

TEAM MINSTHORPE

SPRING TERM 2025 - EDITION 15

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Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation ♦ Commitment ♦ Care



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Welcome to Edition 15 of our termly newsletter and what a term it has been! Enjoy browsing the photos and reading the articles which give you an insight into the amazing enrichment opportunities on offer at Minsthorpe Community College.

This has been a term to remember for so many reasons!

In January, we had the long-awaited handover of our new PE Block with the state-of-the-art sports hall,

two studios and first-rate changing facilities. The facilities have definitely enhanced our PE lessons, the extra-curricular programme and community use. We agree with the positive feedback from many of you about the impressive look of the college as you pass on Minsthorpe Lane. Students continue to make memories taking part in offsite learning trips and visits. The ski trip to Austria was a particular highlight for the lucky students in Year 10

and 11. They were blessed with perfect skiing conditions and, as always, the young people were fantastic ambassadors for Minsthorpe Community College.

13th March saw the much-anticipated release of 'Adolescence'. None of us could have envisaged the global response to the Netflix drama, when we agreed last year to the college site being used as the location for episode 2. It has certainly put the local community on the map! We



are incredibly proud of the young people who were supporting actors. As you will know from the coverage about the one-shot filming, they had to work incredibly hard for eight long days, following endless directions from the production team over many hours. All involved were effusive in their praise for these young people, commenting on their exceptional manners and professional approach. Furthermore, the vocal group's performance of 'Fragile' is an incredibly poignant part in the drama, reflecting the limitless talent of our young people. We are proud to share the enrichment activities in this newsletter, but feel equally proud every single day when we see our students in their lessons, engaging fully with their learning, and around the site, enjoying being together as 'Team Minsthorpe'. We are delighted that we are maintaining our improved attendance this year and look forward to the warmer summer days when this will continue. 'Every student. Every lesson. Every day.' We wish everyone a relaxing Easter break with your family and friends and thank you for your ongoing support for Minsthorpe Community College.

