

TEAM MINSTHORPE

AUTUMN TERM 2025 - EDITION 17

f /minsthorpecc

@MinsthorpeCC

Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation ♦ Commitment ♦ Care



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPALS

As we approach the final week of the Autumn Term, it's the perfect time to pause and reflect on the incredible experiences our students have enjoyed over the past months. This edition of *Team Minsthorpe* is brimming with stories and photographs that capture the spirit of our community—moments of Motivation, Commitment and Care that make us proud every day.

Our new Year 7 students have settled in beautifully, embracing routines and living up to our BE FAIR expectations with enthusiasm. Year 8 have shown their sporting strength, excelling in football and rugby tournaments, and many are already counting down the days to their exciting trip to Barcelona at Easter. Year 9 have dazzled us with their creative talent, securing leading roles in our upcoming production of *Matilda Junior*—we can't wait to see them shine on stage in March. Year 10, the first to follow our two-year Key Stage 4 curriculum, have hit the

ground running with their GCSE courses, while Year 11 have worked tirelessly this term, balancing lessons and Commitment sessions, alongside their mock exams. Their determination is inspiring. And of course, we are delighted to welcome back so many students into Post 16, who continue to set a wonderful example for the younger years.

This season is also about giving, and we are humbled

by the generosity of our students and families. On Thursday 18th December, we invite everyone to join in the fun of Christmas Jumper Day—a chance to wear something festive (or simply a cosy jumper) and donate £1 to support local families. For those who prefer, contributions to our Reverse Advent Calendar food bank collection are warmly welcomed. These acts of kindness truly embody the spirit of the season.



As we prepare for the holidays, please note that term ends on Thursday 18th December. Year 11 will enjoy a celebratory breakfast before their final mock exam on the last day, leaving site at around 1:00pm, while Year 10 will finish after their Knowledge Assessment at 2:10pm. Years 7 and 8 will leave at 2:25pm, and Year 9 at 2:30pm, as usual.

Finally, keep an eye out for Minsy the Attendance Elf,

who will be spreading festive cheer and treats as part of our Attendance Elf Sleigh Competition. Attendance remains a top priority at Minsthorpe—Every student. Every lesson. Every day.—and we're thrilled to see students finishing the term strong.

From all of us at Minsthorpe Community College, we wish you a joyful festive season filled with warmth, laughter, and time with loved

ones. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to an exciting new year together with students returning at 8:25am on Monday 6th January 2025.

Mr Gilmore

Mrs Merritt

M. Gilmore

F. A. Merritt

Joint Principals

MINSTHORPE COMMUNITY COLLEGE "SHINE" PROGRAMME

The York University "Shine" programme aims to raise awareness and knowledge of higher education, while also inspiring, motivating and encouraging participants to realise their aspirations and achieve academic success. By working closely with our Shine students, we hope to support them to make informed decisions about their future and support them to build key skills required for their next steps.

In September, a group of year 11 students came to the end of the programme. Their Shine journey started back in year 9 when they visited York University for the first time, they took part in a campus tour, attended seminars such as HE Discovery and My Road to Success.

In year 10 the students attended the Shine residential where they took part in a variety of workshops. They took part in lectures where they

learned how to research and develop study skills. In the evening they slept in student accommodation to complete their experience of living on a university campus.

The "Shine Summit" saw the closure of the programme. The students attended activities to support their year 11 studies. These activities included learning

to deal with pressure, being able to shine a light on skills, revision techniques and finally P16 options.

The students have had a great experience and it has been lovely to see them grow in confidence over the 3 years of the programme.



LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS



The Year 10 and Year 11 Language Ambassadors did an excellent job helping out at the Year 6 Open Evening in October. They were fantastic role models and demonstrated Minsthorpe's core values of Motivation, Commitment and Care. They helped students to create badges, to say basic sentences in French and they encouraged students to get involved in the French quiz. They were a credit to the college and got involved in all of the activities including their enthusiastic engagement in the Photo Booth. Miss Hartley will be looking to recruit some Key Stage 3 Language Ambassadors in the Spring Term.



