

TEAM MINSTHORPE

WINTER TERM 2023 - EDITION 11

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Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation ♦ Commitment ♦ Care



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPALS


Ofsted
Good
Provider

Welcome to the Autumn Term edition of our 'Team Minsthorpe' newsletter. This has certainly been a term to remember!

We hope you enjoyed reading our recent Ofsted report which confirmed that 'Minsthorpe Community College continues to be a good school'. The report is a reflection of the motivation, commitment and care shown by everyone involved in the College. The Ofsted inspectors recognised the variety of extra-curricular activities, trips and visits enjoyed by our students. As always, this 'Team

Minsthorpe' newsletter is packed with fantastic photos and articles which reflect this wide enrichment offer.

The demolition of the old PE block at the front of site was another major event for us all. Current and former students and staff will hold many fond memories of PE lessons in the upstairs gym and the demolition of this building marked the end of an era for Minsthorpe Community College.

We are excited that the old PE block will be replaced

by a new, state-of-the-art sports complex. This massive project is being carried out by the award-winning, Sheffield-based company, Henry Boot Construction, and, when finished, it will provide two activity studios, changing rooms, toilets, storage facilities and office space, as well as a 594 m² main sports hall.

We are delighted to be chosen as one of the first 50 schools to be part of the Department for Education's School Rebuilding Programme. The new sports



complex is the final piece in the jigsaw in bringing the College's facilities into the 21st century meaning the experiences of both our amazing students and fantastic community will be enriched for years to come. During the turf-cutting ceremony at Minsthorpe, Tony Shaw, Henry Boot Construction Managing Director, said: "It's great to get started on the construction stages of our work here at Minsthorpe Community College. Projects like this are always incredibly rewarding, providing high-quality facilities to the local community that will greatly benefit them. We are modernising existing spaces so that we can support curriculum activity and greatly enhance the student experience."

In January 2024, internal work will begin on the existing English Block. During



this work, English lessons will be taking place in the new modular classrooms erected next to the astroturf at the bottom of site. For health and safety reasons, College will be closed to students on Monday 8th January 2024. Staff will be on site getting everything ready to start learning and teaching as normal on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Minsthorpe Community College closes to students at 2:30pm on Thursday 21st

December 2023. The final day of term will be a non-uniform day with donations of £1 to our chosen charity and/or donations to the Westfield Food Bank. We thank everyone for their kind donations to date. We wish you all a relaxing Christmas break with your family and friends and look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