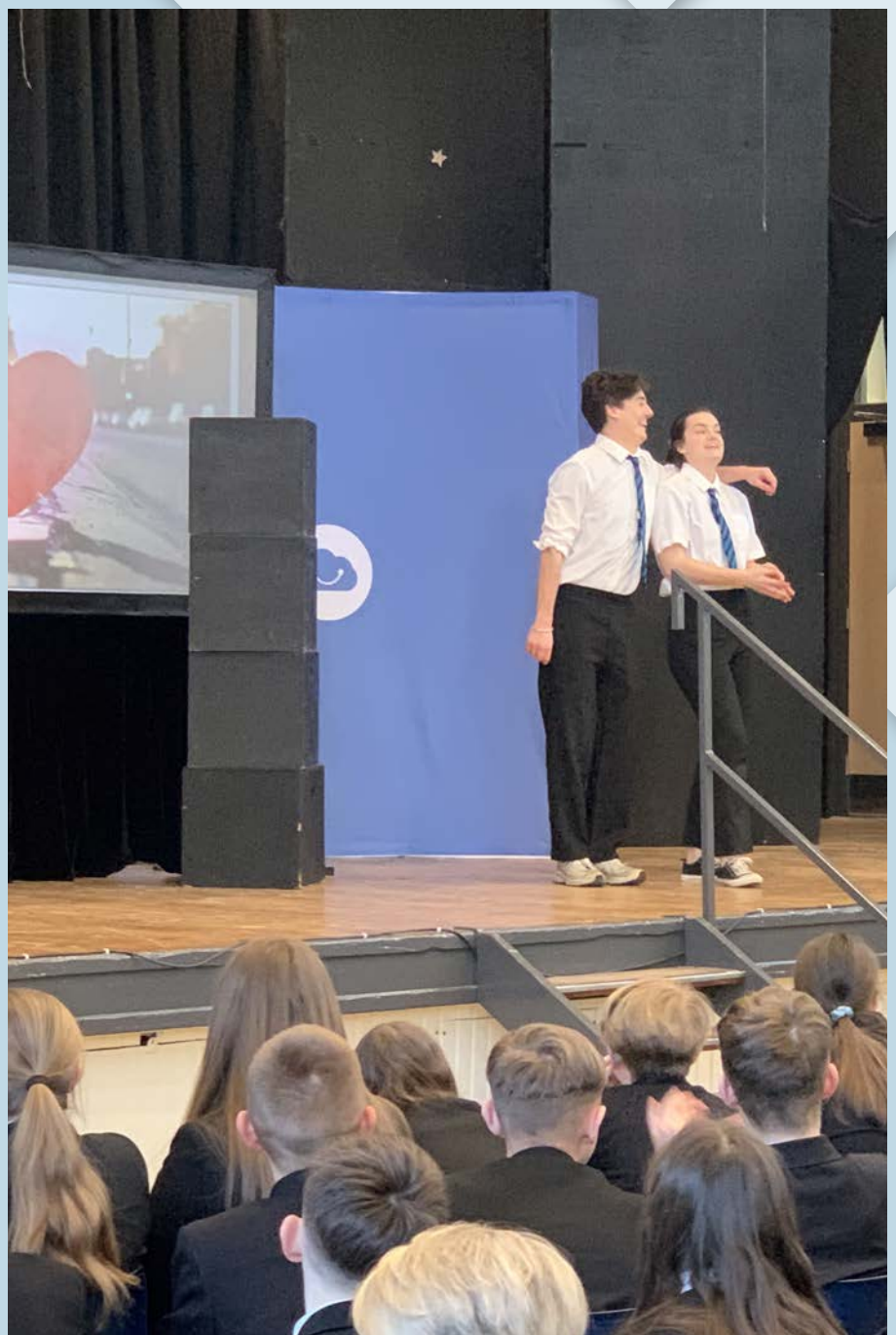
M. Gilmore

F. A. Merritt

Mr Gilmore Mrs Merritt
Joint Principals

ROAD SAFETY WORKSHOP

On Wednesday the 5th March all of Year 7 had a one hour performance and workshop on road safety by Split Second. This was funded by the West Yorkshire Vision Zero Partnership as part of their strategy to eliminate all road deaths and serious injuries across the county by 2040. So far, they have performed to over 13,000 young people. Our students actively engaged in the session, asking, and answering lots of questions. Students will have left the session with a better understanding of road safety the potential risks and dangers and how to avoid them. Our students once again excelled, and the theatre company were very impressed by their enthusiasm and engagement in the session. Well done Year 7.



