

# TEAM MINSTHORPE

AUTUMN TERM 2024 - EDITION 14

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Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation ♦ Commitment ♦ Care



## WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPALS

As we approach the Christmas and New Year break, we all tend to look back on the previous year but also what is to come in the year ahead. We are delighted that our latest newsletter is jam packed with reminders of the vast array of activities our students and staff are involved in every day at Minsthorpe. We would also like to share with you that Minsthorpe Community College achieved its best ever results last summer which have now been confirmed on the public performance tables by the DfE. They put our progress compared to other schools as 'above average' and this is something we are very proud of. Congratulations to students, staff and parents, who have all played their part in this wonderful achievement.

We would also like to thank everyone involved for their continual effort in driving up attendance to College. We are incredibly proud that we have seen and

increase in our attendance figures of over one percent compared to this time last year. We would urge parents, students and staff to continue to make this our top priority for the coming year as we aim to build on this success.

When we think about the year that has just gone we cannot help but be reminded of the vast amount of building works that has taken place on our site. This, however, is now the time to begin to look forward as Minsthorpe will take ownership of our brand new sports facility over the Christmas period. This new facility will not only benefit the students of Minsthorpe Community College for many years to come, but it will build on our already amazing facilities available and become an integral part of the SESKU community.

Finally, we would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Thank you to Ben, Year 11 for his



impressive Christmas card design. Please take time this Christmas to spend time with your family, friends and loved ones and we look forward to seeing you next year.

**Mr Gilmore**

*M. Gilmore*

**Mrs Merritt**

*F. A. Merritt*

**Joint Principals**

## IT'S BEEN BUSY IN MUSIC



A fantastic term for the music team, with exciting opportunities for our students to be part of the Netflix series Adolescence. The college choir participated in a two day recording with the production team that will hopefully be heard later in the year on the series.

Our Christmas concert on the 5th December was also a wonderful evening of musical entertainment, with performances from students across Years 7 - 11. We have so many talented young people - vocalists & instrumentalists, who get a huge amount of enjoyment sharing their music. We are extremely proud of all students that have performed and taken part in both events.

## READY, STEADY, GOOOO... FOR RESET

During the Summer term last year, students from Reset were treated to an alternative Sports Day and were taken Go Karting.



# THE RETURN OF THE LIBRARY LEARNING CENTRE

September has seen the LCC return to full strength after the college's recent building work. It is always our intention to provide an inclusive, welcoming environment. For students, the LLC is a quiet, comfortable and well-resourced setting perfect for Home Learning completion, participating in one of our many clubs and, of course, reading. On your next visit, try to take note of some of the exciting changes we have made this year.

For those looking to improve their reading and writing skills, we now have a designated Literacy Hub. Situated next to the main desk, you can find decodable books, language games and literacy worksheets. Make the most of these resources and supplement the work you complete in lessons with some excellent resources. Year 7 and 8 pupils will be interested in our new display next to the staircase. We have an area which makes taking part in the Minsthorpe Miles even easier! On display, find a selection of the books that are included in the initiative in one place, along with a recommendation card, if you feel like we should be providing a quiz for the literature of your choice.

The library has also had a big reshuffle. The books are now organised in genre, rather than alphabetical order. These sections are clearly



decorated by theme, so you can walk into the library and see instantly where the books you are interested in are located. Our new genres include – Anime, Comedy, Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Adventure, Action, Mystery, Drama, Historical Fiction, Graphic Novels and Horror/Thriller. Along with a special selection of Minsthorpe Favourites, which is where you will find Minsthorpe's most popular titles. The books are regularly updated, in fact, this week, we have the brand new copy of Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Hot Mess on our shelves.

As well as being a place for exchanging books or visiting during your English lessons, the library is open before and after college every day. This time can be used for reading, using the computers, completing homework, revision or just socialising with your friends. We also offer a diverse

range of afterschool clubs- Mondays are dedicated to chess club, whether you are a beginner or an expert, everyone is welcome. Thursdays, in association with the English department, sees our weekly Book Club meet. Every reading enthusiast is welcome, and we are currently reading The Lies We Tell Ourselves. All the books we read in book club are taken from the recommendations of our members. It is an essential club for everyone who loves reading. Finally, Fridays is time for our newest club- Minsthorpe's Dungeons and Dragons group. Dungeon masters, elves, warriors and seasoned adventurers are welcome to join the excitement. You can certainly try one or all of our clubs and we hope you will visit the library and take advantage of all the fabulous experiences we have on offer.



## POST 16 FOOD SCIENCE



P16 Food science students have been studying a topic on diet linked to disease. They have been looking at nutritional deficiencies such as Anaemia, Diabetes, Coeliac disease, Lactose intolerance and Cancers. They were tasked with making a product that could support the nutritional needs of someone living with the conditions and the outcomes were great.



