

TEAM MINSTHORPE

SUMMER TERM 2026 - EDITION 19

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Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation ♦ Commitment ♦ Care



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Welcome to the 19th edition of the Team Minsthorpe newsletter. This edition is a special one for me, as it will be my final newsletter before I retire from my role as Joint Principal at Minsthorpe Community College.

When Mr Gilmore and I became Joint Principals, we were determined to create a termly newsletter that celebrated the incredible enrichment opportunities available to our students. This edition is truly a bumper one, with contributions from every team in College and featuring every year group. Reading the articles and browsing the photos fills me with a deep sense of pride.

I have been a teacher for 37 years, and 30 of those have been spent at Minsthorpe Community College; literally half my life. I know I taught many of you! I can genuinely say that I have loved serving the communities of South Elmsall, South Kirkby and Upton, as a French teacher, a Head of Year and, most



recently, as a College leader. Being Joint Principal for the past seven years, alongside Mr Gilmore and our fantastic Leadership Team, has been an absolute privilege.

As I reflect on my time as Principal, there are many standout moments, from the Adolescence filming to the opening of our new sports



facilities. Yet it is the small, everyday moments that I will miss the most: the amazing lessons happening across the College, the warmth and humour of our young people (who are a true credit to you as parents and carers), and the dedication of our staff who go above and beyond for students day in and day out.



I want to take this final opportunity to thank you, our parents and carers, for your trust, your partnership and your constant support. Minsthorpe's success has always been rooted in the

strength of the partnership between home and school, and I have never taken that for granted.

Mr Gilmore and I often speak about our College values of

Motivation, Commitment and Care. After seven years as Principal, I know these values are truly lived out by the whole of Team Minsthorpe -staff, governors, students and yourselves. Thank you.

As I step into my next chapter, I will carry Minsthorpe with me; in my memories, in my friendships and in my heart. I wish everyone connected with Minsthorpe Community College continued success and happiness.

Rachael Merritt

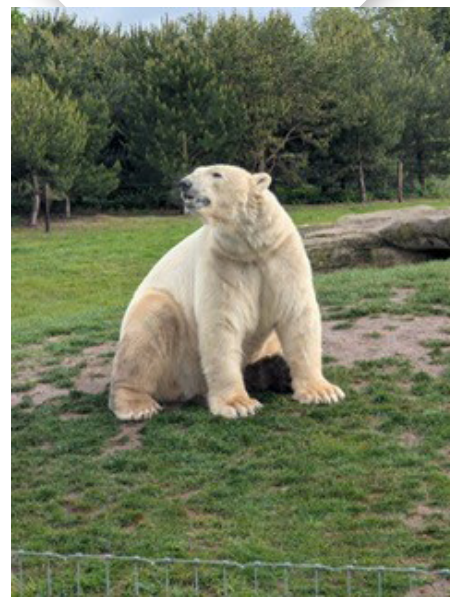
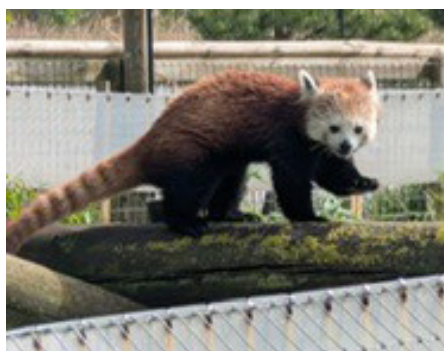
R. A. Merritt

Principal

RP5 GO EXPLORING

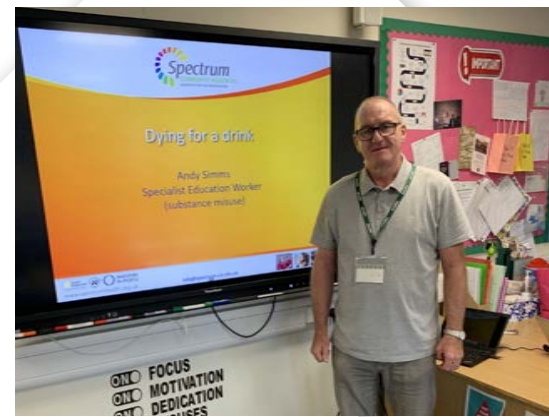
RP5 students recently took part in an educational visit to Wigfield Farm and Yorkshire Wildlife Park. The trip provided students with the opportunity to experience a range of animals in both a farm and conservation setting, helping to support their learning in an engaging and practical way.