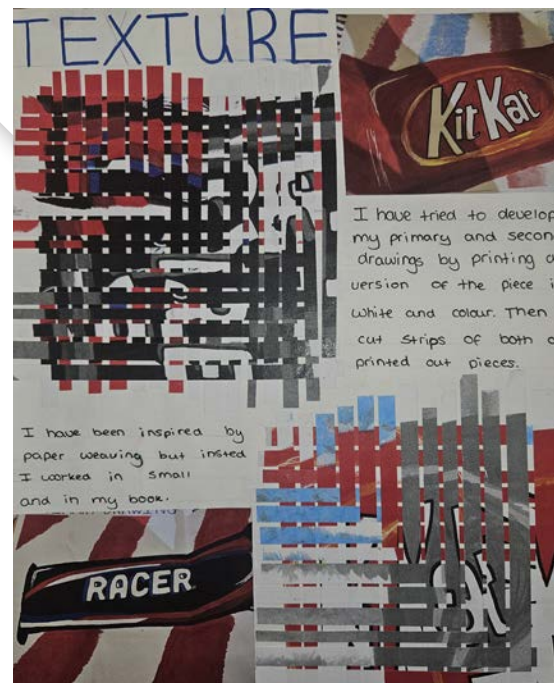
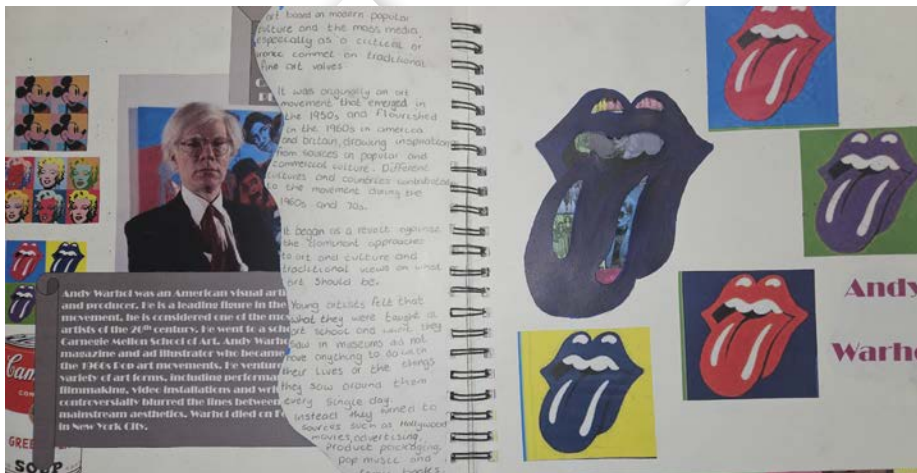
A group of Year 10 and Year 11 set off to Austria, on the 13th February for the Minsthorpe Ski Trip 2025. A long 24 hour coach/ ferry journey later and they arrived in the Ski Amade resort, in a little town called Altenmarkt. That afternoon was spent exploring the local surroundings and trying some authentic Austrian food. The next morning was welcomed in by lovely sunshine over the Austrian mountains, a signal to start the first of 5 skiing days. For the first two days the students ski'd the mountains of Altenmarkt and Radstadt. Both mountains offer a range of beginner, intermediate and advanced runs for every student to challenge themselves. Ski days were always followed by an 'apres-ski' activity. These included a waterpark, traditional Austrian bowling and an outdoor rollercoaster down the side of one of the ski slopes. The following ski days were spent skiing the vaster regions Flachau, Wagrain and Alpendorf, where the students were able to progress their skiing even further by trying some red/black runs at the highest point of the Ski Amade mountains. During the last ski day all students enjoyed a pizza on the slopes before setting off back Wednesday evening, very tired and with fantastic memories of a great week. The journey home was as smooth as a 24 hour journey can be and before you knew it back at Minsthorpe ready to share stories of a fantastic week.

SKIING ADVENTURES IN AUSTRIA



TELENTED ARTISTS

Component 1 Personal Investigation research work. Students have been working hard and exploring a range of media and techniques including oil paint, charcoal, acrylics and collage to produce some fantastic outcomes.



KS3RP have been looking into the future this half term and setting personal goals around who they want to be. We have explored morals and personal attributes that we want to have through English and Learning for Life lessons. We have expressed these attributes beautifully through our Art and DT lessons in our 'Tree of Inspiration'. Continuing with our theme of growth, we explored plants and what they look like under the microscope in a fun Science lesson all about plant cells!

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE



KS3 RP IN THE SCIENCE LAB

KS3 RP have had another fantastic half term! We have had a very science orientated term focussing on properties of Liquids, Solids and Gasses through experiments such as Paper Snakes and creating Gloop (A Non-Newtonian Fluid) in our Science Lab! Last but not least, KS3 RP have been focussing on their target practice through PE lessons and have excelled at this in their Hockey games!



READATHON STAR STUDENT!

Congratulations to Harry in Year 7 for raising the most money in this year's Read for Good Readathon! He received a Certificate and Voucher from Principal Mrs Merritt.

All Years 7 & 8 students were invited to take part in the Readathon last term, and the final total of £55.00 was revealed in February.

The sponsored read ran for a week at the end of November. All students received a Sponsor Card and were able to choose their own reading material for the two-week challenge, asking friends, family and neighbours to donate online at readforgood.org/sponsor, or paying by cheque.

Every penny raised contributes towards funding a resident storyteller to every major children's hospital in the UK as well as a supply of brand-new books for the college library. Pupils can choose whatever they want to read - from comics to classics and audio books to blogs - they are not being assessed, it's all about reading for fun.