## NATIONAL HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTRE



On 19th November L4L took 44 year 8 students to the National Holocaust Memorial Centre.

Students were able to read and interact with the museum element, they took part in a talk looking at responsibility and then in the afternoon, students were very privileged to hear Arek Hersh a 96 year old Holocaust survivor, speak about his experiences in the ghetto and concentration camps. Students then participated in a Q&A session.

At the end of the day, we were stopped by two members of the public who had also been in the talk, who sang our students praises, what a credit they were to us, and how mature they were in asking such good questions.

We could not have agreed more, it was an absolute pleasure and a joy!



## POST 16 VISIT LEEDS



On Thursday the 5th December a group of yr12 and yr13 Photography students ventured into Leeds city centre. Students were encouraged to view the city in a way that others may not, angles and viewpoints that are overlooked by the everyday commuter. What we saw that others may have missed was both beautiful and fascinating.



Year 7 and 8 students have thoroughly enjoyed their time in Science Club, finding it to be an exciting and rewarding experience. Many have expressed how the hands-on experiments and interactive activities make learning science more fun and engaging than traditional classroom lessons. This term they have extracted DNA from food, investigated how acid

## KS3 SCIENCE CLUB

rain affects buildings and learnt how to use oranges and lemons to power light bulbs. Overall, Science Club has become a place where students can unleash their creativity, ask questions, and develop a genuine passion for learning. We look forward to seeing what they get up to later on this year.

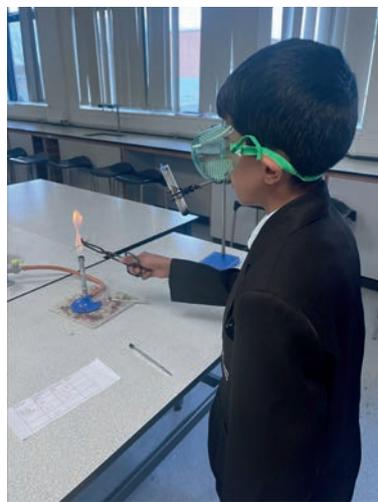


## YEAR 10 MAKE AFTERNOON TEA

In Hospitality and Catering, Year 10 students have been making fabulous 'Afternoon Teas'. After trialling several dishes throughout the term, including bread, brownies, cupcakes, chocolate ganache tarts, sausage rolls and pinwheels, they chose three or four dishes to showcase in their assessed practical. The students' outcomes demonstrate the amazing skills of our talented Minsthorpe chefs!



## KS3 RESOURCE PROVISION LEARN FOOD



This term KS3 RP have been learning all about food. They have researched and learnt about the way it provides energy and which foods provide the right nutrients for our bodies. The students have explored healthy and unhealthy eating and performed a food burning practical to work out the amount of energy in different carbohydrates.





## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On Thursday 26th September, we celebrated European Day of Languages. This was an opportunity for students to recognise and celebrate the different languages that many students speak at home or are learning. In each curriculum area, students were involved in an activity that linked their subject and language learning. Y8 French students enjoyed singing songs in Spanish and learning Spanish greetings.



## YEAR 11 SHOWING COMMITMENT

Year 11 have been working hard in commitment sessions preparing for their mock exams which started in December. Attendance to the commitment sessions has been fantastic since September and it has been great to see how committed this cohort is to making progress. Well done Year 11 and keep up the good work.



## LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS

Our Language Ambassadors have been very busy in the Autumn term and have met with Miss Hartley to share their ideas for key events. They delivered spoken presentations to teaching staff prior to European Day of Languages and contributed to the planning of the day. They also helped to organise and represented the French department at the Year 6 Open Evening during which they led different activities with the Year 6 students and their families.



## RP4 GET CREATIVE

As the holiday season approaches, RP4 students are combining creativity with compassion by making Christmas crafts to raise funds for charity. This heartwarming initiative not only spreads festive joy but also nurtures the values of generosity and community spirit in young minds. From handmade wooden Christmas tree ornaments and Christmas trees to greeting cards and table decorations, students are channelling their talents into creating unique Christmas crafts. These items are then sold to staff with the proceeds going to charitable causes. Fantastic work and efforts from all the RP4 students involved.



# MINSTHORPE COMMUNITY COLLEGE HOSTS ITAP DAY.



It was clear by the end of the day that the trainee teachers had benefitted enormously from the experience of being in our school community. Our core values were evident throughout the intense day, and we hope the training they received will be useful for their future careers.

