

TEAM MINSTHORPE

SPRING TERM 2026 - EDITION 18

 /minsthorpecc

 @MinsthorpeCC

Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation ♦ Commitment ♦ Care



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Welcome to this term's action packed edition of 'Team Minsthorpe'. Although it's been a shorter term, you'll see that the range of enrichment activities our students have taken part in is as impressive as ever. Like many of you, we've been glad to welcome the brighter spring days after the wet weeks of January. Spring always brings a sense of renewal and optimism, and that spirit has certainly been reflected in the opportunities our young people have embraced.

This term has been very much about looking ahead. You'll find a fantastic range of aspiration raising activities featured in this edition, including:

- Year 9's Give Construction a Try visit to Castleford College
- An Oxbridge awareness event at Pontefract New College
- Go Higher West Yorkshire activities, culminating in a visit to Leeds Beckett University
- Work shadowing for Year 9 students — with huge thanks to the parents and carers



who supported this. Preparing students for their next steps is incredibly important to us, and these experiences enrich our already strong Careers Education and Guidance programme. Beyond that, enrichment activities help students develop vital employability skills such as leadership, teamwork and creativity and you'll see many brilliant examples of this as you read the newsletter.

Throughout all these opportunities, our students continue to demonstrate

the core values that define Minsthorpe: **Motivation** to seize new experiences, **Commitment** to their learning and future pathways, and **Care** for themselves, each other and the wider community. These values shine through in everything they do. We are immensely proud of our students' achievements, which we celebrated at our Annual Presentation Evening in February. Hearing from current and former students is always inspiring, and the feature on Macey in this edition is a wonderful

reminder of the impact Minsthorpe has in helping young people realise their potential. Keep dreaming big.

We wish all our families a restful Easter break. Students finish at 2:30pm on Friday 27th March

and return as normal on Monday 13th April. We are delighted that attendance has improved this term. The students are clearly Hoppy to be at Minsthorpe. We encourage everyone to keep up this positive momentum right through to the end of

the term. **Every student. Every lesson. Every day.**

Mr Gilmore



Mrs Merritt



Joint Principals

MATILDA JR PRODUCTION

It has been an honour to work with such talented and inspiring young people at this year's production of Matilda Jr, directed exceptionally by Mr Lumby. The show has been a wonderful celebration of their creativity, confidence and hard work. A huge congratulations to everyone involved for delivering such an outstanding show. The creative team are proud to work with our students. Well done!



SKI TRIP 2026, AUSTRIA

A group of year 10 students set off to Austria, on the 12th February, for the Minsthorpe Ski Trip 2026. A long 24 hour coach/ ferry journey later and they arrived in Schladming. The first afternoon saw the students fitted for their ski equipment, including skis, boots, poles and helmets. They then settled into the hotel overlooking the adjacent mountains ready for some Austrian cuisine and Mr Falkiner's quiz. The first full day in the mountains started with an early breakfast before driving to Rohrmoos where students started their ski lessons on the nursery slopes before quickly graduating to more advanced blue runs. The evening entertainment was a trip to the local waterpark where students had the opportunity to go on different waterslides and use the indoor or outdoor pools. The next day saw more progression to trickier ski slopes and venturing to the top of the mountain for some of the ski groups. The day started with snow showers but by lunch time



it was full blue skies. The following two days again saw more exploration from the skiers, some groups taking on tricky red runs that tested their new found ski ability. The evening's entertainment included traditional Austrian bowling, a games night and

a trip to Flachau to ride the Lucky Flitzer which is a toboggan style rollercoaster down the side of the mountain. The last day was quickly upon us. By this point the whole resort had been explored by MCC students- skiing far and wide and experiencing some excellent snow conditions. Every student had progressed immensely from the start of the week and watching the groups come down the final run of the week showed this in abundance. One final stop at the hotel to have a last Austrian meal before setting off on the journey home. A great week was had by all students and staff full of excitement and adventure.



