

TEAM MINSTHORPE

SUMMER TERM 2024 - EDITION 13

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Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation ♦ Commitment ♦ Care



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Welcome to our Summer 2024 Team Minsthorpe. As we write this foreward, we have just experienced the "best day of the year" – Minsthorpe's Sports Day. What an amazing event we had. You will be able to see some great photographs of the day later in this edition. This year has seen many positive occasions here at Minsthorpe. Our visit from Ofsted and the glowing report they gave us is still one of the highlights, but as you can see throughout the newsletter this term has had many amazing experiences for our students.

Many of our students have sat their final exams and we are excited to see them collect their well-deserved results in the summer. We look forward to welcoming many of them back into Minsthorpe's Post 16 and we wish those who are going on to universities, employment or other colleges all the very best for the future.

As you can see when you pass Minsthorpe, we are on the final push for our new Sports Centre to be ready



for our students as well as the local community that we serve. We have had to deal with many changes over this year, but our students are a credit to you all for how they have dealt with the changes. Finally, we now look forward to our summer holidays. We hope our families get to enjoy the break and spend some quality time with

family and friends. We look forward to seeing you all back in September where we will start making memories once again.

Mr Gilmore

Mrs Merritt

Joint Principals



PROM 2024





WATER SPORTS TRIP 2024

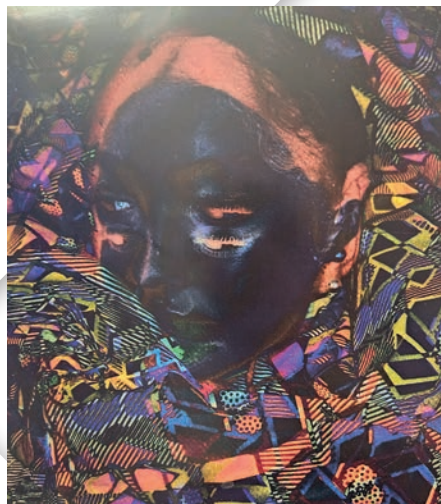


Saturday 25th May – Saturday 1st June, 38 Year 10 students gave up their May half term for the trip of a lifetime to the South of France to engage with Watersports activities. After a gruelling 26-hour coach journey students arrived on site, dropped their bags and immediately engaged with a River Talk to prepare them for their 32km Ardeche Descent over the next 2 days. Unfortunately, after just 7km canoeing on the Monday, the Descent had to be abandoned due to adverse weather conditions; torrential rain and an approaching storm. However, students proceeded to impress us on the Thursday when they picked up the pace and continued to smash the next 25km in one day! The rest of the week saw students engage with multiple team challenges, 3 town visits, a trip to the beach and a tree-tops course. All students were amazing, but well done to Piotr & Gracie for winning Spirit of the Water Awards!