M. Gilmore

F. A. Merritt

**Mr Gilmore
Joint Principals**

Mrs Merritt



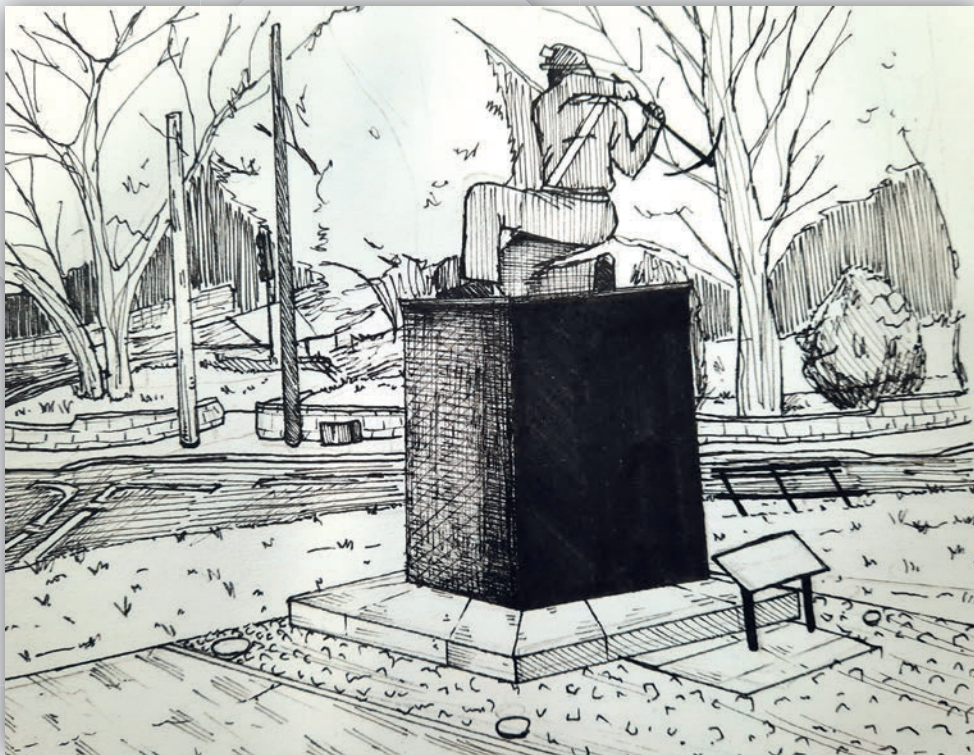
Year 7 and 8 students have started the academic year excellently. P&A mentors have been astounded by the amount of quality Home Learning on display with students showing an abundance of motivation, commitment and care towards their Knowledge Organisers. Although Year 8 are well versed in Knowledge Assessments, conduct in both year groups was outstanding. Students were focused, diligent and behaved superbly. The results were also record breaking! Year 8 attained their highest ever Knowledge Assessment score reaching an average of 65% whilst Year 7 began their Knowledge Assessment journey with an average of 66.5%- the greatest ever Knowledge Assessment total! Each and every student can be proud of their effort during the assessments. It is a privilege to see the dedication our students

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS AND ASSESSMENTS: AUTUMN ONE



demonstrate in order to achieve their potential. We look forward to further celebrations in the future. The next Knowledge Assessments for Year 7 and Year 8 students take place on Wednesday 20th December.

If you would like further information on the Knowledge Organiser Home Learning programme why not watch our new video for parents on the Knowledge Organiser section of the school website?



BEAUTIFUL ARTWORK FROM BENNJAMIN

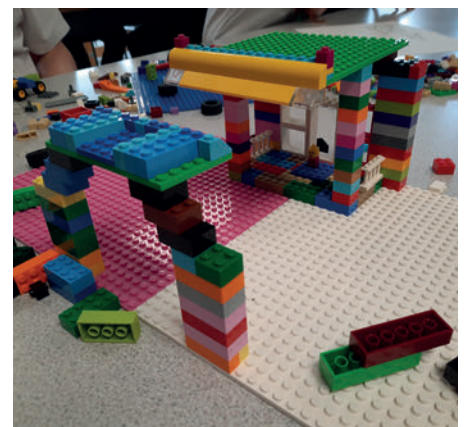
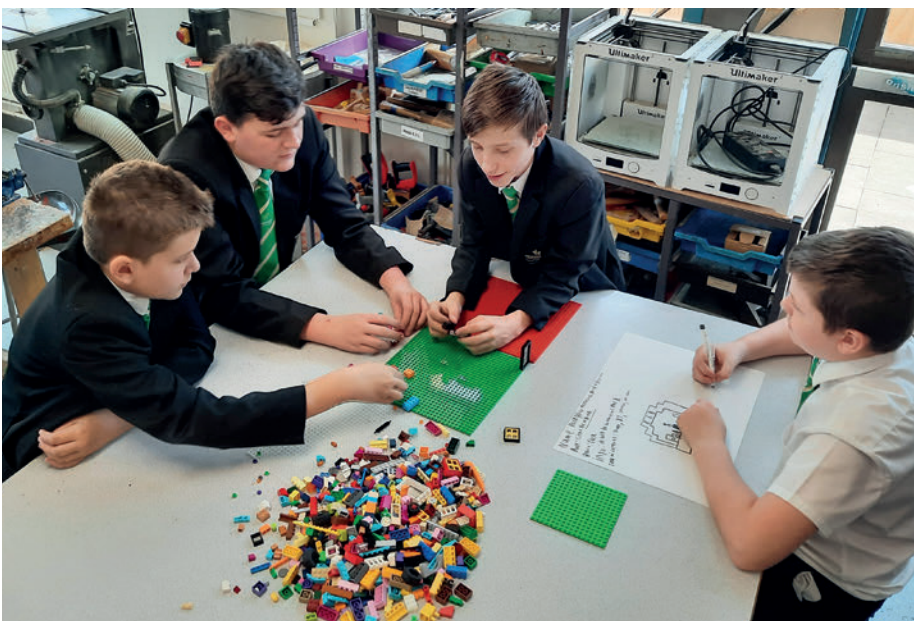
The fantastic pen work is based on the BTEC Component 1 theme 'British Landmarks' and Year 10 student, Bennjamin has chosen to focus on local SESKU landmarks and produced some outstanding drawings.



