

TEAM MINSTHORPE

SPRING TERM 2023 - EDITION 9

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Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation ♦ Commitment ♦ Care



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Welcome to the latest edition of our 'Team Minsthorpe' newsletter. By the time you are reading this, we will have moved the clocks forward one hour, giving us longer, brighter days, and the Easter holidays will almost be here. Time for chocolate eggs, hot cross buns, and Easter bunnies!

As always, our newsletter showcases the fantastic enrichment opportunities enjoyed by our students. We know you will enjoy reading the interesting articles and browsing the fantastic photos. You will see that students from every year group are featured in this edition, with activities happening in College and outside College, at home and abroad. You can't fail to be inspired by the opportunities given to our students, but also by their engagement in activities offered at the College and beyond. Please take a moment to look at the Enrichment Journey on the next page. There really is something for everyone! We have enjoyed showcasing our College to a number

of visitors this term. This has included the DfE Adviser, Tom Bennett, colleagues from local academies and members of our own governing board. We have welcomed record numbers of parents/carers to the Year 8 Options Evening and a variety of representatives from education, apprenticeship, and training providers at our annual Careers Fair. Each one of these visitors have been impressed with the respectful attitudes of our students, the calm environment for learning in lessons and the positivity of our staff. April 2023 marks four years since we became Principals of Minsthorpe Community College and you won't be surprised to hear that we feel proud and privileged to lead this wonderful College.



It is a pleasure to be here each day with staff and students who demonstrate our values of Motivation, Commitment and Care and we acknowledge the part played by parents/carers and governors in strengthening our learning community. We would like to express our thanks for your ongoing support and wish everyone a relaxing Easter break.

M. Gilmore

**Mr Gilmore
Joint Principals**

P. A. Merritt

Mrs Merritt

Enrichment Journey



KS3 Before & After College Clubs for all

Art Club, Breakfast club, LLC, Football, Netball, Basketball, Rugby, Minsthorpe Times, Badminton, Table Tennis, Trampoline, Table Top Gaming, Fitness, Carnegie Book club, Chess, Boxing, Minecraft club, Gymnastics, Drama club, STEM Club, coding club, Knowledge organiser support, Home Learning Support

KS4 Before & After College Clubs for all

Breakfast club, LLC, Football, Netball, Basketball, Rugby, Minsthorpe Times, Badminton, Table Tennis, Trampoline, Table Top Gaming, Carnegie Book club, Chess, Boxing, Explore Psychology, Jam Hub, Philosophy society, Senior band, Vocal Group, Art Coursework Club, Elite Rugby & Power Training

What a fabulous trip we all had visiting the beautiful Austrian Mountains. The sun was shining for us all week and the students made incredible progress with their skiing ability. Most were able to ski down from the top of the mountain within a couple of days- some even skied into Italy! We enjoyed pizzas, fancy dress parties and games night. We were inundated with nominations for the Wally Awards- including some staff and student epic fails! The official trip chant, started by Mr Gilmore, was stuck in our heads for weeks after our return! Many incredible memories were made that week... Motivation, Commitment 'AND' 'care!!
#Austria2023

MCC SKI TRIP 2023



POST 16 RECITALS

Another successful evening of Year 12 recitals in January, the standard of musicianship rises every year. We were entertained by 5 of our Year 12's with a range of instruments each unique in their own way. We are extremely proud of how far they have come, in confidence, resilience and outstanding performance ability.



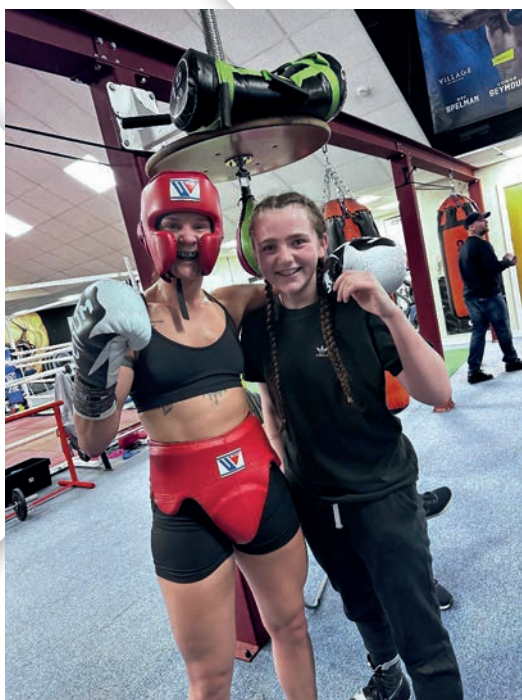
LIV WHITHEAD FLYING HIGH



Ex MCC student Liv Whitehead has been successful in securing the number 2 shirt (winger) for York Knights. She has also recently found out she has received a place in the England students squad.