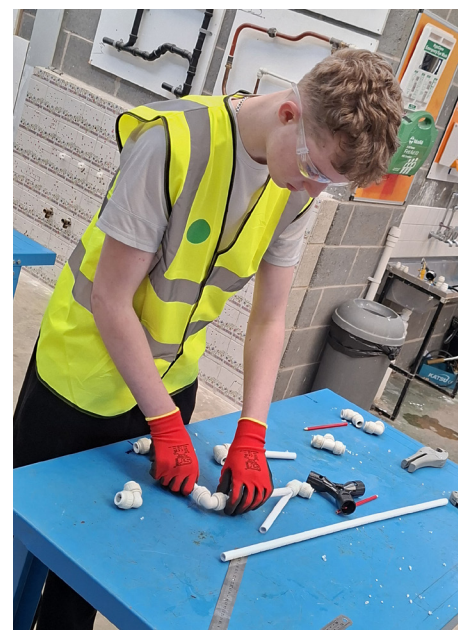
GIVE CONSTRUCTION A TRY



“incredibly proud of how maturely and positively the students represented Minsthorpe”, adding that the event offered valuable insight into potential future career paths. The visit provided a memorable and inspiring experience for all involved, highlighting the exciting opportunities available within construction and engineering.

A group of enthusiastic Year 9 students accompanied by Mr Scully attended the Give Construction a Try event at Castleford College, gaining hands on experience across a wide range of construction and engineering disciplines. Throughout the day, students rotated through a series of practical workshops designed to introduce them to key industry skills. Activities included plumbing, electronics, plastering,

bridge building, and even driving simulators, giving pupils a taste of both traditional and modern roles within the sector. Staff from the college and representatives from several external agencies repeatedly praised the group’s exemplary behaviour, noting their strong engagement, teamwork, and enthusiasm for every challenge presented to them. Mr Scully said he was



A huge well done to the 55 winners of our Attendance Competition who have each received a £5 Greggs voucher! Your motivation and commitment really do make a difference.

We are now in full swing of our "Hoppy to be at Minsthorpe" attendance competition and here, everyone is a winner if you are here!

We are incredibly proud of our students for showing Motivation, Commitment and Care in improving their attendance. Thanks to your hard work, our whole college attendance now stands at 90.6%!

Well done, Team Minsthorpe, let's keep going, every student, every lesson, every day!

ATTENDANCE WINNERS



YEAR 8 STUDY GAMELAN MUSIC

Year 8 have been learning about music from other cultures. Students have been performing Gamelan music from Indonesia, and have worked extremely hard demonstrating excellent MCC values. A big well done from Mrs Chamberlain.



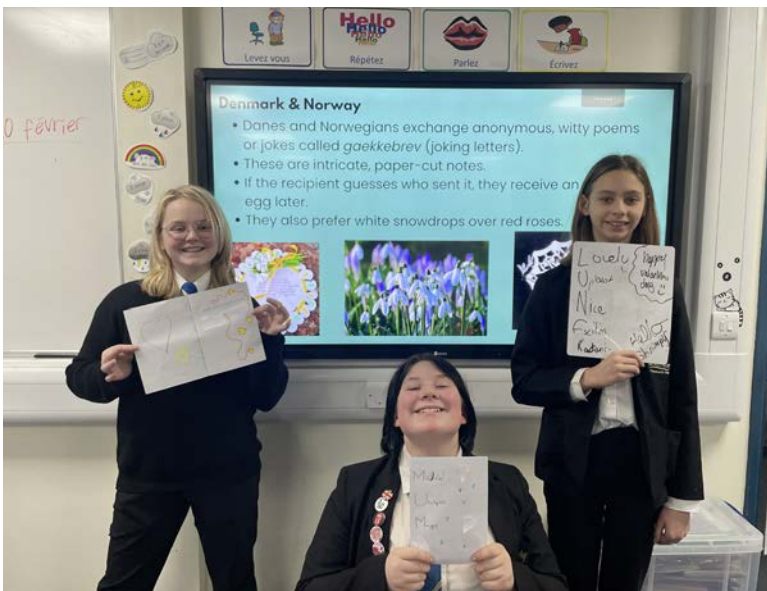
RESET CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S

This half term we have had the theme of Valentine's Day running through some of our lessons. During our cooking lessons we made some adorable and delicious cupcakes and biscuits. The students got creative decorating them in line with our theme. During our art lessons we continue with the hearts and students achieved a AQA award for their abstract art pieces.



CULTURE CLUB

Culture Club members have been embracing their creativity this Spring Term! We learnt how to write our names in Mandarin for Lunar New Year, made Valentine's Day themed acrostic poems, and crafted paper lanterns for the Chinese Lantern Festival. As we head into the Summer Term, Miss Pepper has lots of ideas for combining culture, creativity and celebration, and we would love to welcome some more students.



KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT CELEBRATIONS

This term's Knowledge Assessments provided cause for celebration once again as years 7, 8 and 9 all showed an increase in their average score from last half term. This is testament to the hard work and commitment shown by our students to their knowledge organiser home learning every week. As usual, certificates have been awarded to the Top 50 students in each year group as well as to all students who achieved 100% in any subject area. Students who achieved a score in the Top 3 in each year group were also rewarded with vouchers along with the student who produced the best home learning in each year group. Further rewards were given to the students in each year group who achieved the biggest improvement from their previous Knowledge Assessment score. Our students are constantly striving to be the best they can be and this is evident by the amount of students who achieve an improved score in every assessment cycle. We also celebrated the achievements of Year 10 in their first Knowledge Assessment of the year. This was the first time the students have completed a Knowledge Assessment since starting their GCSE studies so included some new subjects and a slightly different format than they are used to. Our students took this in their stride and should be very proud of themselves. P and A mentors are constantly blown away by the quality of work that our students produce in their Knowledge Workbooks. We look forward to a positive final term and seeing what the students can achieve.



YEAR 11 IN THE KITCHEN

Our Y11 Hospitality and Catering students have been working towards their final Food assessment to make 2 dishes suitable to be served out of a street food truck at the coast. They have done amazingly well and we are so proud of their outcomes- Well done Year 11!



WRITING CLUB BECOME JOURNALISTS

Our budding journalists in the Writing Club have proudly completed their final printed articles! They have conducted thoughtful interviews and research, carefully redrafted, and meticulously revised their work. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and the high quality of the finished pieces.



STEPBACK SCIENCE

Stepback students have been learning about acids and alkalis and what happens when they are mixed together. Students have created their own volcano and conducted an experiment with household acids and alkalis to make their volcano erupt.



YORKSHIRE CUP SUCCESS FOR YEAR 9 GIRLS RUGBY

Our Y9 Girls Rugby Team, attended the Yorkshire Cup Festival winning 4 from 5 games and making it through to the finals. We finished runners up, narrowly missing out to the previous two years National Champions. Our girls did our college proud showing great skill, teamwork, determination and bravery



BUSY TERM FOR RP4

The students in RP4 have had a jam-packed term filled with lots of learning, exam and assessment preparation mixed with the opportunity to develop some real-life skills. As part of our L4L curriculum we made candles for Holocaust Memorial Day, have learnt about Islam and the 5 pillars and most recently we have made lots of gifts for Mother's Day, making full use of the new kitchen. The students always try to give their best in class, are developing a strong knowledge base through regular questioning and are keen to learn a variety of new skills.



MACEY RETURNS TO MINSTHORPE



This half-term former student Macey Walker visited the college as part of her dissertation research. We caught up with Macey to ask her about her time and Minsthorpe and her adventures since leaving the school for University.

Hi Macey,

Minsthorpe: You recently visited Minsthorpe- can you tell us a little about what you were doing?

Macey: I recently visited Minsthorpe Community College to interview my former English teacher, Mr Ruston, as part of my undergraduate dissertation at Lancaster University. My research explores narratives from professionals with West Yorkshire accents and their experiences of accent bias, so returning to Minsthorpe – where my own accent and confidence were nurtured – felt especially meaningful.

Minsthorpe: What do you remember about Minsthorpe? Do you have any memories that really stand out to you?

Macey: I have so many positive memories of Minsthorpe. I remember being in Year 9 achieving grade 5s, and then leaving Year 11 with mostly grade 7s and 8s at GCSE. What really stands out is how supported I felt, particularly when I was struggling with anxiety. The teachers were always approachable and genuinely cared, creating a safe environment where I could ask for help without fear. Over time, many of them became real inspirations to me, both academically and personally. I still enjoy visiting the college when I can, catching up with staff who continue to offer encouragement and take a genuine interest in my journey.

Minsthorpe: How did

Minsthorpe prepare you for University?

Macey: Minsthorpe prepared me incredibly well for university. From help with my UCAS application to honest advice about academic life, the staff helped me feel ready to take the next step. When I left for Lancaster, my biggest worry was losing that support and feeling alone. In reality, I met amazing people, grew in confidence, and really enjoyed the academic independence university offers.

Minsthorpe: Where did you get your passion for language from?

Macey: My passion for English language comes from a love of analysis and understanding how words come together to create meaning and shape discourse.

Minsthorpe: What advice would you give to someone thinking about going to University?

Macey: For anyone considering university, my advice would be: don't be afraid to put yourself out there.