At Wigfield Farm, students explored domestic animals and learned about animal care, farming practices, and the importance of agriculture within the local community. During the visit to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, students observed a wide variety of species and gained an understanding of wildlife conservation, habitats, and the role of zoos in protecting endangered animals.



SPECTRUM HEALTH TALK TO YEAR 8

In L4L during the Summer Term, Year 8 have had two inputs from Spectrum Health, talking about healthy and unhealthy relationships what they could look like, and this linked into consent. Andy Simms also delivered a session on the risks and long-term effects of alcohol dependency and misuse linking to our religious teaching of 'Am I my brother's keeper' emphasising the point of taking care and having responsibility for each other.



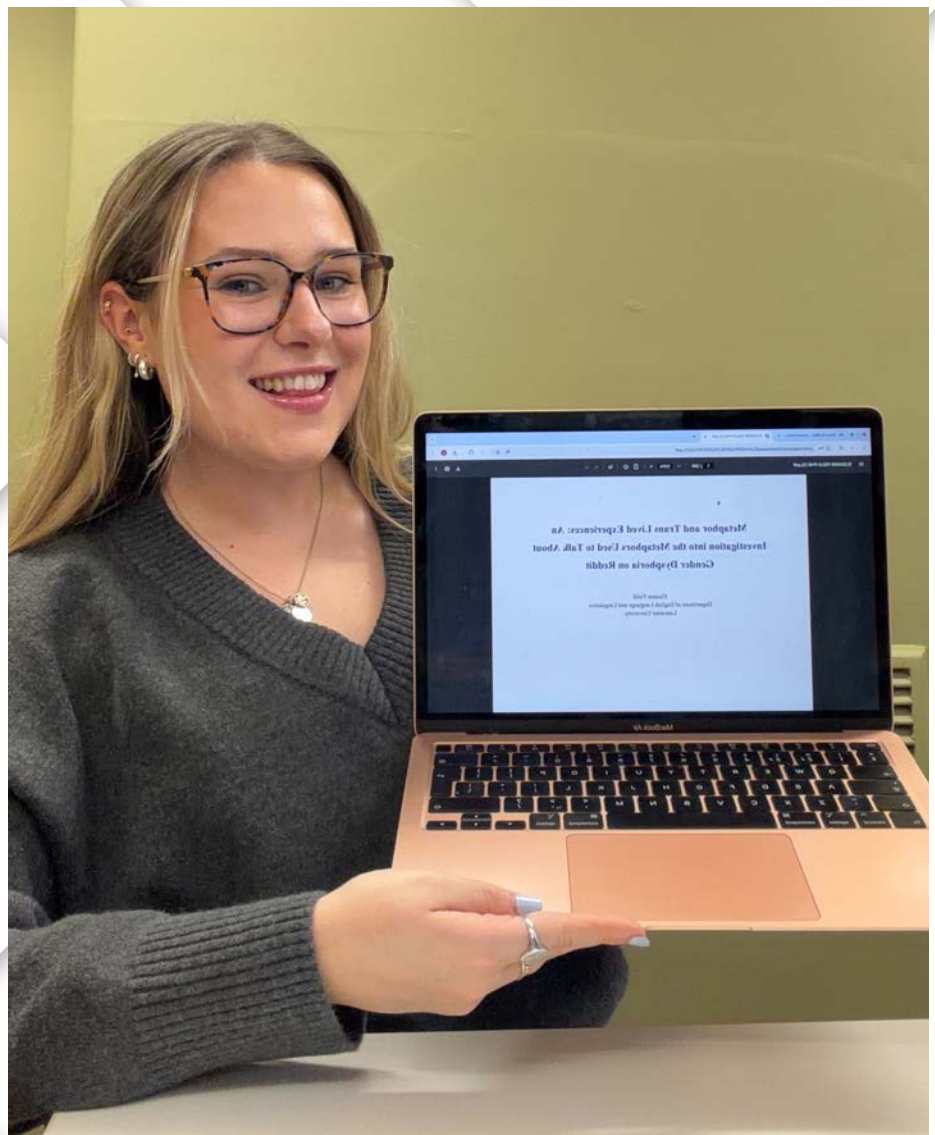
IT'S A PHD FOR ELEANOR

Minsthorpe Community College would like to extend warm congratulations to former student Eleanor Field upon the completion of her PhD. Eleanor is one of Minsthorpe's most decorated students, having achieved outstanding GCSE and A Level results. She has always had a passion for language and completed A Levels in English Language, English Literature, and French at Minsthorpe. During her time in Post 16, she was part of the Post 16 leadership team and secured a place on Oxford University's coveted summer school scheme.