ANGEL SPARS TERRY HARPER



Angel has been boxing as part of the school boxing club from Year 7 and is an incredibly talented girl that is striving to build on the amazing technical work coached by KSK kick boxing gym. Angel was offered the chance to go to boxing gyms on the England talent pathway and her training has gone from strength to strength. Angel has had a number of fights in the ring and has now sparred with world champion Terry Harper. With an amazing team round her and the drive and dedication from her family we have high hopes for Angel in the future. Angel is a model student in the classroom and around school site and is like a demon when she gets through the ropes, what a talent and what a role model for ALL students at Minsthorpe, We are very proud of her.



JACK JOINS CASTLEFORD TIGERS



Jack signed his academy contract at Castleford Tigers Rugby League club 23/02/23 and as a school we couldn't be more proud.

Jack has represented the school teams from Year 7 to Year 10 and has represented the year above on many occasions. On the pitch Jack is a natural leader, he is tough, physically dominating in the tackle collisions and yet has a calm head when matches become chaotic. The drive and determination to train and succeed at Rugby League has earned him his contract and he continues to demonstrate these qualities in the classroom at school and in his GCSE lessons. He is a role model for any student attending Minsthorpe and in particular for the current Year 7 and 8 students that have aspirations to become an academy sports person at any sport. Well done Jack we are so proud of you and look forward to watching your progress towards the superleague.



Y11 EXCEL IN THE KITCHEN

A huge congratulations and well done to the Year 11 Hospitality and Catering students- over the last 3 weeks they have all done their controlled assessment producing some amazing restaurant quality standard dishes that the Food staff and students were very proud of.

Thank you to all the parents for the support in buying the ingredients and supporting your child in the practices and the run up- we understand with the current cost of living crisis this has come at a difficult time and we are very grateful

Keep up the hard work Year 11 you are almost there!!



POST 16 HOLOCAUST TRIP

On Wednesday the 15th of March a number of our Soc Voc Post 16 students had the privilege to work with Lessons from the Holocaust project and take part in a visit to the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in Poland. Prior to the visit students prepared by attending seminars with students from all around West Yorkshire. During the seminar they listened to the testimony of Holocaust survivors and took part in meaningful group discussions about the topics covered. Now the visit has taken place the students will reflect on this experience by attending a follow up seminar in which they will create projects to pass on the lessons they have learnt to other students. This was such a poignant and important experience which we hope those who attended will remember for years to come. We are really looking forward to seeing their completed projects and the lessons we can all learn from this as a school community.