MCC REMEMBRANCE



As a college, collectively we have honoured all the fallen soldiers listed on our the local war memorials of Upton and South Elmsall. Each P and A group "adopted" between 2 to 4 soldiers. Pupils then used the Commonwealth War Graves Commission archive to research additional information to add to wooden memorial crosses to commemorate the war dead. These crosses were laid at a service of remembrance held in college on 11th November. We were very



privileged to have been joined by representatives of the Royal British Legion; Joanne Fontana and George

Mozer, the standard bearer for the South Elmsall and District branch of the Royal British legion. Both commented that it was so important to keep the memory alive of those who have fallen in war. The Last Post and Rouse were expertly played by our very own Y8 musical talent, Rufus. Our collective act of remembrance was both moving and poignant. Through the research of P and A groups we found that each of the names listed on the local war



memorials represented an individual story of how war forever changes lives. We learned that William and Annie Calvert, who lived at 1, Railways Collages (Wrangbrooke), lost two of their sons in World War One. Lance Corporal E Calvert died aged 22 in August 1918 and Private Walter Calvert died aged 19 in September 1918. We learnt that neighbours of Pit Row in South Kirkby shared in their grief and loss. Private Fred Goldthorpe, whose parents lived at 14 Pit Row, died in 1916 aged 21. In addition, Private Clifford Holt, whose parents lived at 15 Pit Row, died in 1917 aged 20. We also commemorated one of our own; Rifleman Luke Farmer, a former pupil of our school, served with the 3rd Battalion The Rifles. He died whilst serving in Afghanistan in 2010 aged 19. Luke worked to deactivate improvised explosive devices. Lieutenant Palmer Winstanley, who served with Luke, said his work "is an incredible undertaking for anyone, and it is certain that



he saved many lives." Through our collective efforts, as a college, we hope to have remembered and

commemorated those who, for our tomorrow, gave their today.



CULTURE CLUB



A number of students have been attending Culture Club on Tuesdays after school since October half term. Students have had the opportunity to expand their knowledge through art, music, literature, and food, as well as learn fun new facts about current events such as the Louvre Robbery and the Winter Solstice. We would like to encourage more students to get involved in the Spring term.



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS END OF YEAR CELEBRATION



At the start of this academic year, assemblies for Years 8-10 were dedicated to celebrating student achievement in relation to the Knowledge Organiser programme. Last year was our most successful year yet with more Home Learning completed than ever before, and assessment records continually broken. It is always a privilege to see our students' motivation, commitment, and care, fully evident in pupils' workbooks. The attention to detail evident in the Home Learning completed each Monday is commendable. In our rewards assemblies, vouchers, certificates, trophies, and an I-pad were distributed as prizes. Although only one champion emerged per year group, many students will have received certificates for improved scores throughout the year, and the most improved student of every year group receives a voucher. We expect all students to complete Home Learning and try their best in assessments, therefore it is important to us to reward as many students as possible. There was also plenty to celebrate with records being broken- current Year 10 achieved the highest ever average score (70.1%) and will be rewarded with a donut treat on Friday 24th October. Congratulations to Matilda, who has scored 160/160 for two assessments running- I think we can all appreciate the levels of dedication and hard work that it takes to achieve such outstanding results. I hope you all enjoy celebrating our students' success and supporting them with Home Learning and Knowledge Assessments throughout the new academic year. Mr Ruston



DONUT DAY

At the end of Autumn 1, Year 10 celebrated their outstanding success in Knowledge Assessments. They currently hold the

record for the highest average assessment score. 70.1% is a phenomenal achievement and a testament to the year

group's continued hard work. Mr Lumley has challenged his year group to build on their previous successes, and they have certainly started the new academic year in superb form. The year group began our Knowledge Organiser programme in Year 7 and have continued to be a year group to aspire to. The students enjoyed their sweet treat and it was brilliant to see so many smiles at the end of a tiring half-term. Year 10 have begun their GCSE studies and with a continued focus on independent learning matched with consistent attendance, I can only see the year group going from strength to strength. Well done Year 10!

