

TEAM MINSTHORPE

SUMMER TERM 2025 - EDITION 16

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Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation ♦ Commitment ♦ Care



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Welcome to the final 'Team Minsthorpe' newsletter of the College year – and what a year it has been! We have so much to celebrate as Principals of Minsthorpe Community College, as we reflect on the year we have enjoyed here at this wonderful College. First and foremost, we are delighted to confirm that, together, we have improved our overall College attendance by an impressive 1.5% this year. This improvement amounts to 4,275 extra days of attendance and 21,375

extra hours of learning, when compared to last year. Students who have met our College target of 96% will be recognised in September and those with 100% will be rewarded for this outstanding achievement. By attending every lesson every day, students demonstrate our College values of Motivation, Commitment and Care. Furthermore, they are able to make the most of every opportunity offered to them. This newsletter showcases the breadth and

quality of our enrichment opportunities this term. We know you will enjoy browsing the articles and the photos and sharing these with your families. As we look back on the year, we remember the many highlights; the excitement of the Netflix release of 'Adolescence' in March, the poignant celebration of Mr Applegarth's contributions to Minsthorpe Community College in the Spring Term and the customary end of year events, such as the Year 9 Graduation, the Year 11





prom, the Summer Concert and Sports Day. This year has seen the completion of the building and renovation work at the College, which was funded by the DfE School Rebuilding Programme and undertaken by Henry Boot Construction. The project started back in Summer 2023 at a cost of £14 million, with the state-of-the-art PE Block, including a Sports Hall, two studios and excellent changing facilities, as its centrepiece. We were privileged to welcome former Principal, Mr Richard Brown, as guest of honour to the 'Grand Opening' on Wednesday 16th July. We were proud to give Richard and other invited guests a tour of the site and to join together for an opening ceremony. Students, parents, governors, guests and staff, past and present, marked the amazing journey Minsthorpe Community College has made over many years to reach this point, where our students and the wider community have 21st Century facilities which all can enjoy.



We look ahead now to the Summer Holidays and then to the start of the new term in September. The College closes to students at 2:30pm on Friday 18th July and we reopen to students on Wednesday 3rd September. We will post out a letter at the end of August to all parents/carers with details of the start of term

arrangements. We thank you all for your ongoing support for the College and look forward to more exciting and memorable times in the coming year. Happy holidays.

M. Gilmore

F. A. Merritt

**Mr Gilmore Mrs Merritt
Joint Principals**



MINSTHORPE JOURNEY

I studied at Minsthorpe Community College from Year 7 to Year 13 where I completed my studies at Post 16. I am now a student at Leeds Beckett University studying Adult Nursing. In year 8 I had a slight idea that I wanted to go into health care as my grandma worked in care therefore, I knew the right decision was to pick health and social care as a GCSE subject. I also picked GSCE PE as I wanted to learn more about the body looking at different bones and muscles movements (this has helped in university more than I thought). However, I also picked subjects that I was interested in such as History. During my studies at Minsthorpe my favourite lessons were always health and social. Therefore, I knew I wanted to pick health and social during A levels/ BTEC's. Choosing a college, I wanted to go to was never a hard decision for me as I knew I wanted to carry on my studies at Minsthorpe due to the support system available. Post 16 gave me an opportunity to grow my confidence and feel supported. Not only was I familiar with the teachers Post 16 gave me chance to grow close bonds with the teachers allowing me to ask any questions and gain help when needed.

As I knew I wanted to study Adult Nursing after college I decided to pick Applied Science giving me a chance to study biology, physics and chemistry all in one subject.

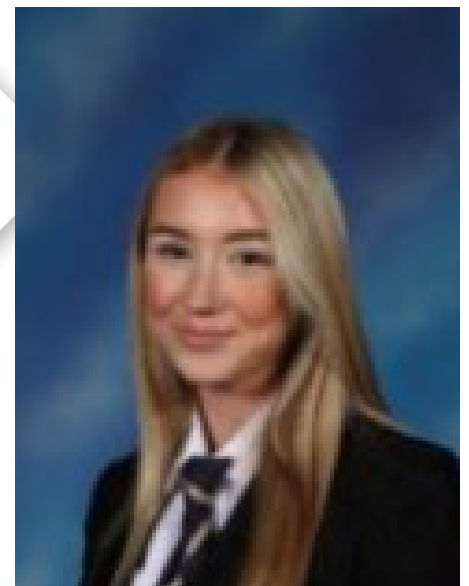
I also picked double Health and Social Care as this had always been my favourite and the topics within this course was relevant to Nursing (not only Adult Nursing but Child Nursing too). These subjects felt the best to choose as I enjoyed doing course work and these subjects were very coursework heavy which suited my learning better. This has further helped me in university as I knew how to structure my assignments and how to reference. These subjects also required my own research which has again helped with my university work as it is very much independent research for assignments.