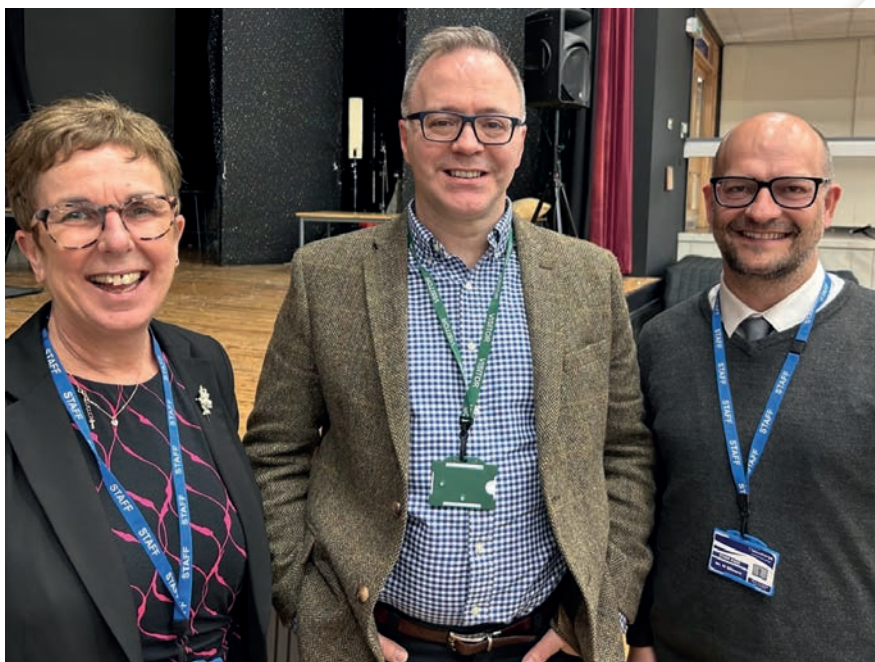


FLIPPING BRILLIANT

On Shrove Tuesday, MFL joined up with DT and celebrated La Chandeleur (otherwise known as Pancake Day) and had the most fabulous time making delicious crepes and the placing orders in Madame Hartley's French café for toppings such as, 'du chocolat', 'des fraises' and 'du miel'. A 'flipping' good time was had by all!



TOM BENNETT VISITS MCC



On Wednesday 1st March the College welcomed Tom Bennett for a full day visit to our site. Tom is the Independent Behaviour Advisor to the DfE, as well as founder of ResearchEd (an institution which aims to bridge the gap between research and practice in education) and a published author, including his most recent title 'Running the Room', a practical guide to behaviour management.

Tom spent the day observing lessons and social times, meeting with students and various groups of staff. The day culminated in an excellent training session for all staff centred around how we create, maintain and develop a truly excellent behaviour culture within schools and the significant impact this has on students' academic outcomes, well-being and their day-to-day experience of being in school. We were delighted with the overwhelmingly positive feedback we received from Tom in terms of our ongoing and relentless aim of ensuring that the behaviour and culture within our College is at its optimum and that all students feel safe at College and enjoy a positive experience. Tom stated that out of approximately 700 schools he has visited he would rate us within the top 5% in terms of behaviour!

Mrs Read, Associate Assistant Principal commented, 'We have taken much from Tom's visit and will continue to focus on our key aims and aspirations in this area. Well done to all our staff and students and thank you to our parents/carers for the part they play.'



Well, what a weekend! From luxury travel on the ex Manchester United football team's coach, earthquake simulators, pandemic control competitions, photo competitions, the many sites of London and seeing real life mummies, the action never stopped.

The trip began early Friday morning with everyone eagerly boarding the very plush coach to travel down to London. Once we arrived no time was wasted as it was straight off for a walking tour of all of the main tourist stops of London, including Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament, The Shard and apparently the world-famous biggest Primark in the country. Of course, no walking tour would be complete without a stop off to refuel, we decided on at Borough Market for chocolate covered strawberries, sweet treats, and hot chocolatesthe natural essentials when sightseeing. Once we had walked our socks off it was back to the hotel for tea and a much needed rest. Day two was another action-packed day starting with a full all you can eat buffet breakfast with a record amount of food consumed and full bellies off to visit the Science Museum. Once inside we had time to explore their vast amount of interactive and interesting exhibitions including interactive exhibitions on careers, exploring the cosmos, the development of the COVID-19 vaccinations, the impact of global warming

POST 16 LONDON WEEKEND



on the world and many more. Dinner time came really quickly so with our brains at capacity we had a break for a bit of lunch and retail therapy. Feeling all refreshed it was time to head to the National Museum of History for more exploring of interactive exhibits where we journeyed through 4.6 billion years of the planet's history and potential future. What seemed like minutes but was in fact a couple of hours later, we summed up our visit by standing in awe at the size of dinosaurs and prehistoric creatures feeling incredibly lucky to be born in the present day. Again, with our brains at capacity it was time to refuel and enjoy some retail therapy. We ate at a beautiful Italian restaurant that did not disappoint with a huge selection of homemade pastas, pizzas and burgers that filled us up nicely before heading back to the hotel shattered and ready for a well-earned rest. Sunday morning, we were up bright and early once again to make the most of the all you can eat buffet breakfast.