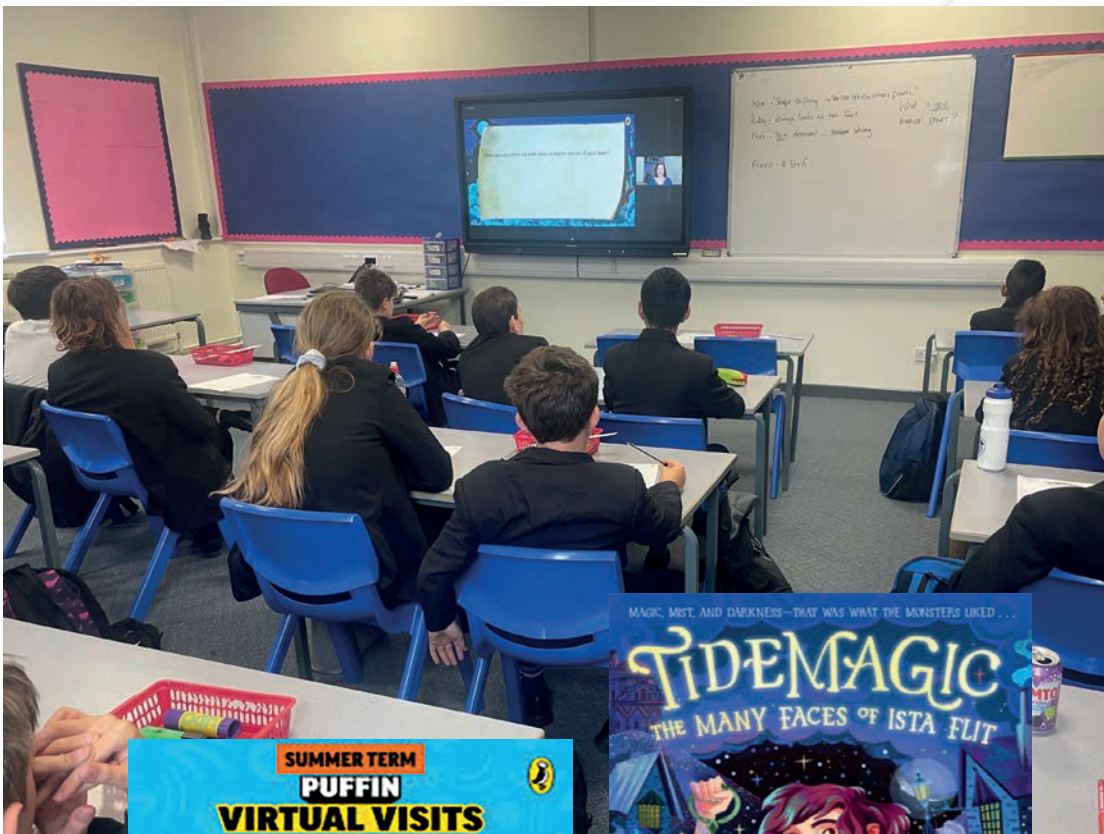


POST 16 ARTISTS

Enjoy these amazing examples of the work completed by our very talented Year 13 Art students this year! The level of creativity, resilience and independence has been outstanding and it has been a pleasure to see their skills develop into outstanding pieces of art work. Mrs Bradford and Mrs Martin are so proud of the young people!



VIRTUAL AUTHOR VISIT



On Friday 28th June, over 50 Year 7 students and two Y8 Student Librarians were involved in an exciting and engaging event when Clare Harlow, the author of the new novel Tidemagic, hosted a Live Virtual Session. She brought the story to life by reading an extract from the book and took the time to explain how she created her characters and plots. Clare also responded to questions submitted in advance, and much to the delight of our students, she addressed all of their questions!! Students soaked up all her top tips and thoroughly enjoyed writing their own short creative writing pieces. Students' most memorable moments included:

"When the author was being brave sharing with us her choice of superpower." Flynn
 "Meeting an author for the first time." Orlagh
 "When the author was describing the characters and their superpowers." Leon
 "When MCC got 4 shout-outs because MCC is now known in the whole of England and it was nice of the author to mention us." Ellann



Creative Writing

Firstly	Choose a reason for why Ista might be entering the building:		
	Escaping a monster	Heard a strange sound from within	Your own idea
Then	Decide what Ista finds inside:		
	A large, locked box saying the word 'private' on it.	A person who is clearly injured but still breathing	Your own idea
Next	Decide how Ista reacts:		
	She is worried / frightened / scared	She feels confident she can deal with this.	Your own idea

Use these 3 key ideas to write creatively about Ista.

Ista reaches the Shrieking Eel and reaches out for the door handle as she open the door handle and come to the soundng Ista is very scared and Ista go to the come and monster is schaeing and she go to the person on the floor in the corner. and she go to slowly. suddenly she stop she burps into tears as she realises it is her feather but also she is head bleeding and she run and go to the safely room. and breath heavily.

ATHLETIC SUCCESS



Wakefield Schools Athletics Championships was held at Keepmoat Stadium this year; so, a new venue, and the day was a real success!

The students embodied the Minsthorpe Way in every aspect of the day; they showed motivation in their events, were committed

to performing to the best of their ability and showed real care for others whilst spectating and cheering their friends on, from Minsthorpe and other schools.

We had some amazing performances throughout the day with three stand out gold medal performances from Rose in the Y9 Girls 100m, Jack in the Y8 Boys 1500m and Elijah in the Y7 Boys 300m. Many students finished in the top 5 but the main thing was all our students applied themselves and tried their best in their event.

Mrs Marshall, Mr Shepherd and Mr Applegarth felt proud to lead these students at this important event.

