



1st December 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Principals' December Update

It is December already and with less than three weeks of term remaining, we would like to share details of our plans for December.

Introducing Minsy the Attendance Elf

As you are aware, student attendance is our key priority at Minsthorpe Community College. You have heard our key message of **'every student, every lesson, every day'** and we are delighted to see an ongoing improvement in overall College attendance.

We want your child to enjoy being in College, with their friends, until Thursday 18th December. To motivate students to keep up their good attendance in December, we are running the **Attendance Elf Sleigh Competition** between P&A Groups. Minsy the Attendance Elf will be rewarding the winning P&A Groups in assembly during the last week of term. Every child in Year 7 – 10, who is present on Thursday 18th December, will receive a treat from Minsy the Attendance Elf!

Christmas Concert – Thursday 4th December 2025

Thank you to those of you who supported last week's Dance Show. If you fancy another entertaining evening, why not join us at 6pm on Thursday 4th December for our annual Christmas Concert? Tickets are now on sale (Adult - £3, Child/OAP - £2).

Christmas Dinner – Wednesday 10th December 2025

Students and staff are enjoying the improved catering service, and we are delighted to note an uptake in the numbers having school meals. We are looking forward to the Christmas Dinner menu on Wednesday 10th December 2025.

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 18th December 2025

A kind group of Year 10 students are keen to raise money for local families by organising a Christmas Jumper Day. On Thursday 18th December, students are invited to attend College wearing a Christmas jumper (or indeed any non-uniform jumper) and to donate £1 for families in need. Alternatively, students may donate to the food bank as detailed below.

Students must wear their normal school trousers/skirt, shoes, shirt, and tie on this day. They can wear any jumper, instead of a blazer. Thank you, Year 10, for your caring idea!

Motivation ♦ Commitment ♦ Care

Minsthorpe Lane, South Elmsall, West Yorkshire, WF9 2UJ T. 01977 657600 E. enquiries@minsthorpe.cc minsthorpe.cc

Principals Mark Gilmore & Rachael Merritt



Collection for Local Food Bank Underway – Reverse Advent Calendar

Following the success of previous years, the College is collecting a range of non-perishable items for the Westfield Centre Food Bank in South Elmsall. Collection boxes are in the Main Reception for students to drop off their contributions to the collection each morning. This is voluntary collection for any family that feels they are able to do so - your generosity is always gratefully appreciated by the Food Bank.

Christmas Holiday Dates

We will finish for Christmas on Thursday 18th December. There will be no after college activities on this date. The Spring Term will start for all year groups at the normal time of 8:25am on Monday 5th January 2026.

Normal Curriculum until the End of Term - Lessons will continue as normal until the close of College on Thursday 18th December

Year 11 students are sitting their mock exams in the final two weeks of term. As recognition of their commitment to learning this term, they will be given breakfast before their last mock exam on Thursday 18th December. The exam will finish at approximately 1pm, and Year 11 students will leave the site at the end of the exam.

Year 10 students have their Knowledge Assessment Period 3 on Thursday 18th December. The assessment will end at 2:10pm and Year 10 students will leave the site at the end of the assessment.

(If you wish your Year 10 or Year 11 child to stay in College until 2:30pm, please contact the relevant Year Office and arrangements can be made.)

Year 7 and Year 8 students will leave at 2:25pm and **Year 9 and Post 16** will leave at 2:30pm as normal.

Final Word

It is a privilege to be Principals of Minsthorpe Community College, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support for your child's education throughout 2025.

We wish you an enjoyable Christmas with your loved ones.

Yours sincerely

Mr M. Gilmore
Principal

Mrs R. Merritt
Principal

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