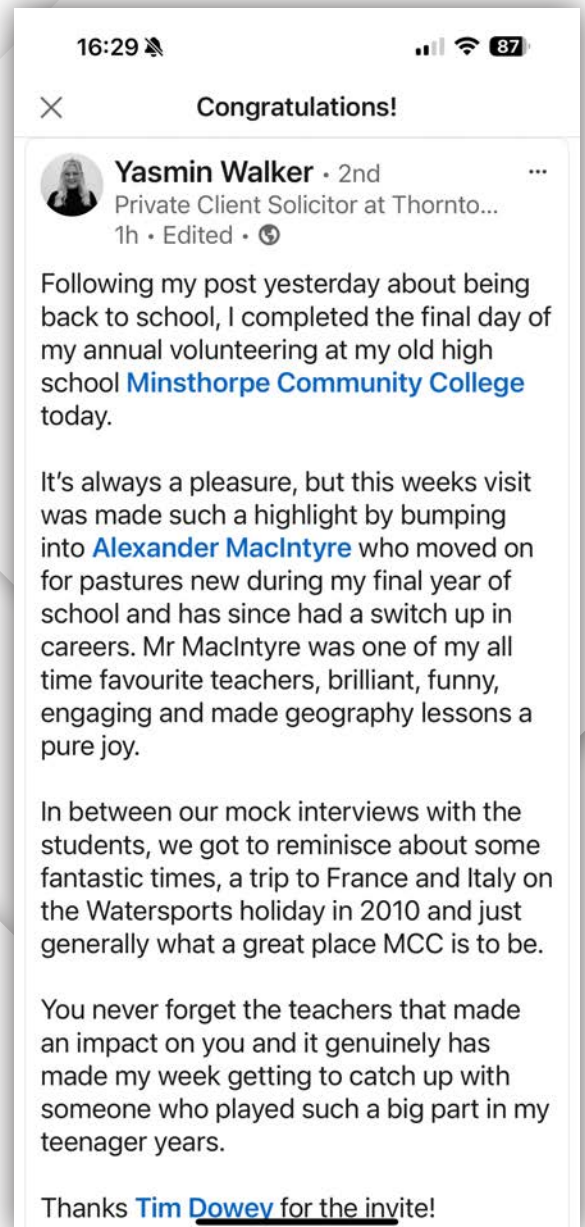


YEAR 8 BETH SHALOM

On Wednesday 12th November 40 Year 8 students visited Beth Shalom, the Holocaust Centre in Laxton. Here they took part in workshops which explored who was most to blame for the Holocaust and how people, including Jews, resisted the Nazi regime. They spent time in the museum as well as in the memorial gardens where each student placed a stone on the memorial to remember one of the 1.5 million children who died during the Holocaust. Students conducted themselves with maturity and empathy throughout the day, offering thoughtful contributions and asking important questions. They did themselves and the College proud and it was a pleasure to spend the day with them in such a thought-provoking place.



YEAR 10 MOCK INTERVIEWS



to use this information to update their CV. The feedback from the professionals was very good. The students did the school, you and themselves proud. The interviewers were extremely complementary about their knowledge, aspirations and how polite they were.