Minsthorpe also helped when picking a university setting up groups in the afternoon teaching us how to use UCAS and create personal statements. Minsthorpe also gave us chance to visit university open days such as Huddersfield University. The Post 16 team always emailed dates and events for open days. This led me to visit Leeds Beckett University which ended up being my firm choice university. I am now finishing my first year as a student nurse passing all five placements and the exams I've sat.

If I was to give advice to students who would like to study nursing at degree level I would suggest

picking a BTEC to allow you to gain the skills for assignments. Research in depth universities, looking at the requirements and how the year is set out for example, choosing a university that offers blocks for placements and different blocks for university work. Therefore, you will not be struggling to do your assignments while being on an 8-week placement. Look at the facilities available at the university for example how updated the simulation suites are. Research pebble pad as I figured this was the hardest part of placements and is used to document your hours and skills completed.

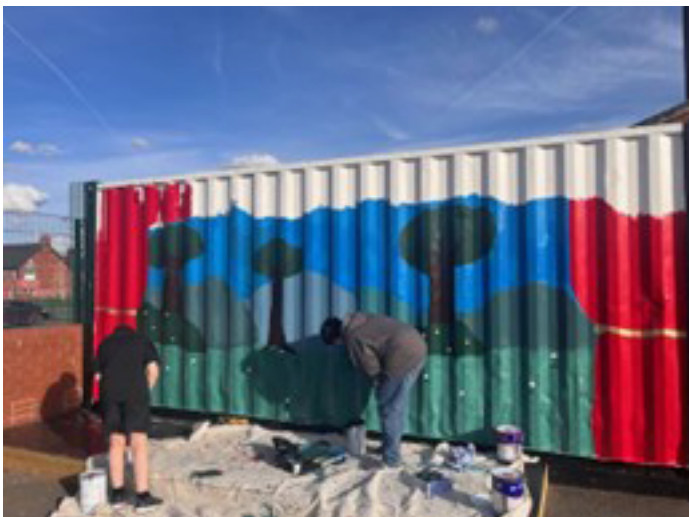
"Enjoy being in the process of becoming!"



Codie pictured in Year 11



THE MINSTHORPE MURAL



This is a Mural painted by Year 13 Art and Photography students at Carlton school. Elli Mai, Alice and Alicia, all gave up their time after college to complete the design that will be used as an outdoor stage for pupils to role play.

YEAR 9 WORKSHOP WITH ODDARTS

Back in May our Year 9 Drama students were privileged to host OddArts who delivered a theatre-based program including the performance of their hard-hitting play 'Here and Now.'

The play was part of a challenging workshop which explored complex societal problems relating to hateful extremism, specifically focussing on the far right and international terrorism and as usual our Year 9 students rose to the challenge. Students considered and reflected on attitudes and behaviours and were able to try out solutions and early intervention techniques using forum Theatre.

Many thanks to our 3 brave volunteers pictured. In their Drama lessons over the Summer term they have used this material as a stimulus for their working using verbatim/documentary theatre where they devised their own plays based on topical events or issues.

It was a fantastic enrichment opportunity which enhanced students' personal development and further complements work in Learning 4 Life and P&A time, ensuring our young people are building character so that they can continue to make a positive contribution to their community and wider world.

Many thanks to each and every one of them for engaging so positively with the workshop and OddArts for leading.



We are extremely proud of Callum in Year 11. He has recently signed a football scholarship with Leeds United which will enable him to combine education with elite training at their academy. He has also won player's player of the year at the Leeds United Awards Evening, which is a prestigious honour. Throughout Year 11, he has shown determination and humility when balancing his football commitments with the demands of GCSE courses. He has had outstanding attendance, has shown motivation and commitment to his studies and he has been a pleasure to teach. He should be very proud of the successes that he has accomplished on and off the football pitch, and we look forward to hearing about his future adventures and achievements.

CALLUM IS MARCHING ON



Fire of Loyalty

As the fire raged, I heard a scream, a scream that called me. My legs thundered on the cobblestones as I weaved through the crowd towards the burning building. I raced through the shattered doors sniffing the air. I could smell her, my Human.

As fast as lightning, I ran towards the source. Human was pale and coughing weakly. I frantically grabbed her ankle, and slowly but surely, I dragged Human over the smouldering carpet. I could barely breathe from the smoke.

We were out. Human was safe. I was a good boy. So sleepy, I closed my eyes...