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS DELIVER AGAIN



Throughout this term, University of Leeds Postgraduates have visited Minsthorpe on several occasions to deliver STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) sessions to our GCSE Design Technology Students. Sessions included Designing a Sustainable Music Festival, Building a Greener World and Elastic Powered Cars. Students were tremendously engaged in all sessions and were able to think about Design Technology in a different way. Mr Scully praised the students for their excellent work and is looking forward to welcoming University of Leeds back to Minsthorpe to deliver more exciting sessions in the New Year.



CONGRATULATIONS, HARRY!



Harry, Year 11, is a goalkeeper in the Under 16's at Doncaster Rovers Academy and after weeks of nervously waiting, in November Harry was offered a 2-year Scholar. We join his family in congratulating him on this achievement which is the culmination of 8 years of commitment to training, including with the Under 18 team. Harry has never missed a day of school for football training

nor has he missed any of his after-college Commitment sessions. He is doing everything right, in school and out of school. Good luck for a bright future, Harry!



NYC 2023

Another fantastic experience was had by all who went to New York in October half term. Students experienced a whole range of things including a Broadway show, The Rockefeller at night, a viewing platform called The Edge, Central Park, Times Square, The statue of Liberty and even did some shopping on 5th Avenue!

All 14 students were an absolute pleasure and certainly did Minsthorpe proud!



EUROGAMER AN EPIC JOURNEY



It was a cold and dark morning on Friday the 13th when fifty brave students and four members of staff set out on an epic Journey to the ExCel arena in London. After two hours the students were looking weary and tired, but in the distance the driver saw an oasis in the shape of two golden arches. The fellowship feasted on burgers and fries and

returned to their coach re-energised for the trip ahead. Little did they know that it would be another four hours before they would reach their destination, hampered by other travellers heading for the bustling capital. Once there the students set out alone, gathering information from Universities and games developers alike, which they could store for their future

adventures. Games were played and merchandise was purchased and several hours passed before they had to return to their coach to travel back home. With a smile on their faces and a song in their hearts the adventurers settled down for the trip home.

This however would prove to be the part of the journey that would test their resolve the most. After four long hours our travellers had only gone two miles and it seemed to them that the whole world was trying to leave the capital all at the same time. Then a break in the traffic saw our brave driver pushing his way through to find a way out and back to the motorway. After another hour our brave driver announced that he could travel no more and so our travellers found themselves once again in