Loaded up on bacon and sausages sandwiches with pockets full of fruit for later we headed off ready to explore the many interesting artefacts in the British Museum including the Rosetta stone and real-life mummies. The final activity brought out everyone's competitive side with the photo of the weekend competition between the students. David Bailey would have been quaking in his boots at the standard of pictures entered but after a lot of deliberation the rendition of the Grecian Lady was the front runner.

We returned to college after a brilliant, but exhausting adventure and excited for an early night! As staff we could not be more proud of the way all of the students engaged and behaved. We had so many compliments from members of the public, including asking which private school we were from! It was a pleasure to see how much fun everyone had over the weekend and we can not wait to do it all again next year!



FUTURE FOOD STARS



Well done to the Level 3 Food Science students who spent a day making a 3 course meal, for a client who would use a Spa facility- after studying nutritional needs for population groups. They produced some restaurant standard amazing quality dishes. Thank you to the parents for supporting their children in bringing ingredients. As always your help makes the outcomes so spectacular.



WHY STUDY LANGUAGES

This half term, Year 8 students have been exploring the benefits, advantages and transferable skills that learning a language can bring. Students have then worked hard in groups to carry out research on this topic and present their findings to their peers. The students have articulated themselves well in their "Why Study Languages" presentations and the MFL team have been extremely impressed.



In Science, the Year 8 ASPIRE cohort took part in an interactive STEM workshop run by English Football League (EFL) Championship assistant referee Mark Dwyer. The session called 'Help the Ref', has been designed by the PGMOL to bring referees from the Premier League and EFL into classrooms to promote their values of integrity, courage, accountability, and innovation. The students got to see what kit the current referees use on the field of play and how technology has led to improvements in equipment with things like goal line technology, vanishing spray and the communication headsets. After watching an inspiring and interactive presentation the students then worked in small groups to design their own piece of refereeing kit that they hope could be used on the field of play in the future. After using their STEM skills and working as a team in a time pressured environment, just like the PGMOL officials on a matchday, the ASPIRE students then gave engaging spoken presentations in the 'Referees Den' to pitch their new equipment to the rest of the group.

The excellent designs included heated shirts, hologram red and yellow cards, interactive assistant referee flags and electronic notebooks linked into the big screen. The students worked hard and had an enjoyable afternoon seeing how STEM can be used in the world of sport to develop equipment

HELP THE REF

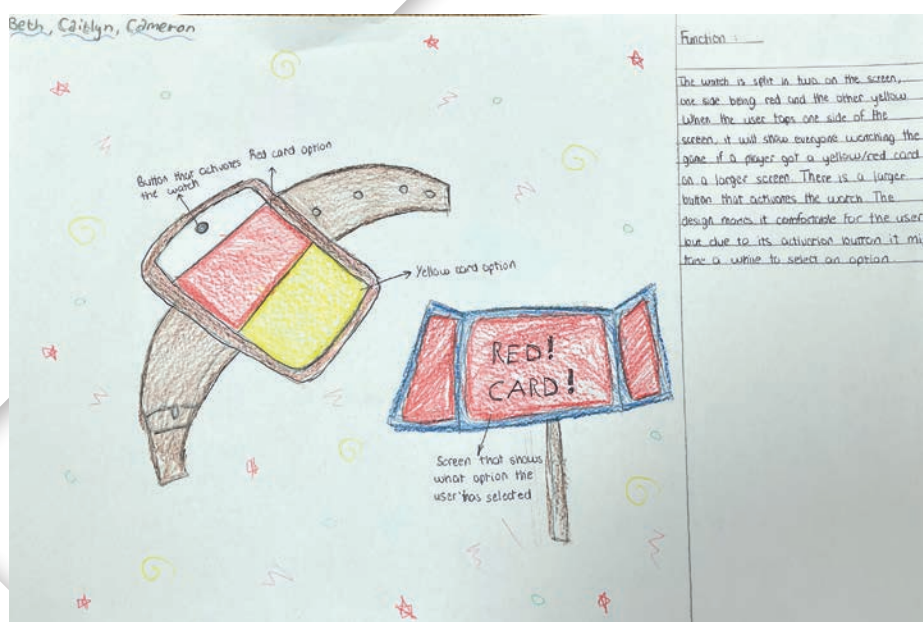


and how it is then used on a match day at elite level.

