

TEAM MINSTHORPE

WINTER TERM 2022 - EDITION 8

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Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation ♦ Commitment ♦ Care



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPALS

As we approach the Christmas holidays we are delighted to share with you our eighth edition of Team Minsthorpe. It is once again a packed edition highlighting the Motivation, Commitment and Care that is shown every day at Minsthorpe Community College. We started the term on a real high following the successful exam results from both Years 10, 11 and Post 16. We were really proud that despite the disrupted years that had gone before our students were able to move on to the next stage in their education with excellent results under their belt.

It was great to see past students returning to be awarded their certificates and catch up with the ones that have moved on. We aim to continue this success with our current cohorts and would like to thank all students, teachers and parents for their commitment towards achieving this next year.

The term began by welcoming our Year 7 cohort to Minsthorpe Community College. They made a tremendous start and settled in really well to our College. This year we have introduced the Knowledge Organisers for Year 7 as part of a





drive to support students in learning the knowledge they need to be successful learners. It has been great to see the fantastic knowledge home learning that has been produced and

we were able to celebrate the achievements at our Knowledge assembly this term. Well done Year 7!

As you can see from the newsletter Minsthorpe

has fully embraced the enrichment opportunities that are available to all our students. We encourage all students to play their part in whatever they enjoy or are skilled in. You will see the full range of activities we have on offer including football in Barcelona, Science club, European Day of Languages and visiting Universities to mention a few. Make sure you take a look at the Spring Term's enrichment brochure to see what is available to get involved in.

Later this year we will see our old Gym on the front of College replaced with a state of the art sports centre. As you may know we were selected as one of the first 50 schools in the Governments Schools Rebuilding Programme and the new centre will be the final piece of the jigsaw in transforming Minsthorpe into a place which will not only offer many new opportunities for our students but also the local community and surrounding areas. It has taken a while to get to this stage but we are happy to be letting you know this news.

We hope you have a relaxing Christmas break with family and friends and we wish you all happiness in the New Year from all at Minsthorpe Community College.



M. Gilmore

F. A. Merritt

Mr Gilmore Mrs Merritt
Joint Principals



MINECRAFT CLUB

Once again, the Minecraft club has attracted a wide range of KS3 students who have enjoyed immersing themselves in a virtual world to build, mine and battle together. Students have behaved impeccably well and taken the chance to gain new friends along the way with similar interests. This has been Minecraft club's most popular year to date where there is rarely a computer without a student sitting there enjoying themselves. We hope that the club will continue to thrive!



STEM OUTREACH

We were lucky to have Leeds University visit us again this term to deliver the STEM Outreach Programme to select number of Year 10 GCSE Design and Technology students. The students studied how prosthetics are engineered for Paralympians and athletes. They then worked in teams to invent a new prosthetic limb for a young dancer. The students involved were extremely engaged and produced some fantastic outcomes.



POST 16 ACTING

Post 16 Acting students performed a TIE piece to preschool children from our Happy Days centre. The children came across to our purpose built studio and watched an educational performance exploring emotions, with a particular focus on worry. It was a great experience for Post 16 students to produce a performance that was targeted to a specific audience and such a relevant and current topic. The children from Happy Days enjoyed the performance and many talked about it when they went home. A great collaboration between our youngest and oldest students!



HOLOCAUST MUSEUM VISIT

On Thursday 17th November a group of 40 Year 8 students visited the Holocaust Museum in Laxton. They spent their morning reflecting upon the atrocities that occurred during WW2. In the afternoon they had the privilege of listening to the survivor testimony of Stephen Frank, a Holocaust survivor. Our students were mature, respectful, kind and thoughtful, a lovely bunch of young adults.



SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY



Year 12 and 13 Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition students took part in a visit to Sheffield Hallam University with Mrs Wainwright where they worked closely with sports nutritionists and

registered professors in Food and Nutrition. They conducted themselves impeccably and threw themselves into the tasks where they were assessing each other for health through



