

As a new Year Group, they have embraced a whole new set of rules and routines using our Be Fair system, allowing learning to take place in the classroom as well as keeping themselves and others safe. This was demonstrated in the recent transition report that has been sent to parents at the end of this first half term. So many Year 7 students have received effort grades of Good and Outstanding on this report which shows they have definitely made a positive first impression!

They have been demonstrating our core values of motivation, commitment and care in the way they conduct themselves during the college day and we want them all to continue to do this as we go through this year and beyond.

Ynys Music Exam


























Music at Minsthorpe

Our Year 9 & 10 music students have been really busy this term working towards their performance exam as part of the BTEC music course. Ms Chamberlain and Mr Jones have been blown away with the amazing talent and commitment shown over the last few weeks and the hard work and determination paid off with stunning performances and the highest grades achieved.

Our Year 12 Level 3 BTEC music students have also been so impressive with their continued dedication to the course, preparing for their solo recital. The musicianship on show in their mock recitals was outstanding.

Special mention goes to Jessica Nelmes, Travis Phillips and Neve Simmons for their awesome performances, but we feel extremely proud of all students over the last few weeks and excited as to what the rest of the year will brin



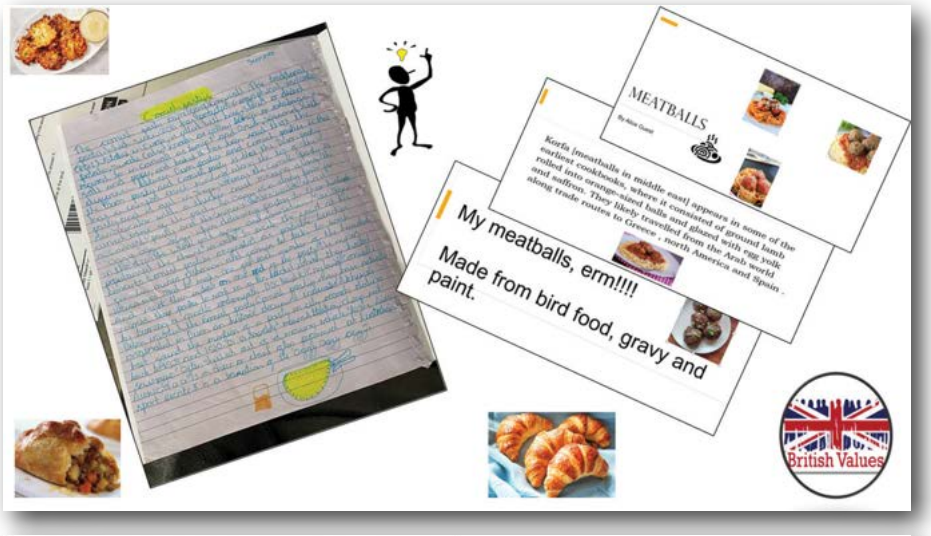
SMSC Homelearning Task Autumn 2020

In class students have been looking at the importance of food. Their homelearning was to find out about one other food. From where does it originate? Why is it important? Does it have religious significance? E.g. pancakes, latkes, Cornish pasty, baklava, pretzel, noodles, haggis, jiaozi, dumpling.

We had some amazing pieces of work and judging the best wasn't easy! These are the names of the students who were rewarded for their fantastic efforts with a £5 Love to Shop voucher each and a few examples of the brilliant work that they produced! Next term all Year 7 students will again have the opportunity to win a £5 voucher, so we hope that they all continue to apply motivation, commitment and care to their SMSC Homelearning.

P&A	Voucher Winner	P&A	Voucher Winner
7.1	Alyssia Atkinson	7.2	Lilly Chambers
7.3	Sienna Curtis	7.4	Jack Sinclair
7.5	Charlie Baines	7.6	Georgia Bloomer
7.7	George Stevenson	7.8	Lexi Bossons
7.9	Alice Guest	7.10	Emily Powell

Mrs Jackson & the SMSC Team





Y12 Performing Arts

We are so proud of the Year 12 Performing Arts students. They have started the course totally committed to their learning.

Here are some photos of students taking part in a socially distanced physical theatre lesson.









Ashton Winks



Congratulations to Ashton for his academy call up for Wakefield Wildcats. Mr Max had put Ashtons name forward for other Academies and has been privy to the positive comments made about his rugby ability from the Wakefield scouts that have watched Ashtons progress from Year 7 in school games. We are incredibly proud of Ashton and he represents all the qualities of a top level sportsman and is a role model for younger students at Minsthorpe, with the way he conducts himself around school and in lessons and his dedication to training, in particular his power training with Richard and advanced rugby skills work on a Friday in the Minsthorpe gym. He is captain of the school team and leads by example on the pitch with speed and power that destroys opposition and inspires his team mates. He is such a talented rugby player and with this he is brave, fearless and a genuine class act.

Ashton's P&A mentor Mr Johnson commented 'He is a credit to the school, himself and his parents and I would like to wish him all the very best with his well-deserved scholarship at Wakefield. He has a great future ahead of him, like previous Minsthorpe students in the past, I feel we have another super league player on our hands.'