The student feedback from the event was extremely positive – "It helped me to see how learning from our science lessons is useful in real everyday life and it made it interesting." "I don't like football, but it was still

really good and I'd give it 9.5 out of 10 because I enjoyed thinking about how to make things better." and "I feel really enthusiastic now. It was good to have people come and ask me about my ideas."

Thank you, Mr Dwyer, for leading this event!



SCIENCE FAIR



In January sixty students from Year 8 took part in the annual Science Fair in the main hall of college. The students acted as stallholders at the fair, where they displayed the results of their investigations into a project entitled "Connections" in line with British Science Week. The students spent 5 weeks researching and planning their investigations at home and on the day, they presented their models, posters and research reports to their peers, parents, and teachers.

As always, the standards were really high, and Mrs Merritt and Mr Gilmore had a tricky decision to make when they were asked to pick winners. In the end Ellie was chosen as the winner from Davy for her interactive work on senses and how they work in the human body. Jack was chosen from Moore due to his amazing volcano model that showed how we were connected to the liquid lava under the ground. Overall though the winner of the event was Austin for his incredible model of the eyes which showed how they were connected to the head as they moved around. All three students took home vouchers for their efforts and Austin was the proud recipient of the Science Fair Trophy.





CHRISTMAS CONCERT



NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2023



Year 8 Aspire

National Careers Week started with a presentation from Dr Charlotte Woodford from Cambridge University. The presentation was to highlight the importance of foreign languages and the EBACC pathway to our Aspire pathway students.

Dr Woodford spoke about how research has shown that multilinguals are better problem solvers, creative thinkers, and excellent communicators. She gave an example of Manchester United footballer Marcus Rashford learning Spanish - "Football has given me the opportunity to travel to different countries, and you have certain countries you like and want to learn more about, and learning a language is definitely a part of that."

Rationale: the better he can communicate with other players the better his football will be.

Wakefield District Housing

We have also had WDH come into college to promote their apprenticeships to our Year 11 students. The information passed onto our Year 11 students was very useful. The PowerPoint has also been emailed out to students to support any that may be interested in applying.



Careers Fair

Our annual Careers Fair took place on the 9th March, students from Years 8, 10, 11 and P16 had the opportunity to speak to a variety of education, apprenticeship and training providers. The Careers Fair

provides students with the opportunity to discuss their next steps and support them with being able to make

informed decisions on their educational and career pathway, whether this be university, further education or apprenticeships.

There was some very



positive feedback from the providers which included: Wakefield council said "Students were very

interactive"

Backstage Academy said "Easy to engage with students"

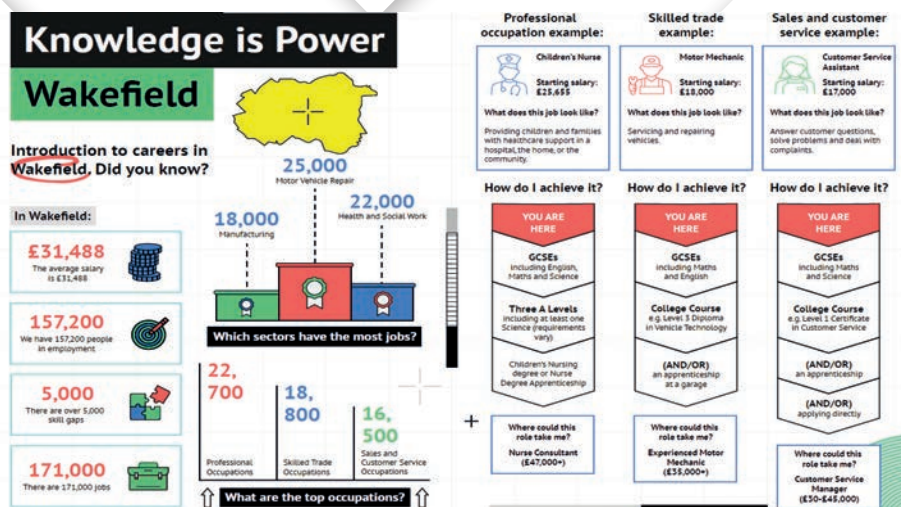
Lesley Francis said "Always enjoy coming to this event, really great students who engage in conversation" WDH said "It was great to have so many engaging students"



National Careers Week

As part of National Careers Week our Year 9 students had a presentation from JC+ looking at "Labour Market Information" they discovered how they can use this information to plot their future careers, what type of jobs may be around in the future, and what may not be.