After leaving Minsthorpe, Eleanor continued her studies in linguistics at Lancaster University and then completed a master's degree at the University of Huddersfield. She has been a frequent visitor to Minsthorpe and gained work experience by supporting her former English teachers with the next generation of A Level students. Eleanor has continued to pursue a career in academia by lecturing and researching at Lancaster University and the University of Birmingham

— occasionally, she even teaches a fellow Minsthorpe alumnus. Her vast knowledge has taken her to Europe and North America, where she has spoken at numerous conferences. Now Dr Field, Eleanor's research focuses on

metaphors used within the transgender community. We hope you will join the college in applauding Eleanor on her fantastic achievement. We look forward to welcoming her back to the college as a guest soon.



PROM - CLASS OF 26





GEORGE GOES BIG

Well done to George who has signed for Hull KR Rugby League Academy. He is a fantastic rugby talent and we wish him all the best on this adventure.



8 MOORE GO 3D



8M4 have been working with 3D shapes this half term. They are building nets and then the corresponding 3D shapes. Freya, Leo, Laura, and Victoria enjoyed building their 3D shapes.

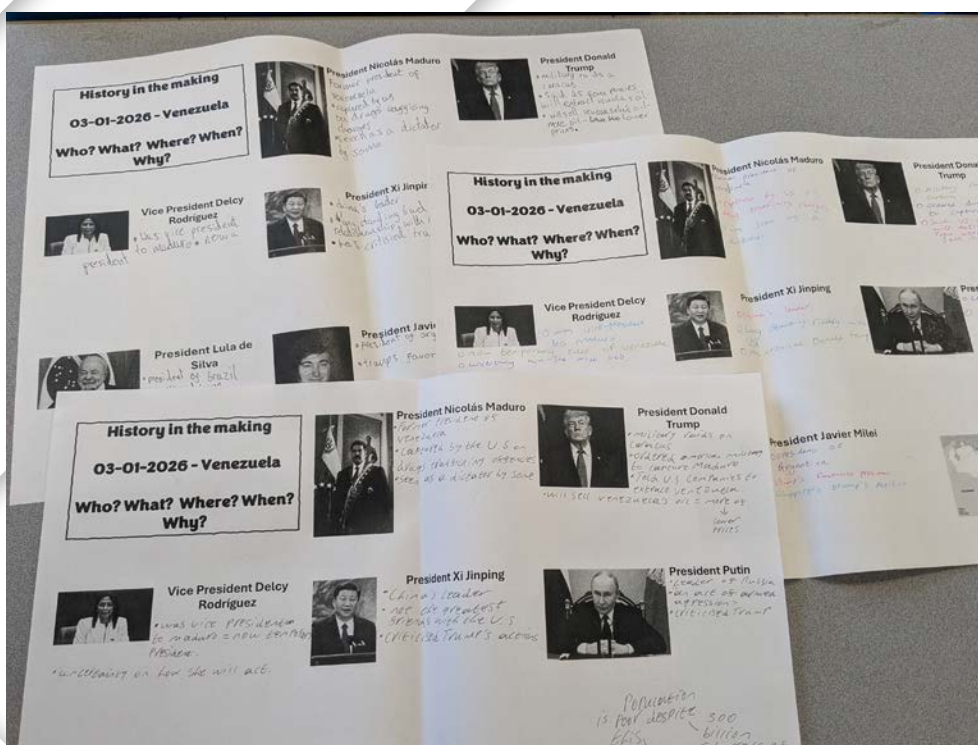


Throughout the year, KS3 pupils have been invited to attend the History in the Making Club. Current global events are fast-moving; we are living through extraordinary times that are actively shaping our future. At History in the Making Club, we aim to make sense of these big events by investigating their causes, consequences, and likely future implications. By engaging with real-world issues, students can gain a deeper understanding of how today's events will become the history of tomorrow.