Darkness

My heart began to race with sweat slowly dripping from the tips of my fingers. Where did I lie, or should I say, where did my body lie? Trying to scream for help as I was plummeted back into silence. My body lay still unable to move, my mind carried on racing. Pushing myself to wake up but no matter how hard I tried I was still stuck. I could hear footsteps coming towards me. I began panicking, searching with all my might to find a way out. Why did I have to suffer the trauma of this horrific coma?

Tegan Gladys Lynne Patton (13)
Minsthorpe Community College, South Elmsall

Minsthorpe's Young Writers

Minsthorpe Community College's talented writers have once again succeeded in gaining publication in Young Writer's latest anthology. Tasked with producing a short story based on the theme of being 'trapped', two students have seen their entries selected to appear in writing. Only 300 hundreds pieces are selected from over 16,000 applicants across the entire U.K. Regular competition winner and aspiring writer Tegan Patton continued her success after appearing in numerous publications in 2019; Tegan has been joint in the anthology by Year 7 student Oliver Hancock marking his first selection by the Young Writers' editors. The English and Languages team are extremely proud of Tegan and Oliver as well as all the other students who participated in the competition. It is brilliant to see our talented students recognised nationally and we look forward to more students seeing their name in print in the future.

Shine Certificates

In September, we had the chance to celebrate the achievements of our students on the Shine programme. Over the lockdown period, these students went above and beyond in completing their yearly Shine projects. Year 7 students completed a passport booklet, which involved tasks to get them thinking about university, Year 8 students completed a quiz booklet about the University of York, and students in Year 9 completed a mini dissertation project about the subject they would like to study at university.

Mrs Merritt and Mr Gilmore were delighted to be involved in presenting the students with their certificates from the University of York and each student also received a book which was appropriately titled You are Awesome, written by Matthew Syed.

A special mention to Travis Phillips (Year 10), whose dissertation was awarded 1st place across all schools and Leah Kinsella (Year 9) whose quiz booklet was awarded 2nd place across all schools. A further mention to Violet Sykes (Year 8) and Neve Simmons (Year 9), who were both awarded Highly Commended by the University for their entries. Congratulations to all students involved!







Enterprising Students

The students in our Key Stage 4 Bubble have been busy making Christmas gifts to sell to staff. All proceeds are being donated to the Westfield Food Bank. They have worked as a great team showing wonderful creativity and organisation to produce such lovely products. Miss Moxon and Mrs Osborne are very proud of each and every one of them.



Countdown to Christmas

Here are a few reminders of events in the last week of term.

Collection for Food Bank
Following the success of the previous two years, College is again collecting a range of non-perishable food (see www.minsthorpe.cc for suggested items) for the local Food Bank based at the Resources Centre in South Elmsall. Collection boxes are at the entry gates each morning for students to drop off their contributions to the collection. As in previous years, this is voluntary and only if families are able to do so, and are always most gratefully received by the Food Bank.

Virtual Christmas Concert – Monday 14 December 2020
Normally at this time of year, we would be looking forward to welcoming you to our annual Christmas Concert. As this is not possible due to the current restrictions, we have recorded a virtual event that that allows you to see some of the amazing talent we have here at Minsthorpe. Please click on the link on the College website!

Normal curriculum
Lessons will continue as normal until the close of College on Wednesday 16th December and Year 11 students will be sitting their mock exams in the final week of term.

Arrangements for Thursday 17th December
We would like students to have a wonderful Christmas experience on the last day - Thursday 17th December. Staff will be celebrating Christmas during lessons in the morning including Christmas quizzes, games or films. We would also like to invite students to bring in some party food for themselves to enjoy during lessons. As you would expect, these activities will take place in line with current strict regulations and students will not be permitted to share food or drinks, and staff will ensure students maintain appropriate social distancing measures at all times.

Non-Uniform Day – Thursday 17th December
Students may attend College in non-uniform on Thursday 17th December. If students wish to wear a Christmas jumper, they may, but any (warm) casual clothing is acceptable. We will not be asking for a cash donation this year, however we would like everyone, if possible, to either donate to Save the Children via their website https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/christmas-jumper-day/about/how-to-pay-in-your-fundraising or donate to our Food Bank collection.

Finish Times on Thursday 17th December
As recognition of everyone's hard work this term, we will be closing the college early on this day too and year groups will leave site in a staggered way at the following times:

Year 11	at the end of their mock exam	Year 9	11:50am
Year 7	11:40am	Year 10	11:55am
Year 8	11:45am	Post 16	12:00pm

If for any reason you would like your child to stay on site until their normal finish time, please contact the college through the enquiries email address and there will be provision put in place.

College Closes
College will be closed for the Christmas holiday from Friday 18th December until Monday 4th January 2021. Emergency cover in the event of contact tracing will be in place 9.00am – 12 noon until Thursday 23rd December.
We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Please take care of each other over the festive period and stay safe. Hopefully 2021 will be a much better year all round and we are able to get back to some sort of normality as soon as possible.