Kayleigh Ridley

"Heart-wrenching and heroic - I think this was the most moving story I read in the whole competition. Telling this story from the dog's perspective was a stroke of genius. You reveal and maintain the perspective so well—so much courage, devotion, and warmth. A beautiful and brave tale. Well done!"

YOUNG WRITERS

A year 7 student has been the first from Minsthorpe to be selected as a winner in the latest Young Writers competition. Kayleigh Ridley is one of 5 winners from 16,000 entries across the UK in the 'Fight or Flight' competition. Well done Kayleigh, your story is fantastic!



SPORTS DAY 2025





"WE ARE ALL MEMBERS OF ONE BODY!"

On Wednesday 30th April, a group of Year 11 students enjoyed a stunning production of "An Inspector Calls", at the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford.

The performance was a real joy to watch, and a fantastic chance for our English students to see J.B Priestley's masterpiece in action. The bus journey home was filled with chatter about choices made by the director and quotes galore- brilliant for their upcoming English Literature GCSE. As always, the students represented Minsthorpe and themselves impeccably. A wonderful evening all round.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE A-LEVEL WORKSHOP!

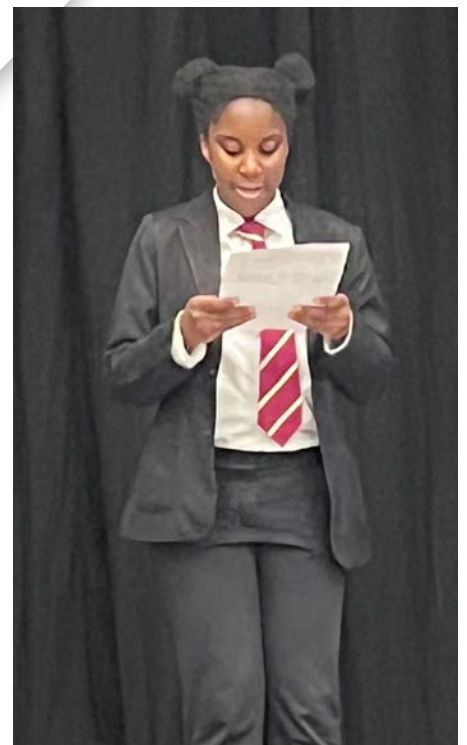
Wednesday 25th April saw Dr. Roxanne Taylor from the University of Huddersfield work with our English Language y12 and y13 students on the fascinating topic of English as a Global Language.

Our students did Minsthorpe proud as they fully engaged with exploring the history of how English has spread globally, evolving and changing constantly. This was a great opportunity for our A-Level students to experience a university style workshop, gleaning knowledge on one of their core topics from an expert in the field. Students translated the pidgin language: Tok Pisin and developed a greater understanding of the differences between Pidgin languages and Creoles. A great afternoon celebrating English in every way!



AUTHOR WORKSHOPS: A HUGE HIT!

14th May saw a brilliant opportunity for some of our Year 8 and Year 10 English students at Minsthorpe. Published author and scriptwriter Nik Perring spent the day developing writing skills and oracy, teaching students how to remove the fear from writing and grow their confidence. Students had fun with their writing and celebrated successes on stage! A big well done to all involved!





Year 8 student, Tyanne, has combined skills and knowledge gained from both Art and Science lessons to complete this anatomically correct and very impressive work of Art. Well done Tyanne!

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MIC CHAMPS



On Friday 16th May, Joel Simpson, a musician and writer, came into school to deliver a two-hour workshop called Mic Champs to a group of year 9 students. Mic Champs (short for Microphone Champions) is a creative workshop designed to encourage creativity and self-expression through writing, poetry, spoken word and rap.

The students were taken through Joel's journey in writing and music and were able to listen to and experience Joel's current work in the field. As part of a Go Higher West Yorkshire project, designed to raise aspirations, learners were given the opportunity to learn how verses are written, testing their knowledge on patterns in rhyme, before creating their own in small groups. There are a further



two workshops to follow including a visit to Leeds Trinity University where the students will develop their skills and knowledge further.

The students chose a topic and then created a verse, working in groups of three to four. The teamwork was excellent, and they produced some excellent pieces of work. One group, focusing on "Our Generation" quoted through their creative piece: "Our Generation is finished cause of the media, conflict and mental health on social media, recognition is the

aim of the game but seeking validation can make me insane"

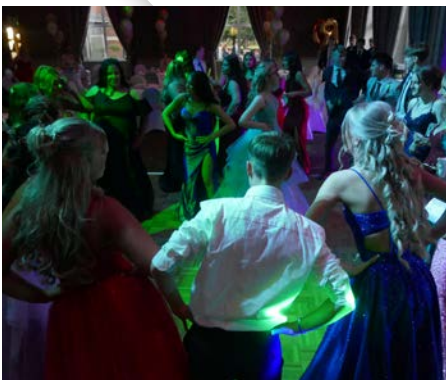
Another group chose to write about their future goals: "Being successful is the aim of the game, retiring my whole family is the aim of the game, being unprofessional is insane, buy a G-Wagon, get married, fly away on a plane"

The students seemed to thoroughly enjoy the workshop. They all thanked Joel at the end.