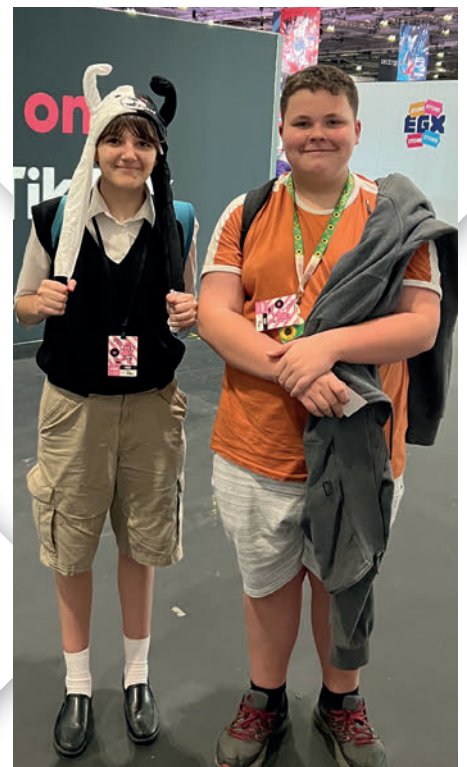


a services looking for food. With a KFC available the colonel didn't disappoint with his wares and the group were once again well fed and content.

As time passed though the students started to get restless and our leader put his head in his hands and asked what will we ever do to entertain them now. "Leave it to me" said a nearby student called Oliver Hancock who had seen a piano in the corner. As he started to play his first melody our travellers gathered around him and encouraged him to play more. At the end of Oliver's second song another



brave driver from Browns appeared to take us on the last leg of our journey. It was past midnight when our travellers arrived back at Minsthorpe, tired and ready for their beds, but safe and unscathed by the day. They were met by parents and whisked away home. Though it was a long journey the group had pulled together and supported each other as only Minsthorpe students and staff can do. The coach cleaned and the last student collected, our leaders finally travelled home tired and weary, but feeling lucky to have spent a day with such a pleasant group of young people.



YEAR 11 COMMITMENT SESSIONS

We are extremely proud of Year 11 for their motivation in attending Commitment sessions. Their contributions to these sessions plus their hard work in lessons will support them to enter their

exams with confidence. We want to thank the students for the positive way they have attended the sessions and their teachers for delivering them.



KS4 RESOURCE PROVISION GET FESTIVE

The KS4 resource provision have been getting festive, creating Christmas cupcakes. They did brilliantly, with their Christmas tree, snowmen and fairy lights inspired designs, working in pairs, displaying excellent teamworking. They developed their skills in the kitchen by using piping bags and nozzles to create some good quality outcomes.





BETH SHALOM VISIT



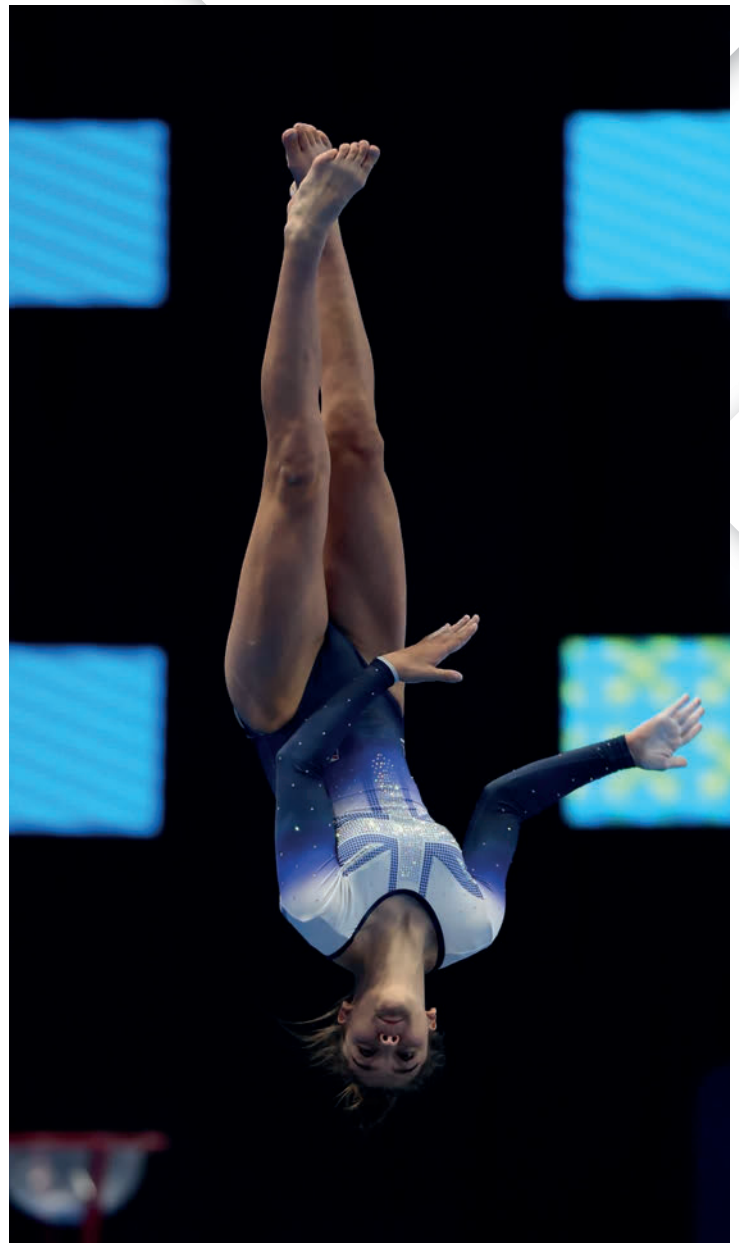
On Tuesday 21st November a group of Year 8 students visited Beth Shalom, the