Many of Minsthorpe Community College's teachers are products of

Minsthorpe Community College has a proud tradition of developing expert practitioners, and on Tuesday 19th November, the college hosted an 'Intensive Training and Practice Day' in partnership with Exchange Teacher Training. Over 30 trainee teachers, from the Wakefield region, joined Minsthorpe staff for a day of CPD, Learning Visits and reflection. The focus of this day was to consider strategies to enhance pupils' spoken language and literacy skills. Over the past three years, the college has invested significantly in implementing a robust Literacy Strategy, and it is no surprise that Exchange Teacher Training wished to visit the college to experience the excellent practice within the school.

The day started with an introduction to the school's ethos, vision, and context from Mr Gilmore and Mrs Merritt followed by an outline of the Literacy Strategy by Mr Ruston. The



trainees then experienced Minsthorpe lessons first hand and took part in Spoken Language and Reading workshops led by Mrs Hayes and Miss Hitchins. During the deconstruction activity, the trainees were enthused by the effective teaching they witnessed as well as the students' motivation, commitment, and care to their learning. After the college day, 25 pupils from across the school's Key Stages joined the trainee teachers to share their experiences of literacy within Minsthorpe in a student voice activity. The pupils, as is customary, were exemplary representatives of the school and conducted themselves in a positive, open manner.

our various teacher training programmes and in a time where teacher recruitment is more needed than ever, we are happy to continue to develop excellent practitioners.

If you or anyone you know is interested in training to become a teacher-please follow the QR code within this article for more information.



## AUTUMN ONE REFLECTIONS

This academic year marks the first time Year 7, 8 and 9 will follow the Knowledge Organiser programme. Year 8 and 9 continue to go from strength to strength with Home Learning competition excellent across both year groups. Our new Year 7 cohort have been excellent from day one. At this moment in time, they are the number one year group for Home Learning submissions

and they have beaten Minsthorpe's record of highest average score. The record now stands at 69.2% and Year 7 were rewarded with a donut (as if custom for beating such records) on Friday 6th December. What an amazing achievement Year 7!

Year 9 also recorded their highest ever Knowledge Assessment average score- 68% is a fantastic result for

the year group. Year 8 also proved to be successful with an average score above 60%. Over the recent weeks, certificates for top 50 students and 100% in Curriculum Areas have been distributed to students and vouchers awarded for Home Learning completion and the highest scores. We are incredibly proud of our students and the motivation, commitment and care they show towards their Home Learning. Long may this continue!



## BATTLE OF THE BANDS



Since the after-school club started in September, Miss Davis have been absolutely blown away by the talent, dedication, and creativity of our students who have come together to form different bands in our after-school 'Battle of the Bands' club.

Watching their journey has been an inspiring reminder of the power of music to unite, challenge, and bring out the very best in young people. One group attends every session and even in break times and their clear dedication is shown in rehearsal as they sound amazing! From their first jam session to confidently performing full songs as a cohesive group, these students have shown incredible teamwork, perseverance, and a real passion for music. Each rehearsal has been filled

with energy, laughter, and a determination to improve and the results speak for themselves! It's not just about the music, it's about the bond they've built along the way. They've supported each other through challenges, encouraged one another to take creative risks, and have grown as musicians and as friends. Miss Davis couldn't be prouder of what this band has achieved, and can't wait to see how they continue to grow. Their hard work and passion reminds her why she loves being a teacher.



The Post 16 Football Academy had a fantastic, action packed trip to London.

Leaving at 9am on Sunday morning of 17th November we travelled to our accommodation at Hudnall Park in Berkhamsted. We had a fish and chip lunch then headed to Wembley Stadium. The England team entertained us with a thumping 5-0 win against the Republic of Ireland.

On our return to our accommodation our evening entertainment involved a table football tournament, a table tennis tournament, a quiz and a magnetic darts tournament.

A pizza take away was also thoroughly enjoyed.

After a cooked breakfast in the morning we headed to the Emirates and enjoyed a tour of the Arsenal Football Club Stadium. This was followed by a ten pin bowling tournament. After a McDonalds lunch the post 16 football academy then played Edmonton County School in a football match in which they came out 3-1 winners.

We arrived home on Monday 18th September at 10pm to the falling snow.

Great trip lads! You were all class in everything that we did!