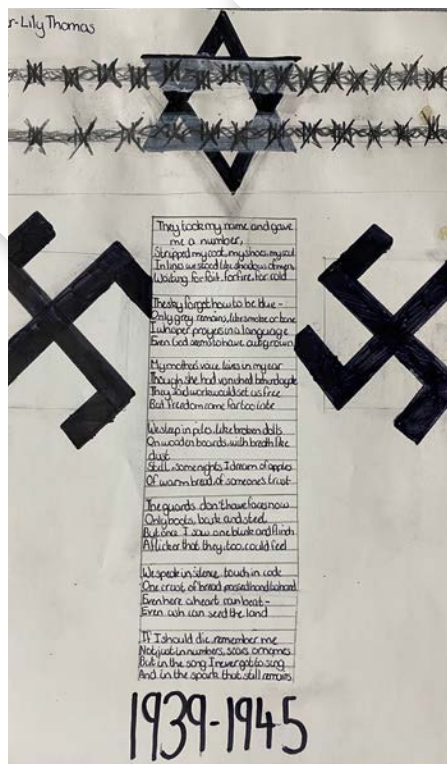
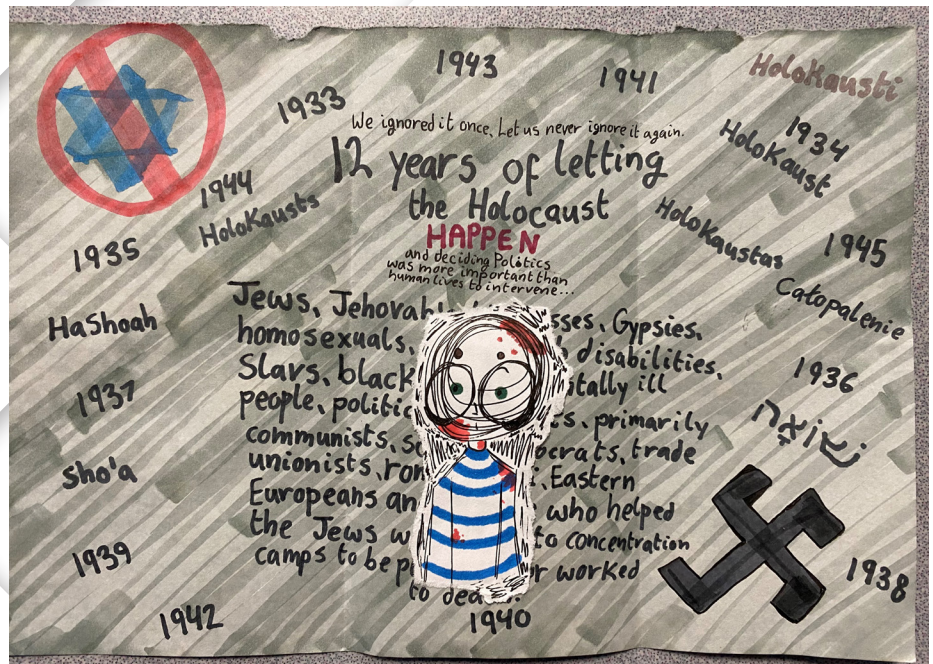
AFTERNOON TEA WITH YEAR 10

Our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students have worked tremendously hard in creating afternoon teas this week as a mock GCSE practical. We have been amazed at the creativity, work ethic and fantastic outcomes of the variety of food items produced- huge well done Year 10. We have enjoyed every minute of seeing your commitment and care to work.



STUDYING THE HOLOCAUST

During the past term Year 8 have been studying the Holocaust in Learning for Life and as a part of this we ran a competition to engage students in a more creative way. We challenged students to create a piece which would be seen as a memorial for those who died. We had a variety of entries, all of which were thoughtful, poignant and demonstrated a real understanding of what life was like for Jews and other minority groups during World War II. Here are just a few of those entries all of which clearly demonstrate the College values of Motivation, Commitment and Care but it was the entry from Amber-Lily which bowled us over. The emotion and intensity of the content of her poem was amazing, well done Amber-Lily!