PROM - CLASS OF 25





YEAR 7 RUGBY

Our Y7 boys rugby team have taken part in lots of fixtures this year, pictured are the 2025 summer rugby festivals run by Featherstone Rovers and Castleford Tigers.



PRIMARY SPORTS DAY

Minsthorpe organised and hosted the Primary Sports Day for 9 local Primary Schools on Friday 20th June. The day was a huge success as 1019 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 student 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.



As we approach the end of another academic year, it is nice to reflect on some of our students' achievements. Three years ago, we began the Knowledge Organiser programme. We wanted students to Know More, Remember More and Do More through a culture and ethos of celebration, reward, and hard work. It has been a privilege to see attitudes to Home Learning changing over time. This year, more Home Learning than ever before has been completed; assessment scores continue to rise, and we have rewarded more students for their efforts. We have also seen our first ever 100% score. We are incredibly proud of the motivation, commitment and care demonstrated by our students in relation to Home Learning. This is something worth celebrating. Records are, of course, designed to be broken. Let's see what we can achieve next year. Well done for now and have a restful summer. We go again, next year.

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER SUCCESS



SUMMER CONCERT

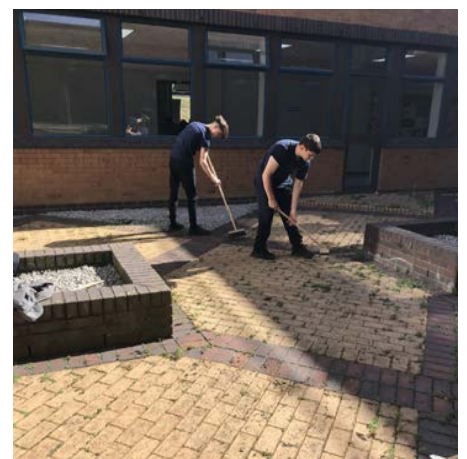
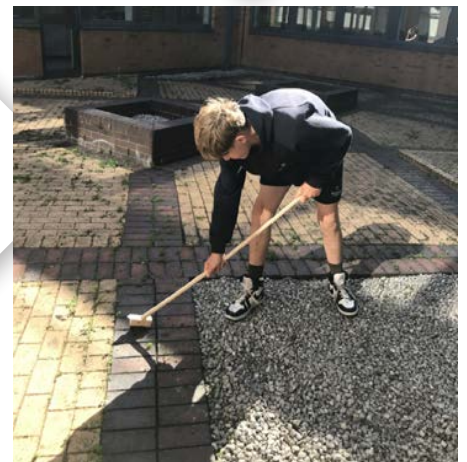
What a fantastic summer concert from our talented students, well done to all! I am very proud of you all.
Mrs Chamberlain



THE RESET REMOVAL AND REPAIR TEAM

We have our removal and repair team, with the Reset students, reclaiming, recycling and repairing items. In this case they have reclaimed an old leather sofa, ripped, and with broken legs - they are going to patch, reupholster the ripped fabric, and replace the broken legs.

The Greenfingers Crew have been busy cleaning out the Greenhouse and repotting plants and seeding vegetables, to sell and cook with, with the aim of producing food from 'field to fork.' Their Autumn crop will consist of tomatoes, spinach, lettuce, radish, garden peas, chives and coriander.



YORK UNIVERSITY SHINE VISIT - STUDENT FEEDBACK

I enjoyed the visit to York University as part of the Shine Program, as it was enjoyable and I got to learn about the life on a university campus.

My favourite activity of the day was learning about The

Legend Of The Shine Shilling, which we had a set amount of Shine Money to spend on every day essentials as a university student. I also enjoyed the Campus Tour and the Riddles we worked out along the way. The Student chaperones that

helped us with any questions or queries were helpful and knowledgeable. Overall, the shine trip gave me an opportunity to experience university life and helped me make decisions regarding my future education choices.
Harry - Year 9

YEAR 9 GRADUATION

It was a pleasure to celebrate our Year 9 students at their graduation ceremony. The event recognised the motivation, commitment, and care they have shown throughout the year. We were delighted to present a number of well-deserved awards to students who truly stood out. Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. We wish our students every success as they move into Year 10 and begin their GCSE journey.