RECORD BREAKING YEAR 8



Congratulations to Year 8 students who have, for the second time this year, achieved the highest ever average Knowledge Assessment score. The new record now stands at 65.5% and is a fantastic achievement for the whole cohort. This is the second year the year group have been following the Knowledge Organiser programme and it is excellent to see their continued success. We thank all of the students for their motivation, commitment and care and parents for their continued support. All Year 8 students were rewarded with a free donut at a snack break for their outstanding achievement.



Year 7 also go from strength to strength. Home Learning submission is consistently outstanding, and their own average score continues to get better. 62.8% is an excellent average score which reflects their hard work. Both Year 7 and 8 were rewarded for their continued success in celebration assemblies with countless certificates given out as recognition for improving scores or attaining highly.



GAMING CLUB

Barnsley College have kindly run several sessions with our gaming club where they provided use of augmented reality software, allowing the students to play virtual dodgeball. This proved very engaging with students from years 7, 8 and 10. Here is Mr Froment modelling the headgear before taking on some of our students, and some actions shots from the sessions.



YOUNG WRITERS

This terms Young Writers have been busy, with over 50 students having their work accepted to be printed in the collection titled: Mission Catastrophe. Students from years 7, 8, 9 and 10 entered and there were some fantastic stories submitted. The students were very proud to receive their certificates, as you can see in these pictures!

We hope to have the same success from the next edition in the saga: Mission Chaos, which will be submitted for consideration at the end of summer term.



The students and staff in Stepback provision have been extremely busy this half term. Along with our usual curriculum subjects we have been following the DT curriculum and cooking up a storm making our own dough and making pizzas with a variety of toppings. The students followed the recipe, chose toppings, and cooked their pizzas to take home for tea! To complete the full experience of the DT curriculum they also completed the theory work to accompany the practical work.

SUMMER 1 IN STEPBACK PROVISION



As an extra-curricular activity, we have introduced the students to agriculture, we have studied how to cultivate potatoes ready to plant, along with how to plant them and care for them while they grow. The students planted the chitty potatoes and watered them regularly and quite rapidly to the surprise of us all sprouted! They are continuing to grow quite quickly and are getting tall.



The most wonderful enrichment activity we have encountered this term is the incubation of nine duck eggs. The students numbered, weighed, and religiously turned the fertilised eggs from the first day of incubation right up to 'lock down' day on day 23 when you're not to touch the eggs until the ducklings hatch. During the 23-day incubation period, we periodically 'candled' the eggs to witness the changes within the egg. We could see the embryo and veins within the egg and as the embryo grew and movement of the developing duckling. Our students weighed the eggs periodically throughout incubation and were surprised to discover the weight of the eggs decreased as the duckling developed within the shells. On Day 28, 6th May 2024, the ducklings began to hatch. We have been extremely fortunate that all nine eggs have hatched, and we have very healthy strong ducklings. *Continues on the next page.*

The students have also planted strawberry plants which are beginning to flower and fruit. Strawberry seeds have also been planted and are slowly but surely starting to sprout. They may not fruit this year, but we will have the plants ready for the students to cultivate next year.



Within the provision, the students have helped to clean feed and change water for the ducklings. The biggest gratitude must go to Miss Smith, the Stepback Manager, who has taken the ducklings home each day and brought them back into college for other provisions within college to enjoy.



KS4 RESOURCE PROVISION

Here is a snapshot of what the KS4 Resource Provision have been up to this term! The outline of the task was to create a rainforest in a shoebox! Here was the result! The efforts were outstanding from the group and they helped students outline the characteristics of the rainforest to support their topic. June also supported their learning further by a visit to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park where students found their favourite animals and articulated how they could survive in their natural habitat. Well done everyone!



PARIS TRIP

Forty two Year 9 and 10 GCSE French students spent May bank holiday weekend in Paris. On the Saturday, they spent a full day exploring Paris including the Sacré Coeur, the Eiffel Tower, the Musée d'Orsay, the Louvre and a hop on/off boat tour along the Seine followed by a pizza and bowling evening. On the Sunday, they had lots of fun at Disneyland Paris and Walt Disney Studios. Students enjoyed learning about and discussing French culture and Paris landmarks/monuments. Many rose to the challenge of using their French in a real-life context. The students were a credit to the college and showed BE FAIR everywhere. The staff are very proud of the students and would like to thank them all for being such a fantastic group.