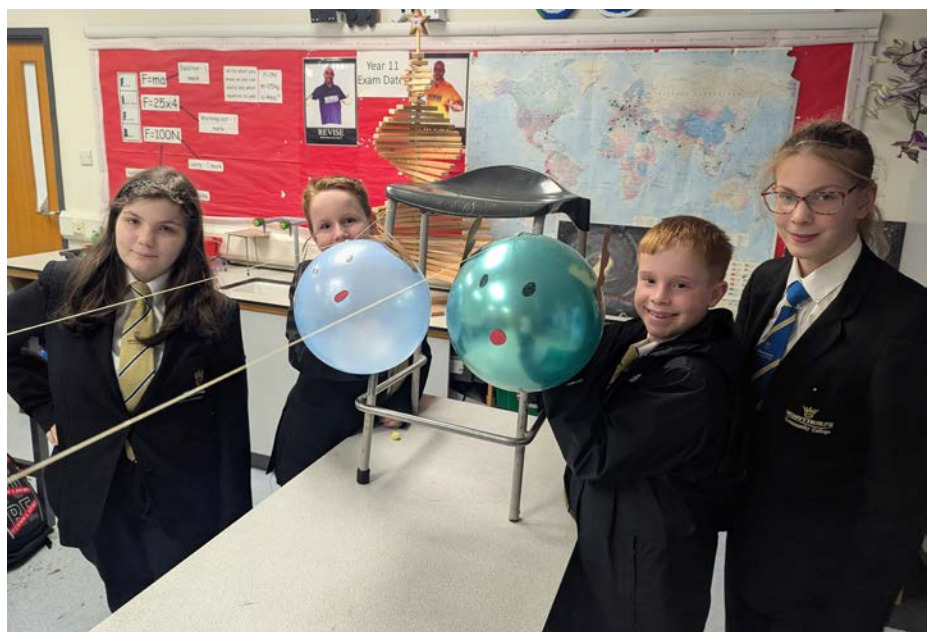


YEAR 7 & 8 SCIENCE CLUB

This term, our Year 7 and 8 Science Club has been buzzing with excitement as students explored the wonders of science through a variety of hands-on experiments and challenges. From investigating chemical reactions and creating colourful chromatography patterns to building simple circuits and testing forces in action, every session has been packed with curiosity and fun.

The club has provided a fantastic opportunity for students to work collaboratively, ask big questions, and develop their practical skills beyond the classroom. It's been inspiring to see their confidence grow as they experiment, problem-solve, and share ideas with one another. As you can see, we ended the year with some festive fun including making snowball catapults and having reindeer balloon races.

A huge well done to all our young scientists for their enthusiasm and creativity this term – we can't wait to see what amazing projects and discoveries await in the new year!



The Creative Arts Music team came together for what proved to be one of our most spectacular Christmas Concerts yet. The evening was jam-packed with an incredible variety of performances, showcasing over two hours of pure musical talent. From expressive soloists and skilled pianists to captivating string duets, vibrant vocal groups, energetic bands and so much more. Our students lit up the stage with confidence and creativity and ranged from all year groups 7-11. Every student involved demonstrated true motivation, commitment, and care. Values we hold dear at Minsthorpe. Their hard work and enthusiasm were evident in every performance and it was wonderful to see so many families, friends and staff in attendance to support them. What a fantastic celebration of music and community spirit to kick off the festive season!

MCC CHRISTMAS CONCERT



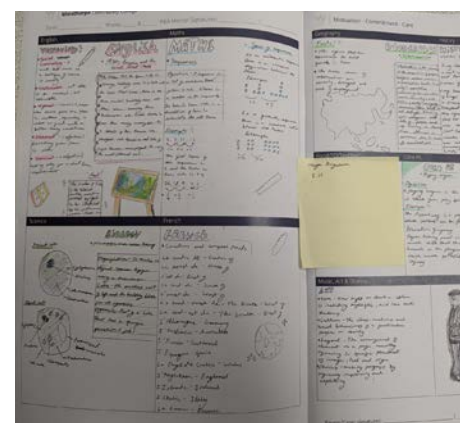
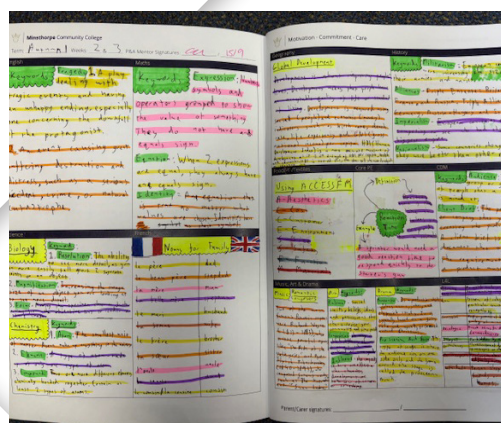
THE RESET ENTERPRISE

During the Upcycle Enterprise, students developed valuable practical and creative skills. They learned how to prepare mirrors and furniture for restoration, including essential techniques such as sanding and understanding its importance for achieving a high-quality finish. Students were also taught how to paint to a professional standard and added their own creative designs—some even included positive and motivational quotes, thanks to AJ's inspiring input. Alongside this, our Christmas Enterprise is in full swing! Students in Reset have been handcrafting festive treats, including hot chocolate stirrers and reindeer food, ready to sell to staff and spread some holiday cheer. As Fletcher perfectly put it in his own way: "Only one more shower till Christmas!"