Holocaust Centre. They spent the day contemplating the Holocaust, examining

how Jews and others were treated during this time and who was responsible for it happening. Time was spent in the interactive museum, listening to survivor testimony and reflecting in the memorial gardens. The photo shows how students were asked to add a stone to the existing pile, each one to remember one of the 1.5 million children who died during the Holocaust. As always the students were mature, well-mannered and they engaged fully in the experience, a real credit to themselves and the College.

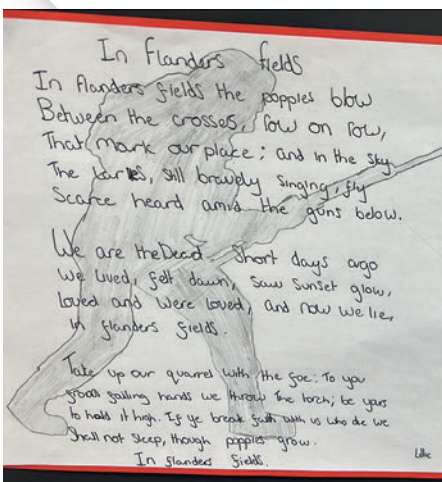
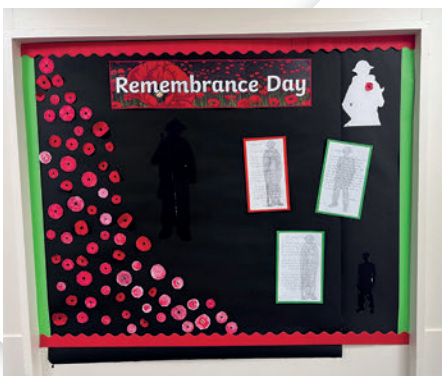
CONGRATULATIONS ROSE!

In November gymnasts from across the world came to Birmingham to compete in the first ever Junior World Championships and Minsthorpe's very own Year 9 student, Rose, was amongst the medal winners. The 13-14 girls' tumbling competition was an exciting watch and Rose gained a podium position with a silver medal. This was an historic event for World Gymnastics and it's an incredible achievement to represent your country at such a young age. We are very proud of Rose who certainly has a bright future in this exciting sport.



We have had a great start to our maths Table-Top Gaming club this academic year, welcoming many new members. Card games such as Magic the Gathering, One night ultimate werewolf and Uno have proven to be very popular this term and students have the confidence to run their own games. TTGC is open to all year groups and runs in M2 every Thursday afternoons 14:30 – 15:30. See you there.