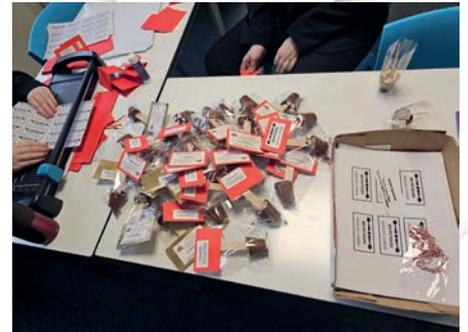
## POST 16 FOOTBALL ACADEMY



# CHRISTMAS ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE



Students in the Key Stage 4 Resource Provision have been developing and honing their employability skills during a Christmas Enterprise Challenge. They have used teamwork, leadership, creativity and communication skills as part of this task, raising money for a children's charity. Students have created a vast array of products including personalised items – such as Santa hats, glass beer cans and Latte glasses and artisan products like hot chocolate stirrers and wooden Xmas trees. It's been amazing to watch how students have learnt new skills and more importantly taught others how to use them. We are all very proud of our students.



Twenty-eight students in Year 10 have signed themselves up to study Level 2 Further Maths this year with the aim of gaining an extra maths GCSE at the end of Year 11. They are working hard after school on Wednesdays with Miss Atkinson. So far, they have learnt the multiple ways to solve quadratics and cubics and more recently have been using Pascal's triangle to expand binomials. They have started the Further Maths course amazingly well – well done!

## YEAR 10 MATHEMATICIANS

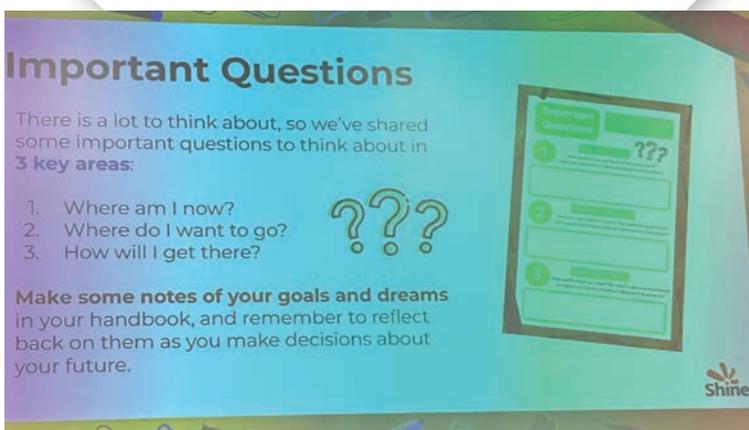
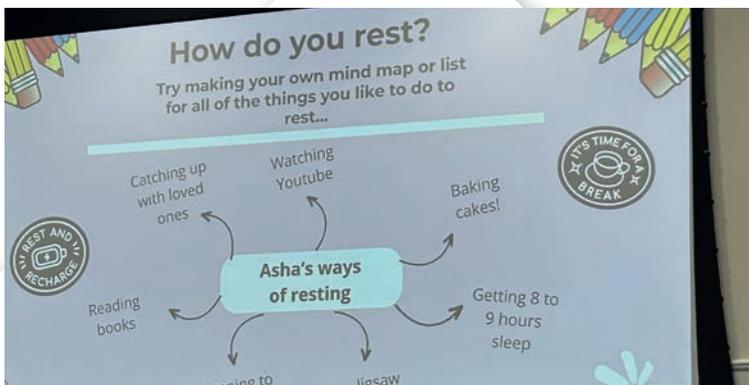


## YEAR 11 SHINE

Our Year 11 students made their third and final visit to York University as part of the "Shine" programme. Last year whilst in year 10 they experienced the life of a university student as they took part in the residential part of the programme.

This year the students took part in 4 activities to support them through year 11. In the morning, the students learnt all about the importance of skills, and how to use them. The second activity of the morning taught them how to deal with the pressures of year 11, discussing ways of resting and relaxing. In the afternoon, the students then looked at P16 options and the "Shine" team shared some revision techniques to finish of the visit. Our students had the pleasure of working with an ex Minsthorpe student Ella Simmons who was working as a student ambassador for York University, I am sure Ella will have passed on many useful tips and shared excellent information to support the year 11 students through their final year.

The students had a great day and once again they were great advocates for the college.



## KS4 RP LOOK AT ATOMS

Atoms are too small to see. Students in KS4RP have used various models of the atom to understand and recall its structure. Dr Rayson was extremely impressed by how well everyone worked as a team to figure out the electronic structures of the first 20 atoms. Everyone agreed that the tasty biscuit model was their favourite way to show how scientific understanding has changed over time.



## YEAR 10 MOCK INTERVIEWS

The Year 10 Mock Interviews took place on July 8th, 9th and 10th. Business people from around Yorkshire came in to college to share their experiences of interviews and interview our students. The Year 10 students have produced a CV that their interviewer provided feedback on. The students returned in September, they used knowledge gained to add to their CVs.

There were some great conversations and the interviewers left very impressed by our students knowledge of progression



pathways and their CVs in general. The students were smart, polite and respectful

and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