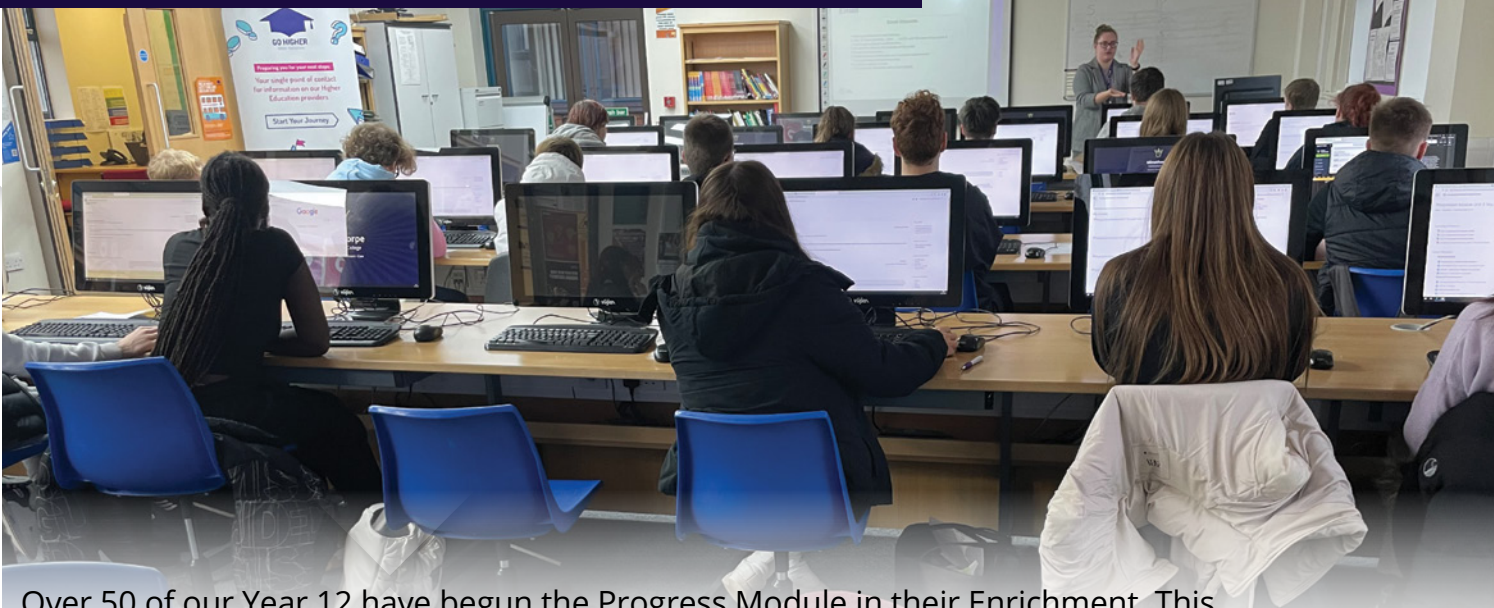
BMI, blood pressure readings, Jump tests, Tanita body scales and using an amazing piece of kit to test lung capacity- bravely volunteered in the image by Jack Bateman. After this they went into sensory analysis testing booths and



looked at how taste testing using professional scales and measurements work. The students all thoroughly enjoyed it and were a credit to the college.



YEAR 12 PROGRESS MODULE

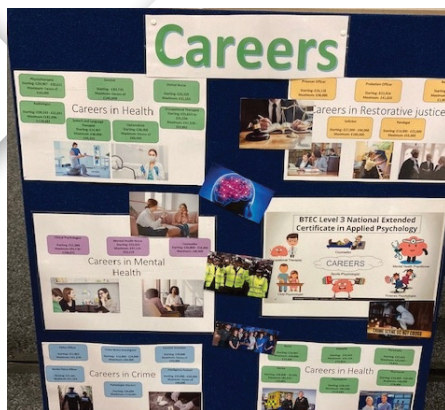


Over 50 of our Year 12 have begun the Progress Module in their Enrichment. This project will support students in identifying the correct exit pathway to take after Post 16. Leeds Beckett University came in for the launch and will support throughout.



POST 16 OPEN EVENING

On Thursday 20th October we held our annual Post 16 Open Evening where students, parents and carers were able to gather information about the fantastic provision Minsthorpe Post 16 provides. Information stalls were set up so that staff could advise on the best possible pathways to enable students to succeed in the future.



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

In September the MFL department celebrated the European Day of Languages, which is a day where the countries of Europe celebrate languages and language learning. Most MFL classes that day discussed the benefits of language learning and looked at languages around the world. We also had a special European Day of Languages event after school, where the students who attended enjoyed a quiz, a treasure hunt and plenty of European themed treats.

On Monday 14th November, our Year 8 Aspire students attended a session with MFL speakers from Burberry. The speakers talked about their roles within Burberry and the importance and advantages of studying French/languages within the company. The students really impressed the Burberry staff and were all really great ambassadors for the college, speaking really politely and asking great questions.

Throughout this year a number of Year 11 GCSE French students have been attending a GCSE Masterclass every Wednesday morning from 8:10-8:40 with Miss Hartley. The students have been very committed and motivated in the sessions during which the students have been developing higher GCSE skills, vocabulary and grammar in French. They have also enjoyed a little French breakfast while they worked! (du café, du jus de fruit, des pains au chocolat et des brioches).



