

# TEAM MINSTHORPE

SPECIAL EDITION - 2025

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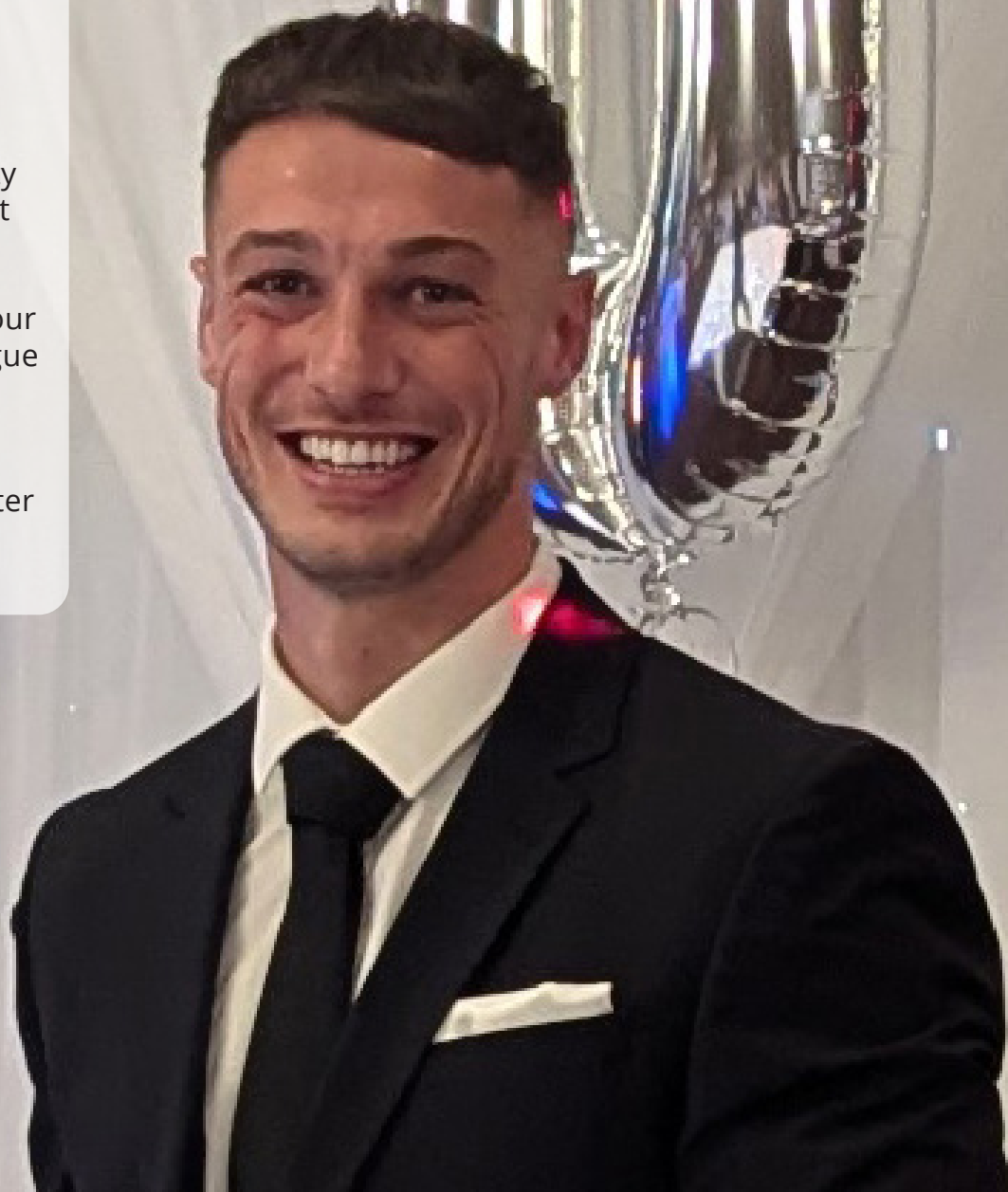
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Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation ♦ Commitment ♦ Care



## INTRODUCTION

We were both shocked and saddened to hear of the passing of our dear colleague Sam Applegarth back in September. Sam left Minsthorpe Community College in July 2024 to start a new teaching post in Dubai. We have waited to remember and celebrate our teacher, friend and colleague at an appropriate time for our college community. This special edition of our Team Minsthorpe newsletter shares the ways we have done this together.



## PRESENTATION EVENING



On the evening of Thursday 6th February, we held our annual Presentation Evening celebrating our Y11 Leavers and their successes. It was

great to see so many of our students return with their families and celebrate together with our staff.

During the evening, we had some time to remember and pay tribute to the contributions Mr Applegarth gave to the Year Group. He was not only a teacher of PE and Science for many of the students, but also a caring and thoughtful Assistant Head of Year alongside Mrs Cunningham. He encouraged and supported the students to achieve their potential and strive for excellence.

The students will all have some very happy memories of Mr Applegarth, particularly from Prom night, countless assemblies and the many times he attempted to turn Y11s around on the crossing outside college to ensure they attended Commitment Sessions.

The Sam Applegarth Award for Leadership was presented to Alfie Studd, who was a fitting recipient for this honour for the first time it will be presented.



## TREE PLANTING

On Wednesday 12th March, staff, students and parents gathered with Sam's family to plant a tree, offering a permanent reminder of him on our college grounds. The rain stopped just in time for the tree, a silver birch, to be planted between the PE and Science blocks; a fitting location for Sam as he worked in both departments. Mr Gilmore and Mrs Merritt delivered a speech to share what a fantastic colleague Sam was. Staff and students wrote memories of Mr Applegarth on specially designed cards which were then placed around the tree in an emotional and moving ceremony. We will all appreciate and remember the happy and positive memories of Mr Applegarth when we pass his tree in the months and years to come.



## NON-UNIFORM DAY

On Friday 14th March we held a non-uniform day with contributions being donated to Young Minds, Sam's family's chosen charity. It is particularly fitting that we held a non-uniform day as Mr Applegarth liked to reward his year group for good attendance by allowing them to come to college in non-uniform. The day allowed our whole college community to remember Mr Applegarth and through donations of families and staff we raised £1077.06 for the charity.



# YOUNG MINDS

fighting for young people's mental health



# GIRLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT



After college on Friday 14th March, Mr Mann hosted a Y8/9 girls football tournament on our Minsthorpe Astro to celebrate Mr Applegarth's dedication to girls football. Eight teams from across Wakefield came together to play some very competitive games during the tournament. It was brilliant to see the team-work and commitment to football the girls demonstrated through their games. It paid off, Minsthorpe won! Mr Applegarth would be very proud of them all.



# WAKEFIELD 10K



Finally, on Sunday 16th March a group of 40 staff and students from Minsthorpe ran the Wakefield 10K. This date was especially fitting as Sunday 16th March is the date of Sam's birthday. And what a morning it was! Team Minsthorpe at its finest – not only did we have a huge crew of brave runners, we also had so many colleagues, family and friends supporting and encouraging throughout the race. Such a positive and joyful event it was for all involved as we celebrated our dearly missed Sam. As we go to press, we have raised a staggering £3780 for Sam's family's chosen charity Young Minds.