A MINSTHORPE SUCCESS STORY

Mrs Handley was honoured to be contacted by former Minsthorpe student Daniel Britton recently. He let her know that he was working on the UK tour of the musical '&Juliet', in a backstage production role as 'swing tech'. Daniel invited Mrs Handley to the press night at Manchester Opera House which she was delighted to accept and she enjoyed catching up with Daniel after the show.

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SPORTS DAY 2024





PRIMARY SPORTS DAY



Minsthorpe organised and hosted the Primary Sports Day for 10 local Primary Schools on Friday 21st June. The day was a huge success as 825 Primary Children took part in eight relay races, Tug "O" War, singing and dancing along with the DJ. All of the children involved, demonstrated excellent Motivation, Commitment and Care. None more so than the 9 Year 10 leaders who not only led on the day, they gave up their own time on an INSET day to do so. Moreover, all the leaders were outstanding from start to finish and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They certainly did our College proud.

STUDENTS WORK WITH HENRY BOOT

A mixture of KS4 & KS5 students have volunteered to form a Student Body to work with the contractors Henry Boot. The group meet regularly with Jack Kidder – Responsible Business Manager. Students have learnt about the wealth of careers available in the construction industry; have had presentations from employees about their career path and current roles with a particular focus on essential skills and attributes to demonstrate in order to achieve success. The much-awaited site visit will be on the last day of term, Health & Safety prevented an earlier visit, but all are really looking forward to this experience. One of the groups tasks has



been to be a communication link between the contractors and staff and students. Students and staff have been

able to pass their questions on and the group will put these to Henry Boot soon.

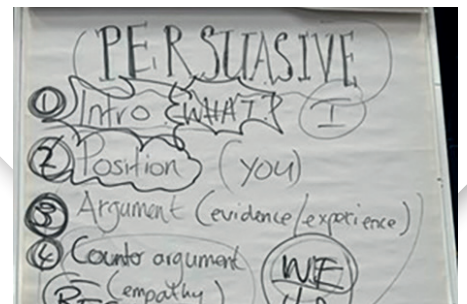
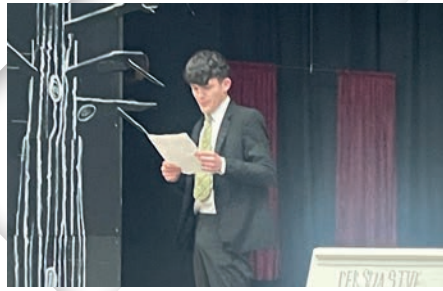


CELEBRATE WHO WE ARE: CELEBRATE YOUR VOICE!

Thursday 2nd May saw a great opportunity for students at Minsthorpe to discover their authorial voices.

Published author, Nik Perring, spent the day with y10, y11, y12 and y13 students delivering writing workshops that focused on persuasive writing skills. Students wowed him with their incredible writing talents; developed new skills and creative flair; some even delivered their masterpieces on stage.

His mantra: "take the worry out of writing" truly took wings.



SCIENCE CLUB

In Science Club this term, students have been challenged to put together Advanced Driving Bases using our LEGO Education kits. Once they finished building these, they were rewarded by being able to remotely control their driving bases by writing an algorithm on a laptop. Students have to think outside the box and use their problem-solving skills in order to succeed in this.