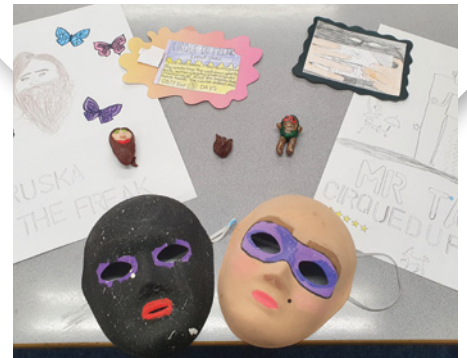
LEARNING IN STEPBACK

This term the students have been reading *Cirque de Freak* and they have produced some amazing work based on the story. Their recall is fantastic, and they are thoroughly enjoying the book. Their confidence is coming on leaps and bounds with most students now reading out for the group. Miss Smith is extremely proud of them.

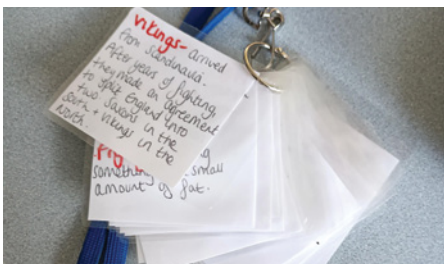
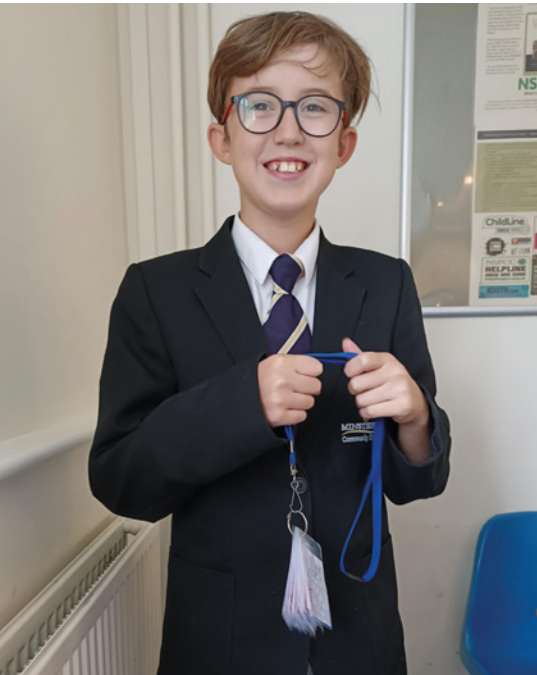
PE is always an enjoyable lesson, especially team sports. Dodgeball goes down a treat and, as always, the students get to burn some energy. They are shattered afterwards!

Together the group has worked through many interventions, social skills, self-awareness, self-esteem, regulating emotions and body language to name a few. The students have told the group all about themselves and they have made a new 'Guess who' display. We have also worked hard on spellings, reading, Maths, English and Science. The students are working really hard and love to see other staff. Mrs Berry and Mrs Trewinnard have the pleasure of delivering core subjects and the students engage really well.

The group has visited the library on Monday mornings and the students absolutely loved the first session in there. This is such a treat for the group!



YEAR 7'S EMBRACING KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS



Beginning any new school year can be challenging especially when you are a Year 7 student taking your first steps into secondary school. Moving between classes, new friends and deciding which extracurricular event to take part in are all part of the journey. Home Learning, for many students, is also something new. Despite our expectations at Minsthorpe being high, Year 7 have certainly risen to them.

Students in Year 7 are expected to use their Knowledge Organisers to revise a key subject or subjects every single night. As Knowledge Organisers contain all of the core knowledge in all of the

students' subject area, we are especially pleased to see the vast amounts of Year 7 students submitting their Home Learning every single week. We have been inundated by Mind Maps, detailed notes using the Look Cover Write Check Correct method and even flashcards on lanyards. It has been brilliant to see not just students completing Home Learning, but parents and careers supporting them to do so. By the time Year 7 reach Year 11 they will be able to **Know More**, **Remember More** and ultimately **Do More**.

Year 7 have been building up to their half-termly Knowledge Assessments. Year 7's behaviour was impeccable as they entered computer rooms in a mature, orderly and focused fashion. They were a credit to our school. Results were equally impressive. The average Year 7 score out of 160 was 102. This meant that the majority of Year 7 students answered **64%** of the questions correctly. This is an amazing start and the whole college is proud of Year 7's **conduct, effort and achievement**.