Mrs Thompson, English Literacy Lead, was delighted with Harry's contribution. "Although we did not raise as much money as last year, a handful of students still engaged in the opportunity and enjoyed developing their own reading for pleasure.

If every student in Years 7 & 8 manages to be sponsored just £1 next year, that would come to around £600! Let's see if we can meet that challenge." Well done Readers!

YEAR 7 RUGBY

The Y7 boys rugby team have been working hard at Friday training sessions since September and are now on an unbeaten run of fixtures. Pictured is our last win against Carleton Academy. Keep up the great work!



Y7 FIELDWORK

In our Geography Spring 2 Topic Work, Rest and Play students took part in fieldwork on the college site. The lesson investigated changes in communication and transport over time, in particular students were looking at how the Hemsworth Bypass has had an impact on the traffic that flows past MCC. Students investigated the hypothesis: 'There will be less traffic on Minsthorpe Lane today than there was in 2008'. Students had 10 minutes to tally the types of transportation that were passing the front of college. When returning to the classroom we then compared the data we collected to data that was collected in 2008. Students analysed the results and came to a conclusion as to whether the bypass had an impact on the local traffic.



FRENCH SUCCESS

36 students in years 7-11 were nominated by their French teachers in the Autumn term for their motivation, commitment and care in French. They all received postcards and Christmas selection boxes in recognition of their hard work and effort. We are looking forward to nominating a further 36 students with Easter treats at the end of the Spring term.



YEAR 8 SCIENCE FAIR

In February we congratulated Rowan, Max, Izzy and Frankie for winning the Year 8 Science fair with their wonderful projects. Each student won an Amazon voucher and Rowan

was awarded the overall trophy for his excellent work on climate change. Sixty of our Year 8 students spent six weeks at home working on their projects on the theme "change and adapt" and the

invited parents and teachers were all very impressed by the quality projects on show. Once again, the high standards meant that the principals had a very difficult decision to make but eventually our winners were chosen. Well done Year 8.



A VERY EUROPEAN CHRISTMAS' WORKSHOP



A number of students in Years 7, 8 & 9 took part in an exciting workshop looking at how Christmas is celebrated in various countries across Europe. They were joined by our fantastic group of Language Ambassadors who had volunteered to assist during the session. During the workshop,

students learned how to say 'Merry Christmas' in 16 languages and enjoyed a French Christmas song called 'Vive le vent' sung to a very well known tune but with very different (and very bizarre!) lyrics. Afterwards, we discovered that in many countries across Europe, children receive presents twice in December! Once on the Feast Day of Saint Nicholas on 6th December and again on Christmas Eve, usually in the evening.

Another interesting fact we learned was that in Germany and Austria, St. Nicholas has a very sinister and frightening side-kick called Krampus and that there are street parades of Krampus-dressed characters in the run-up to Christmas, whose sole purpose is to scare children into being good. And what would a Christmas workshop be without some good Christmas food? Namely, German Lebkuchen (gingerbread cakes filled with apricot jam and covered



in chocolate) and French Bûche de Noël (yuletide chocolate log-shaped cake). Students finished the session by decorating some wooden Christmas baubles with a European theme, which they took home to hang up on their own Christmas trees. Students left the session feeling even more ready to celebrate the Christmas season.

Thank you to all who came and to all who supported the Workshop!

Joyeux Noël! ¡Feliz Navidad!
Frohe Weihnachten!



WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD





KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENTS



Year 7, 8 and 9 continue to show an excellent attitude to Home Learning and Knowledge Assessments. We have celebrated our top 50 students, students who have attained full marks in a subject area and, for the first time this year, students who have improved upon their Autumn One scores. We always acknowledge

academic success, but it is important to equally celebrate progress. It is clear that students take an immense amount of pride in their assessments with our most improved Year 7 student explaining that extra revision is the reason her progress. Hard work really does pay off! Well done to all of our students and we look forward to celebrating further achievements in the future.