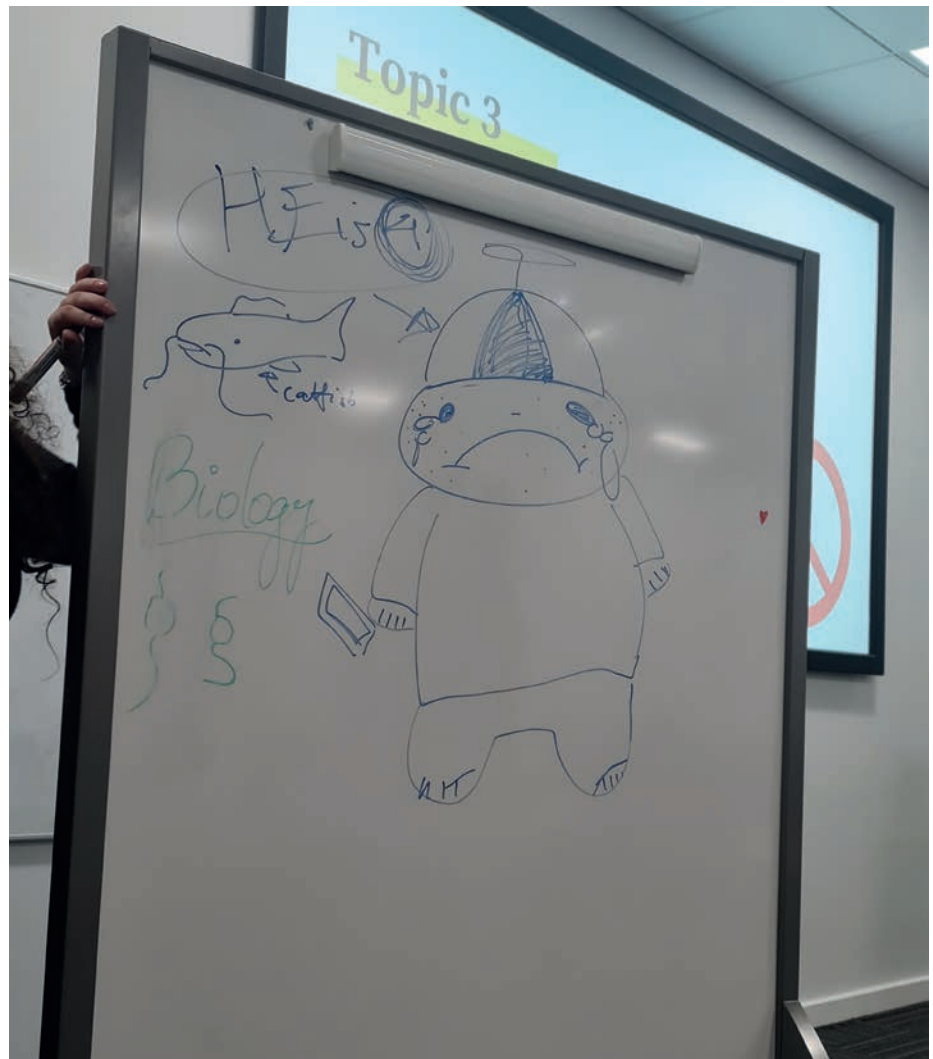


YEAR 10 SHINE RESIDENTIAL - A STUDENTS VIEW.

On the 3-4th of April I attended the Year 10 Shine residential. Upon arrival we were led into a room and given refreshments as well as time to get accustomed with the other students who were a part of the residential; we were separated into "college groups" of around 7-8 people.

The day started off with icebreakers and getting to know the people working on Shine. We were given a booklet to complete throughout the 2 days which included the written tasks, important information, and our schedule. On the first day of the residential we were introduced to our dorms, were been provided with food, and had a few activities to do; this included a lecture, followed by a research lesson all based around archaeology, and at the end of the day, a lesson based around a chosen society. I had chosen to do the debate society lesson, which had us debating for and against certain topics with another group. I have attached a photo of a character which was drawn by one of my friends to help visualise our debate on "why social media causes people to be less social".

At the end of the day we returned to our dorms to settle down. The next day we got up and running at approximately 7:20am.



The second day had included more activities for us, such as a lesson on personality types, a gameshow about the university, and various fun tasks for the colleges to indulge in. During this we had also had our 3rd proper university-style lesson called a "seminar" which was very interactive, and we spoke on the topic of various relics that were recovered from an archaeology site that the university works with called "star carr" - these included items such as a pendant, arrow, axe, and flint. Before we knew it, it was the end of our stay at the residential and it was time to return.

Everyone was given a small plushie duck on their way out as a gift.

Overall, I believe that the Y10 Shine residential is an extremely engaging event which allows students to understand and learn about university life, what to expect from university, and the many different opportunities that are available for students - this helped to have a deeper understanding of higher education and encourage people to pursue a university level degree.

Evren Owsiejczyk (he/him)