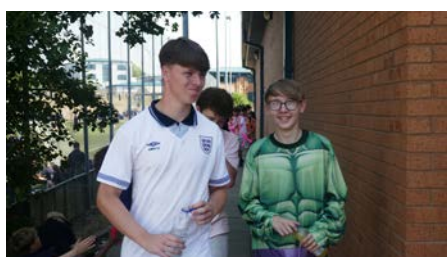
We have examined why President Donald Trump argued that US ownership of Greenland was necessary. We have investigated the dramatic events of January 2026, when the United States launched a military strike in Venezuela, resulting in the capture of President Nicolás Maduro and his wife. Students have also worked hard to make sense of the complex conflict involving Israel, America, and Iran. The club has explored the global impact of the Iranian blockade and the US counter-blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, including the global consequences and the consequences for us in the UK. At times, we will be honest, it has felt difficult to keep up with such fast-moving and complex world events.

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the General Strike (May 1926), students also turned their attention to local history. They explored the causes and impacts of the miners' strike of the 1980s, making important connections between national events and their local community.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING



SPORTS DAY 2026





KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT CELEBRATIONS



Once again, our students have demonstrated outstanding motivation and commitment to their Knowledge Organiser Home Learning. A particularly special congratulations goes to Year 8, who have once again achieved the highest average score across the year groups, with an impressive 70.4%. As a reward for their fantastic achievement, they will be celebrating with some treats at lunchtime on the final day of term.

As always, students have been recognised and rewarded for a range of achievements, including improving on previous assessment scores, producing high-quality home learning, achieving 100% in individual subject areas, and securing a place in the Top 50. It has been wonderful to see some new names appearing in the Top 50 this term.

Year 10 students have now completed their final Knowledge Assessment, and we look forward to marking their success with some extra-special celebrations in the Autumn Term.

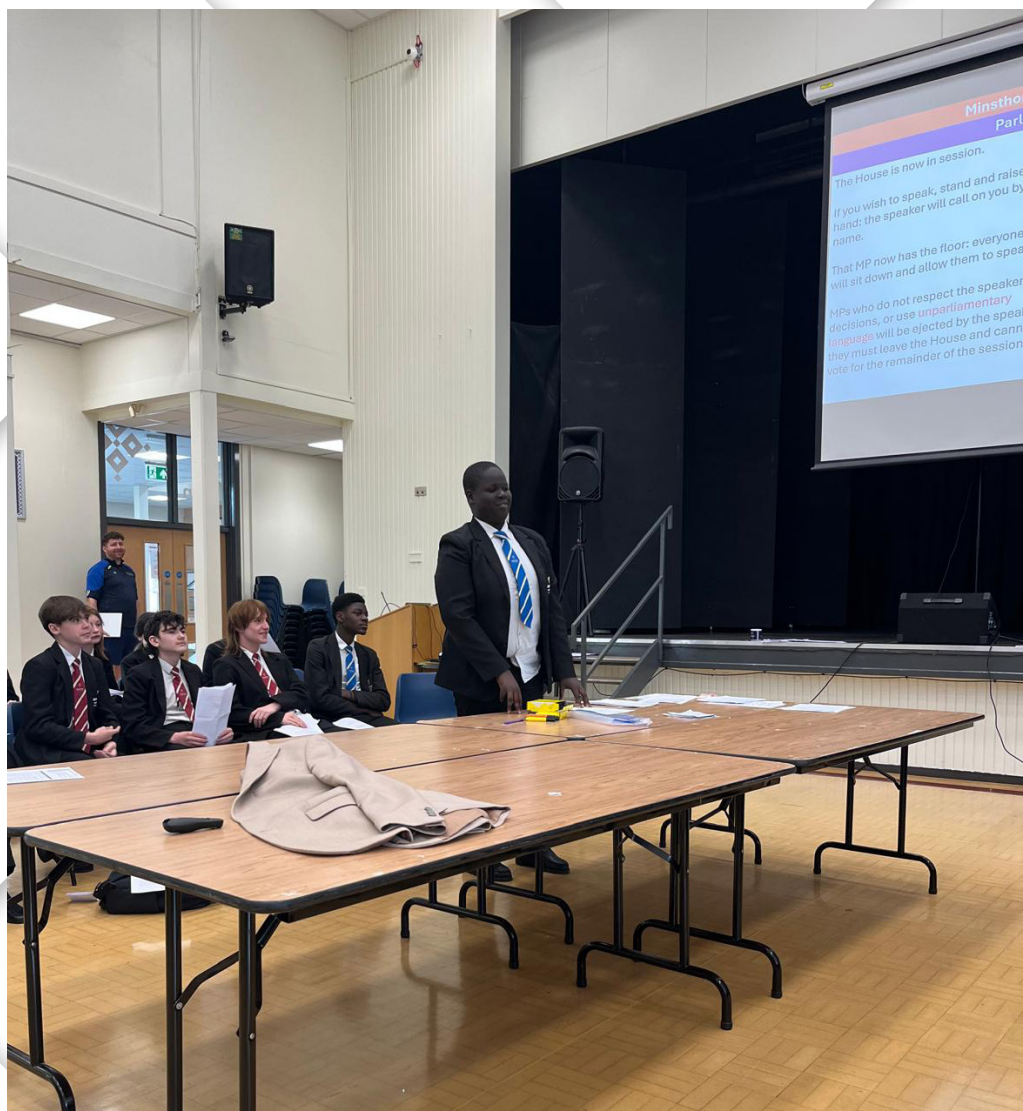
For students in Years 7–9, the final Knowledge Assessment of the year was on Thursday 9th July. We would like to extend a huge well done to everyone for the positive attitude, resilience and maturity they have shown throughout this year's assessments. Their hard work and dedication should make them incredibly proud.