TABLE-TOP GAMING CLUB



NURTURE

The students in Nurture have been working hard learning the importance of instructions through verbal, visual, written and practical instructions. They enjoyed one of the practical activities using independent safety skills to do a practical activity of 'how to make a cup of tea' (supervised) and then wrote their step by step instructions clearly.

They also enjoyed learning about the elements of 'Armistice Day' and what it represented. They showed respect to the fallen by recreating the 'In Flanders Fields' poem and created poppies and silhouette soldiers to create a display wall as a mark of respect.



FUN AT THE FILM FESTIVAL



Mr John Liversidge OBE returned to Minsthorpe Community College 54 years after being part of the original cohort of students to attend the school. John spoke to the students about his journey from Minsthorpe to the Palace.

On the 9th February 2022 John was presented with an OBE by the Princess Royal at Windsor Castle. John has given numerous interviews about his work and on one occasion, was asked what inspired him to achieve his goals, he said "It is not a question I had been asked previously. I concluded that the catalyst for my journey began when I walked through the doors of a brand-new school, known at that time as Minsthorpe High School".

John went onto Loughborough University



Minsthorpe High School back in 1969.

RAISING ASPIRATIONS JOHN LIVERSIDGE OBE



John Liversidge OBE - In the classroom talking to our Criminology students.

where he studied PE. He qualified from Loughborough in 1976 and became a PE Teacher at Bexhill High School in East Sussex. In 1980 after a chance encounter with a senior police officer, he left teaching and joined Thames Valley Police as a Constable. He served 30 years in the Police before retiring in 2010 at the rank of Chief Superintendent.



John Liversidge with his OBE

During his service, he held a number of prestigious roles including Head of Operations,

The KS3 resource provision enjoyed a trip to the cinema to watch 'The Railway Children Returns' as part of the Into Film Festival. This will support their learning and understanding when they focus on World War Two next half term. They enjoyed the morning trip and represented Minsthorpe beautifully with their impeccable behaviour and respect.

Head of CID and Commander of Milton Keynes. He was also the main adviser on all major incidents in England. Following his retirement from the police he was employed by a charity to help protect high risk victims of domestic abuse (ie those at risk of being murdered). It is for this work that he was awarded an OBE. John developed a 'device' which enabled high risk victims to summon emergency assistance from the police. The 'device' is provided free of charge and is known as TecSOS (Technical SOS). Even if the user is unable to speak, the police know the user's identity, case details and exact location. John came in college for two days sharing his inspirational journey and experiences with our students. He also went in the classroom sharing his knowledge and wisdom with our Criminology students.



KS4 RESET GET CRAFTY



The KS4 Reset group have been getting crafty, upcycling old unwanted books into Christmas trees. They had lots of fun practising origami paper folding, some challenged themselves to add extra decorations, which really made them pop. They were excited to be able to gift them to their families



YEAR 11 SHINE!

Our Year 11 "Shine" students enjoyed a great day at York University on the 14th September. The students took part in a variety of activities including resilience building, careers and skills developed through learning. In the afternoon after a lovely lunch, they learnt about revision techniques, and they finished off with a session on Post 16 options. The 11 students who attended thoroughly enjoyed not only the day but being part of the "Shine" programme. We are sure their experiences will benefit them in the future.