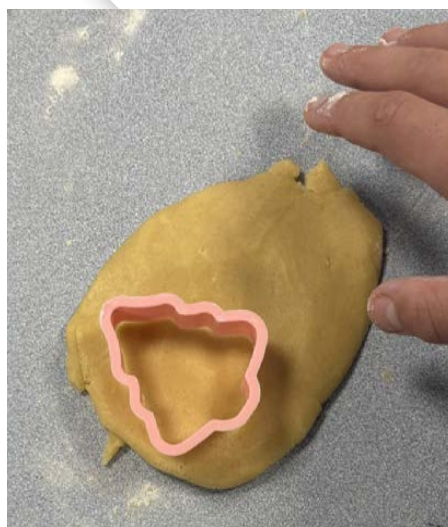
This term, our students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have once again demonstrated the school values of motivation, commitment and care through their impressive achievements in the Knowledge Assessments. In each year group, certificates have been awarded to the Top 50 students and to students achieving 100% in any subject area, celebrating those who have shown exceptional motivation and consistent commitment to their studies. To acknowledge those who have gone even further, the top 3 students and the student with the best home learning in Years 7, 8 and 9 received vouchers in recognition of their outstanding results and drive to excel. A huge congratulations to Year 8, who achieved the highest Knowledge Assessment score ever recorded at our school. They are very much looking forward to celebrating with cookies at break time during the last week of term, a well-earned reward! We are incredibly proud of all our students for upholding our core values and striving to be the best they can be. The effort that students put into their home learning shines through in every assessment cycle, and we look forward to celebrating many more successes as the year continues.

CELEBRATING KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT SUCCESS IN YEARS 7, 8 AND 9



RESOURCE PROVISION IN THE KITCHEN

The Resource Provisions have been incredibly fortunate to have brand new domestic kitchens installed into classrooms at the end of October. These new kitchens widen the scope available to build and hone everyday life skills for our students. Both RP3 and RP4 have lots of exciting projects planned using the kitchens – gift-making, meal prep, food & hygiene lessons and most importantly the opportunity to be more self-sufficient – preparing breakfasts/meals and hot drinks. This term both provisions have started gently, making toast and hot chocolate and we've also made butter cookies and will be creating some chocolate treats in the final week.





'MINSTHORPE MILES' READING INITIATIVE

The Autumn term has seen a fantastic level of engagement from our Year 7 students entering the Minsthorpe Miles initiative, whereby students read books and complete quizzes in order to build up their miles. Over 200 quizzes have been completed since September and we were able to hand out 27 individual rewards in the assembly on Friday 12th December. Some students even managed to achieve multiple rewards. We look forward to the continued engagement in 2026! Keep reading Minsthorpe!

Achieving a 5km certificate, plus achievement points and chocolate:

Osman 7.01
Willow 7.4
Allannah 7.4
Lewis 7.11
Szymon 7.3
Bentley 7.4
Seb 7.4
Georgia 7.9
Eliza 7.01
Ellie-Mae 7.1
Alfie 7Nu
Carys 7.11
Jack 7.9
Ava 7.9
Ellis 7.3
Roman 7.4
Archie 7.5
Joshua 7.9

Achieving a 10km certificate, plus achievement points and chocolate:

Allannah 7.4
Szymon 7.3
Alfie 7Nu
Carys 7.11
Jack 7.9
Ellis 7.3
Roman 7.4
Joshua 7.9

Achieving a Half Marathon certificate, plus achievement points and chocolate:
Roman 7.4

The winning P&A was 7.4 - a great collective effort!