STAR SCIENTISTS VISIT LEEDS UNIVERSITY

The University of Leeds invited ten of our star scientists to celebrate women in engineering. The students did us proud, asking insightful questions and completing a range of tasks from all aspects of engineering. We learned that engineers solve real world problems, adapting to changing situations across a broad range of disciplines. We first developed our problem-solving skills by planning more sustainable music festivals and building prototypes of the infrastructure. Next, we prepared biochar and learned about the many potential uses of our waste, including our poo! After lunch and the opportunity to chat with students and post-doctoral fellows, we entered a competition to design a sail car and wind track. We are looking forward to sharing our learning with our peers back at Minsthorpe.



Home Learning continues to go from strength to strength at Minsthorpe Community College. It is amazing to see the quality of the Home Learning submitted every week. A special mention to 9.2, 9.5, 9.7 and 9.9 for consistently having high submissions. It has become a tradition at Minsthorpe to celebrate the students who have excelled in Knowledge Assessments- students who have achieved 100% in any subject area all receive a certificate as well as students who have improve their scores. The top 50 students are also applauded for their academic endeavours. Average scores across all three year groups remains extremely high with all

HOME LEARNING THRIVES



three year groups averaging above 60%! This is due to the exceptional hard work of the students. Year 9 achieved the highest totals during this round of assessments proving that the more students follow the programme, the more

successful they are. Our final assessments of the year take place on Wednesday 21st May and Thursday 10th July. We look forward to celebrating the students' motivation, commitment and care in the future.



After studying the anatomy of the eye, Year 10 biologists enjoyed the opportunity to explore some real eyeballs, applying their knowledge in context. Thanks to our new visualisers, those who prefer a little distance could still choose to be involved, watching their classmates on the big screen. Popcorn was not provided!

YEAR 10 BIOLOGISTS



WORLD BOOK DAY 2025

World Book Day is a national opportunity for schools across the country to celebrate the past, present and future of children's literature and promote reading for pleasure. Once again, every student at Minsthorpe Community College received a voucher for a book of their own or a £1 reduction from a full price title.

We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 6th March by focusing upon children's literature in P&A time and all subjects across the curriculum. The Whole College Reading Policy was applied to predict the narratives, understand the texts and pin down the plot

and themes.

Students across college were given the opportunity to read extracts from some inspirational novels throughout the day. The three novels all had the theme of adventure, in 'The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes' by Suzanne Collins, 'Lion: A long Way Home' by Saroo Brierley and 'The Hobbit', by J. R. R. Tolkien. As always, the class discussions which followed from this collaborative reading were mature, insightful and engaging, and all three novels were accompanied by the trailer for their popular film adaptations.

The English Team even dressed up as their favourite

characters from literature and students were spotting their costumes throughout the day. Mrs Thompson said, "It's wonderful how engaging World Book Day is, for all ages, as reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for everyone to enjoy. I deliberately chose these three books because students can see young characters facing new adventures and challenges. All of these books are in the library or can be borrowed from my bookshelf, so everyone can keep reading and developing their skills and imagination, whether it's in the dystopian society of Collins's Hunger Games, the backstreets of Calcutta in 'Lion', or the mountains of Tolkien's Middle Earth."



15 of our Year 9 students attended a Give Construction a Try event at Castleford college, the event was sponsored by Willmott Dixon. The day was brilliant, and the students gained knowledge and took part in activities associated with the construction industry. The students were split into two groups, technical and

GIVE CONSTRUCTION A TRY EVENT

trade. The activities included making a pencil box in joinery, using clay that they use for tiles to sculpture a dragon, wiring a plug and trying to build a house using net zero carbon. The students had a fantastic day and represented the college

excellently.

We also received a kind message from a parent, 'Thank you for giving my son the opportunity to experience Castleford College yesterday. He enjoyed the day and all the lessons & activities.'



POST 16 IN THE KITCHEN

The brief was to make a 3 course meal for a fitness and spa user ensuring they included a large variety of complex and advanced skills used throughout- fantastic outcomes overall all done in the deadline of 4 hours. Bon Appetit!