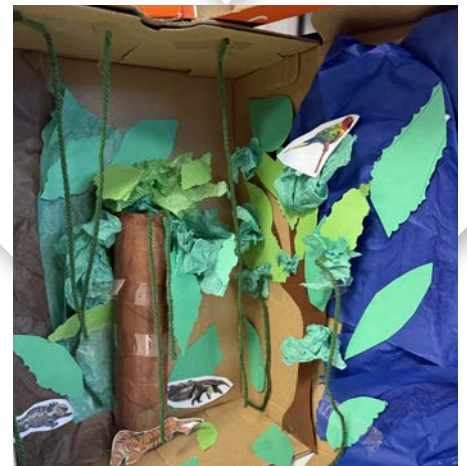
Minsthorpe: What are your hopes and ambitions for the future?

Macey: Looking ahead, I hope to build a career in the Civil Service, continuing to use language, analysis and communication at the heart of what I do.



KS4 RESOURCE PROVISION IN GEOGRAPHY

The KS4 Resource Provision students have been completing an enrichment activity in Geography. The rationale of the project was to create a rainforest environment in a shoe box! They really got to grips with the different layers and characteristics of the biome. Well done everyone. Mrs Baxter and Mrs Atkinson.



MP VISIT

We were delighted to welcome Mr Jon Trickett, MP for Normanton and Hemsworth, to Minsthorpe Community College last week. He was impressed by our excellent new sports facilities and enjoyed speaking to a group of Year 8 students who take full advantage of these by participating in enrichment activities. He met representatives of our boys and girls football, rugby, dance and netball teams. Jon was pleased to hear that the facilities are shared between student PE lessons during the College day and booked by community groups in an evening. Minsthorpe Community College is a hive of activity from 6am to 10pm!



YEARS 8 AND 9 LEADERS HOLD PRIMARY EVENT



Minsthorpe's commitment to leadership and community spirit was on full display on Friday 6th March as a talented team of Year 8 and Year 9 leaders hosted an exciting Multiskills event for Year 1 pupils. The afternoon brought energy, teamwork, and plenty of smiles as the young leaders guided the children through ten carefully planned activity stations. Each station focused on a different fundamental skill—ranging from balance and coordination to throwing,

jumping, and teamwork. Before the activities began, the leaders confidently demonstrated each task, ensuring the Year 1 pupils felt supported and ready to give everything a go. What stood out most was the leaders' exceptional manner with the younger students. They showed patience, enthusiasm, and genuine care throughout the event. Their encouragement kept the Year 1 pupils motivated, while their professionalism and commitment reflected the very best of Minsthorpe's

values. Staff praised the leaders for their maturity and teamwork, noting how naturally they stepped into their roles as mentors and role models. Their efforts not only made the event run smoothly but also created a positive, memorable experience for the Year 1 children. Events like this highlight the strength of Minsthorpe's student leadership programme—and this group certainly made the school proud.



LEEDS BECKETT UNIVERSITY: ATTAINMENT RAISING PROGRAMME

Nearly 40 Y8 and 9 students ended their attainment raising programme (delivered and funded by GHWY) with a day visit to Leeds Beckett University. They had a guided tour of some of the facilities on this campus, including state of the art sports training and study and the accommodation village. The visit enabled all students to demonstrate the skills they had been exploring in previous sessions such as problem solving and communication. Each year group were given an engineering challenge which they had to solve working to a budget. Here are the winning Y9 team (Zack, Oliver, Kristiana and Oskar). All the students made an incredibly good impression on the student ambassadors and university staff who they worked with. They described all of them as the friendliest and most engaged students they had worked with.



NURTURE STUDY STEM



Some of our Nurture provision worked on their STEM activity to create a marble run game using junk modelling. They had to trial & test at different stages to ensure the 'obstacles' worked to make it a fun & exciting activity. They worked really well discussing ideas, sharing suggestions & supporting each other.



YEAR 9 WORK SHADOWING

Year 9 work shadowing was another great success this year with 145 students participating. All have talked enthusiastically about their experiences and the skills and knowledge they gained from working in a variety of settings. The most popular this year was working in a primary school, however, the variety was huge with experiences in logistics, joinery, security, engineering and many more. Students were asked to gather information about their experience and reflect on how and where they had used the key Skills Builder Skills of listening, speaking, problem solving, creativity, staying positive, aiming high, leadership and teamwork. All the feedback was reflective and well considered, but the standout reflective journal was written by Rebecca who worked with her Aunty at the Mount Group GP practice in Doncaster. Rebecca talked about all aspects of her experience from considering appropriate work wear to the how anxious she was before the day. During her day she supported the team with administration, listened in to calls to learn how to communicate with patients and even booked two appointments in herself (with her aunty listening in). Rebecca reflected on how much she had enjoyed being part of the team, how kind and communicative they were and how that made her feel more confident



and positive. She said she didn't realise how hard work was and she was shattered at the end of her day. She also said it had really helped her to see how many more doors were open to her in terms of work opportunities and whilst being passionate about wanting to work in childcare this experience had been eye opening. Her advice to year 7 & 8 is to

make sure you do it, it might be scary but get into it, talk to people around you and it really helps you to see why you need the skills and knowledge you are building in school in order to be successful at work. Well done to all who participated and well-done Rebecca for having the Principals Commendation for her Journal.