At the start of the half-term, we held a celebration assembly where we rewarded students with certificates and vouchers for their various successes. There were rewards for Home Learning, answering 100% of the questions correctly



in one subject area and the top 50 students in Year 7. After the next Knowledge Assessment on **Wednesday 4th January**, we will also be celebrating any student who has improved their score and be giving out a reward for the student who improves the most.

The **motivation, commitment and care** students have demonstrated towards their Home Learning is exemplary. We would also like to thank and commend the students going above and beyond week in week out to improve their Home Learning submissions. Well done to those attending Home Learning club for extra guidance and to those receiving Knowledge Tutoring for working so diligently. This is a team effort and we cannot wait to report more successes in the future!



HUDDERSFIELD UNIVERSITY VISIT

30 students from 12.3 enjoyed a visit to Huddersfield University. We arrived at 9.45am and spent an enjoyable day learning about the day to day life of a university student. First up the students had a session introducing Higher Education and discovering how and when to apply for student finance. They learnt about the different loans and bursaries that could be applied for.

Next up the university had a student panel where our students were allowed to ask questions. The students asked some great questions and the panel's answers were good, giving a lot of insight into their lives as students.

We then went on a tour of the campus, visiting many different department areas, including medical and law. After dinner students took part in a budgeting activity where they planned how they would manage their finances whilst studying at university. The students were excellent throughout the day.



FUN IN THE KITCHEN FOR AP

The Alternative Provision group have been having fun in the kitchen this term with Mrs Hampson and Miss Clark. They have been busy preparing hot sandwiches, mini pizzas, Halloween apple lollies and pastry swirls. Amazing effort and some delicious outcomes!



BARCELONA FOOTBALL TOUR OCTOBER 2022



Well done to the 24 students in Year 9 and 10 that spent 6 days in Barcelona. The trip was action packed and an absolutely fantastic experience for all our students. We had a tour around the famous Nou Camp stadium, the home of Barcelona. We also had a guided tour around the RCD Stadium the home of another La Liga Club Espanyol. We played 4 football games against the Spanish, in what could be best described as semi professional stadiums, with stands, dug outs and electric scoreboards. We had lots of internal competitions including 5 a side football, tennis, crazy golf, Frisbee, Ten Pin Bowling and water polo. We also enjoyed time relaxing in the hotel pool and playing table tennis as well as time on the beach. The icing on the cake was to watch Barcelona at the Nou Camp, with a crowd of 92,000 and Barcelona winning 4-0. Memories that will last a life time.



RP ARE BUSY IN THE KITCHEN

This term the Resource KS4 provision have been learning about aeration, developing their skills in making and decorating some Halloween themed cupcakes, and practising how to pipe butter frosting. They have more recently been raising money for Macmillan cancer support, by creating 150 hot chocolate stirrers, which are being sold through the College Christmas shop. Well done everyone.



GRACE'S WORRY WORMS

A huge well done to Grace who has made 'worry worms' for the children in a local hospital. We are very proud of her for showing such care, compassion and creativity!



 MY Hospitals Charity
2 h · 6

Thankful Tuesday

Today we would like to thank Grace who knitted some lovely Worry Worms for our Children's Ward 🌈

The main purpose of a worry worms is to be a buddy the little ones can share their worries with. It might help them to talk about their feelings and identify what worries them by saying it out loud ✨

#NHS #NHSCharities #Dewsbury #Pontefract
#Wakefield #SupportYourNHS #Knitting





SCIENCE CLUB

This term students have had the opportunity to investigate a range of chemical reactions and biological processes.

We celebrated Bonfire Night by making our own versions of fireworks, students learnt how different elements burn with a characteristic coloured flame. For Halloween, we made balloons scream, utilising centripetal force of motion of irregular objects to cause different vibrations within the balloons.

Students discovered the

structure of DNA, making their own models, but also had the chance to extract actual DNA from kiwi fruit. The DNA forms a thick gelatinous polymer that was isolated at the top of their test tubes. In our latest session students were able to act as formulation scientists and make bath bombs using a range of different chemicals, colours and scents.

All KS3 students are welcome to attend Science Club, Wednesdays Week A in S6.



READING RAISES CASH FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS!

Years 7 & 8 students were invited to take part in the Read for Good Readathon this term. The sponsored read began on Monday 7th November and ended on Sunday 20th 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.

It's been proven that children who read for pleasure are more likely to be successful and happy throughout their lives (OECD). The charity Read for Good encourages children to read through its unique motivational approach inspiring reluctant readers to give reading a go, and keen readers to read more widely. Students 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.