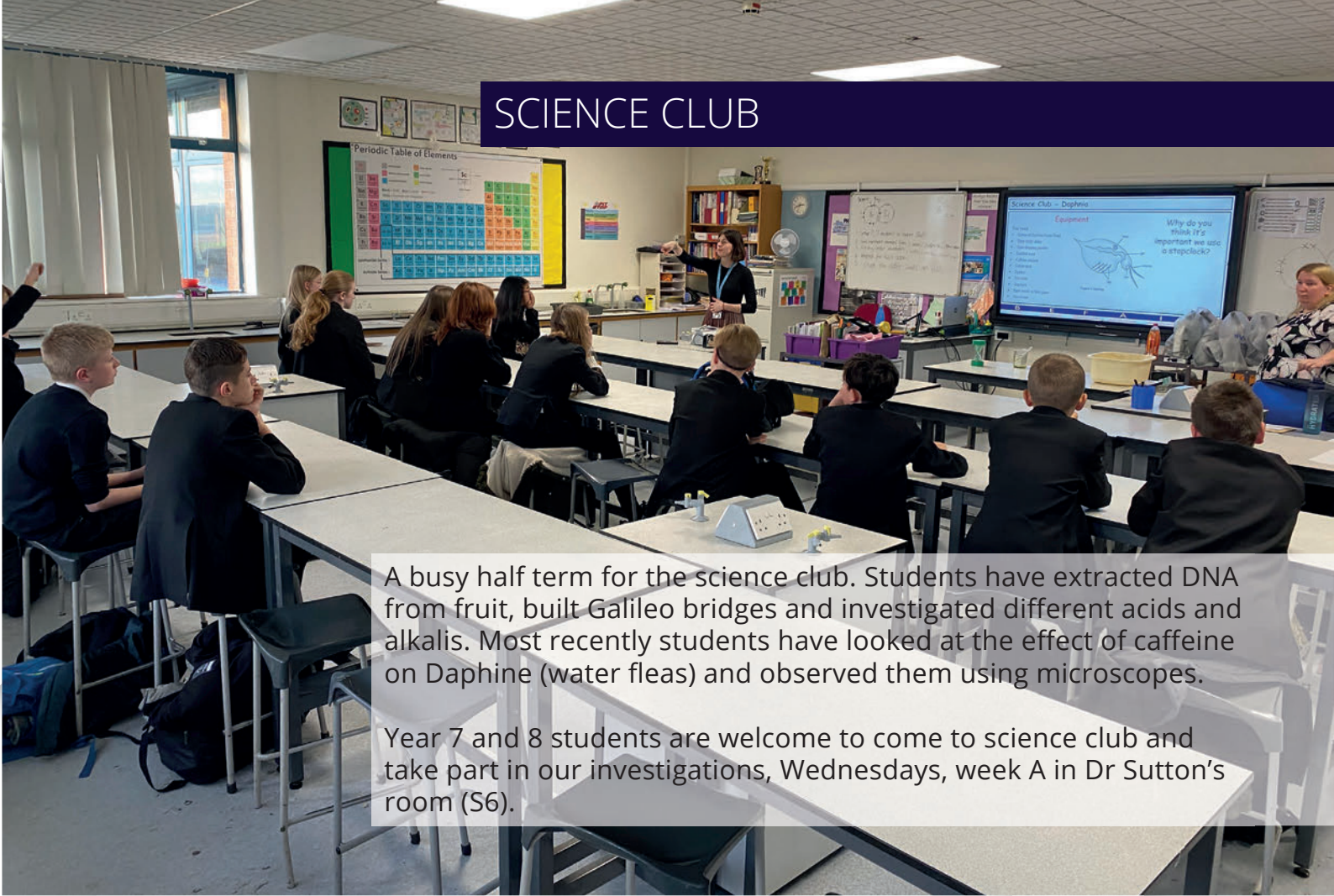


CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Music Department's Christmas concert once again was fantastic with an array of talented students from all year groups. The quality of performances was outstanding and we were extremely proud to have the opportunity to showcase this raw talent!



SCIENCE CLUB



A busy half term for the science club. Students have extracted DNA from fruit, built Galileo bridges and investigated different acids and alkalis. Most recently students have looked at the effect of caffeine on Daphnia (water fleas) and observed them using microscopes.

Year 7 and 8 students are welcome to come to science club and take part in our investigations, Wednesdays, week A in Dr Sutton's room (S6).