Our Year 10 students had a presentation from JC+ on interview skills, they discovered all the dos and don'ts of being in an interview. Our Year 10 students will put this learning into practice on the 22, 23 & 24th March as they will be involved in our mock interviews. Business people from all over the district have volunteered to support this activity, students have prepared a CV, that the interviewers will feed back on and then also ask them a series of questions.



Year 8 Options Evening

Due to the bad weather the Year 8 options evening was moved to Tuesday 14th March. The event was very well attended and there were some great conversations going on between parents, students and teachers. Hopefully the event has helped students understand the GCSE options available to them, and supported them to make informed decisions on their GCSE choices.

BEBRAS 2023

The results are in! Six students who participated in the UK Bebras challenge achieved a score which puts them in the top 5% nationally. In October over 500 students used their knowledge to complete challenges which are focused on computational and logical thinking. It is organised in over 50 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. This is a fantastic opportunity for our young learners and we are all very proud of their achievement.



YOUNG WRITERS



These students have been successful with their entries for the Young Writer's competition Integer. The newspaper club students have written an article about it for their latest edition.



P16 BECOME PE TEACHERS

On the 24th February our Year 12 students planned, organised and delivered a ball skills event to 120 Primary School children. The children attended from Years 2, 4 and 6 from 6 local feeder schools. The event was a huge success and the Year 12 students received excellent feedback from the Primary Teacher and indeed the smiling, happy children. This was another event that has provided the Sports students with the opportunity and experience to improve their leadership skills and evaluate on their own performance. Moreover, they provided an excellent fun packed event for the local Primary School children. Well done 12C/SPD you did yourselves and the college proud.



P16 HUDDERSFIELD UNIVERSITY VISIT

This term our Post 16 A-level chemistry students had the opportunity to carry out practical work at the University of Huddersfield. They were challenged with synthesising an organic material which they then had to analyse to ascertain whether they had been successful. Students were able to use university standard equipment and gain a real insight of what taking chemistry at higher education would be like. Students were also given a tour of campus during their visit which prompted many meaningful discussions as to their aspirations and goals for the future.



P16 WELLNESS WALK

Our first ever P16 Wellness Walk was a tremendous success, a group of P16 students and staff braved the threat of snow to go on a brisk wellbeing walk through the picturesque village of North Elmsall. They even encountered pygmy goats on the journey!



WORLD BOOK DAY 2023



We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March 2023 by focusing upon literature about children in all subjects across the curriculum, using the Whole College Reading Policy to predict the narratives, understand the texts and pin down the plot and themes. 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. Every student at Minsthorpe received an e-voucher for a book of their own or a £1 reduction from a full price title through their student



email.

All students were given the opportunity to read extracts from some inspirational literature in every lesson throughout the day. The three novels all dealt with children facing different challenges, whether they were around their feelings of sympathy, love or fear. We studied extracts from 'The Darkest Minds' by Alexandra Bracken, 'The Hunger Games', by Suzanne Collins, and 'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens. As always, the class discussions which followed from this collaborative reading were mature, insightful and engaging.

The English Team celebrated by dressing up as their favourite literary characters, including Mrs Lyons from 'Blood Brothers', Lennie from 'Of Mice and Men', the three witches from 'Macbeth', Katniss Everdeen from 'The Hunger Games', Miss Trunchbull from 'Matilda', as well as students from Hogwarts and 'Lord of the Flies'. Mrs Smith in the library also hosted a range of fun activities at snack breaks.

Mrs Thompson, in the English Team, said "I'm delighted that students enjoyed the starter activities and have been inspired to read these texts now. All of them are available to borrow from the library, and there are some great film adaptations to watch after reading too. It's wonderful how reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for everyone to enjoy!"