Students now need to return their sponsor forms to their English teacher. The current balance raised stands at £311.00, and there's still time to donate online at readforgood.org/sponsor, so hopefully that amount can continue to climb!

Well done Readers!



FIGHTFEST

This term, we started an exciting new enrichment club in Science: FightFest! Two teams of 6 students were selected out of a high number of applicants. Throughout this term, both teams have been meeting regularly to discuss ideas for design, build cardboard models of their robots, and research the best design materials. Students have been faced with the significant challenge of finding a middle ground between their fantastic ideas and a design which they could afford and build themselves. After hours of work, the FightFest teams are getting ready to order materials and start building their first prototypes; exciting times ahead!



YEAR 7 GIRLS FOOTBALL VISIT TO ST GEORGE'S PARK



At the beginning of the year trials were held for the year 7 girls football team, with over 25 talented girls putting themselves forward to represent Minsthorpe Community College. This makes girls football one of the biggest females represented sports in the college!

As part of the year 7 football programme the girls get an exciting opportunity to visit England's iconic training facilities at St George's Park. The girls relished this exciting opportunity, as they get to see where their heroes prepare for their fixtures as part of the England set up, view the world class facilities, and participate in a high-level coaching session lead by an England Football coach. On the day the girls represented Minsthorpe Community

College in a very professional way by promoting our College ethos of motivation, commitment, and care, alongside impressing the leading coach who was

blown away by the ability and commitment the girls showed during the training session.

As part of the tour the girls visited the boot room, where both the male and female England players would prepare themselves prior to their long training sessions. Following this, they

were taken to the breath-taking indoor 4G football arena which boasts a full side football pitch, spectator seating and a separate warm up area. The girls could not resist getting involved straight away and volunteered themselves to do a vigorous warm up which included using the spin bikes and short shuttle sprints up and down the indoor running track adjacent to the 4G pitch. After this

the girls were led outside to the mock Wembley pitch, which is where all the England first team train prior to their upcoming fixtures. After

learning more about the facilities, the girls were given an extremely rare opportunity and were invited onto the pitch for a closer look and a team photo.

After the tour had finished the girls got themselves stuck into a high-level coaching session where they not only learnt a lot of new skills, but also dazzled the coaches with their ability and passion for the game. The session lasted for 90 minutes and despite the cold temperatures and circling wind, the girls could not get enough and challenged each other every step of the way.



The day ended by visiting the team hotel where the girls had the chance to wind down and enjoy a warm drink while looking at memorabilia of England's history. Following this the girls could not resist the opportunity to take home some souvenirs of their amazing day out, with all of them purchasing England memorabilia from the gift shop. This was a fantastic day for the girls, and it certainly inspired and motivated them more to carrying on playing football at a high standard.





YEAR 11 SHINE TRIP

On the 23rd of September our Year 11 Shine cohort went to the University of York for the final time, this session was all based around life after Year 11. During the day students attended three different workshops all specialised in different areas of Further and Higher Education. Starting off with "I Can Cope" this was run by a lecturer from the university on different ways students can cope with the upcoming stress from exams, offering

tips and survival guide for the exam period. We then moved in to the "Post 16 options sessions" where all the different qualifications were explained and how choosing the right options now can have a major impact on choices they make when they're older. Finally students ended the workshops with a metacognition seminar from the Head of Psychology. This gave them a real insight to what university lectures would be like and ended

the sessions on a real high. Before students went home staff from the Shine project went through a career and skills session giving last little bits of information about future choices and wished our students all the best for this big year ahead. Overall the day was brilliant from start to end, really offered our students valuable knowledge regarding their next stage in education. The students were a real credit to the school all day.



MUSIC EXAMS

It has been a superbly successful exam season for Minsthorpe Music students. We have had a bumper crop of ABRSM exam entries and we are pleased to announce that all have passed with flying colours, after many months of commitment to practice and 1:1 lessons.

Neve Simmons Grade 5 Piano ABRSM - MERIT

Oliver Hancock Grade 5 Theory ABRSM - Result pending

Jasmine Lamb Grade 2 Singing ABRSM - DISTINCTION

Jacob Powell Grade 2 Piano ABRSM - MERIT

Emily Powell Grade 1 Classical Guitar ABRSM - result pending

We are delighted to announce that we will be entering many more students into ABRSM and Rock School exams in the future, after witnessing their motivation to succeed and hard work in their 1:1 instrumental lessons. So watch this space for more Minsthorpe Music success stories...



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Another successful Christmas Concert from the Music department, with so many talented students that get better year on year. We are extremely proud of each and every one, we would like to thank all students for their ongoing commitment to the department.