YEAR 9 SPORTS LEADERS

Fifteen Year 9 students recently took on the responsibility of serving as Sports Leaders at a Primary Year 1 multi-skills festival, delivering an outstanding experience for the younger pupils and demonstrating exceptional leadership throughout the afternoon. The students led a variety of activity stations designed to develop fundamental movement skills, including balance, coordination, agility, and teamwork. At each station, they carefully demonstrated the tasks, offered clear instructions, and provided encouragement to ensure every child felt confident and supported. What stood out most was the leaders' motivation, commitment and care. They showed patience and understanding, taking



the time to help each child master the skills and celebrating their successes along the way. Their professionalism and maturity were evident from start to finish. Primary staff were full of praise for the group, commenting that they were "some of the best sports leaders we have ever seen at an event." Such feedback is

a testament to the students' dedication and the pride they took in representing the school. The Year 9 Sports Leaders were a true credit to the school, exemplifying our values through leadership, teamwork, and service to others. We look forward to seeing them continue to make a positive impact at future events.

KS3 RP LOOKING AT HABITATS

During the nurture sessions, KS3 provision focussed on this half terms topic of Habitats. They used their knowledge about food chains & learned about consumers, predators & preys. Then focussed in on their choice of creature to research about its habitat before creating a model habitat from junk modelling. The students enjoyed using their creativity skills & were proud of their finished results.



KEY STAGE 3 MINECRAFT CLUB

Our Minecraft Club continues to be a vibrant space where KS3 students can bring our school values of Motivation, Commitment and Care to life through digital creativity and teamwork.

Held every Tuesday Week B from 2:30pm to 3:15pm, the club gives students the chance to enjoy Minecraft even if they don't have access to the game or suitable devices at home. With plenty of enthusiasm and motivation, students dive into building imaginative structures, exploring new worlds, and setting their own creative challenges.

Many choose to work

independently, developing their ideas and showing real commitment to long term builds. Others join shared worlds where collaboration is key — supporting each other, sharing resources, and demonstrating the spirit of care that defines our school community.

For students, the club offers more than just gameplay: it's an opportunity to socialise, make new friends, develop problem solving skills, and express themselves in a relaxed, positive environment.

KS3 students are warmly encouraged to come along and get involved — beginners and experienced players are equally welcome!



YEAR 11 OXBRIDGE EVENT

A group of year 11 Minsthorpe Community College students attended an Oxbridge raising aspirations event at New College Pontefract. The event was aimed to get students to see the real value in beginning to think about Oxford and Cambridge (Oxbridge) and other competitive universities earlier in their education, to support them to make informed decisions for their A Level options and university studies.

Shireen Nawaz, Outreach Officer for Selwyn College spoke about what studying at Oxbridge is like, what the application process involves, and how students may put

themselves in a position to make a competitive application. She also spoke about post-16 study pathways and the likely grades required.

Oxbridge Coordinator, Dr Mark Anderson introduced a panel of former New College Pontefract students who are currently studying at Oxbridge or have recently graduated. They spoke to the students in great depth about their experiences, what the interview panel look for in interviews, specifically focusing on the students' passion for their subject and their learning and opinions outside of the classroom and subject.



YEAR 8 SCIENCE FAIR

In February the Year 8 science fair took place with this year's theme being "Curiosity – What's Your Question?". The morning was a brilliant celebration of imagination, investigation and scientific thinking. Our year 8 students impressed judges and visitors alike with projects that asked bold questions and explored everything from practical experiments to big picture ideas.

Four outstanding entrants (Brian, Scarlett, Amber and Kayleigh) were awarded £10 Amazon vouchers for the creativity, clarity and curiosity shown in their work, although the judges said that they could have awarded many more prizes due to the high standard.

In the end Scarlett was awarded the Science fair trophy for her project. Her work highlighted the achievements of pioneering female scientists and encouraged her peers to think about equality and representation in STEM. Well done year 8 on delivering what was easily the best science fair we've ever experienced.