This term, a group of our Year 8 and Year 9 students took part in our first ever Model Parliament. Students spent the morning learning about how our country's government is structured, the role of Parliament, and how laws are passed. Students drafted a 'fantasy cabinet meeting' in which they appointed cabinet ministers such as James Bond (defence secretary), Marie Curie (health secretary), Scrooge McDuck (Chancellor of the Exchequer,) and Rosa Parks (education secretary.)

In the afternoon, the students took part in a role-playing activity, debating bills on the floor of the House of Commons, overseen by a student playing the role of Speaker of the House. It was wonderful to see our students so engaged in learning about our democracy and enthusiastically taking part in some hands-on learning.

PARLIAMENT DAY AT MINSTHORPE



CULTURE CLUB

Culture Club members have been embracing their multilingualism this term! We have had Russian, Greek and Italian Language Masterclasses, where we learnt some new vocabulary and how to write our names in the Cyrillic alphabet, which was combined with exploring modern and ancient cultural aspects of each country accompanied by links to current events and sharing music. We were also fortunate to go on a very exciting "club trip" to see the King's Helicopter landing. Culture Club will continue to run next year, and Miss Pepper has lots of ideas to expand our cultural knowledge and we would love to welcome some more new students!



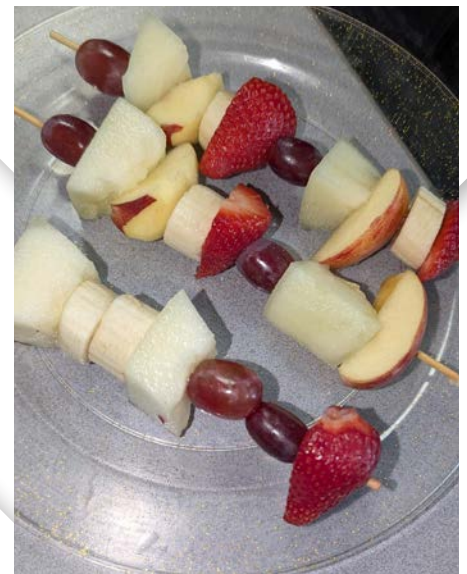
YEAR 8 HISTORY

8M/Hi3 have shown outstanding dedication to their learning, achieving the highest score in 5 out of 5 Knowledge Organiser assessments, this academic year. This remarkable success reflects their hard work and commitment both in school and at home. Mrs Walker and the History Department are truly blown away by this achievement and incredibly proud — well done, Year 8!



Students have worked hard over the academic year in producing products with care and detail. Each student has built their own confidence which has enabled them to be productive independent learners. Students have used a variety of tools and equipment within Food, Product Design and Textiles and learnt some vital key skills such as ironing, cooking for themselves and being able to listen and support each other. Students have produced some De Stijl lamps using art deco inspiration for the base and lamp whilst looking at wooden joints. The skills blocker has been created using a range of tools and equipment within the classroom to show their understanding of how to use them correctly which was then followed by a wooden mobile phone holder. Food students have made fruit kebabs, focusing on cutting and chopping skills, whilst being organised and able to clean and work safely. Textiles students have been introduced to the sewing machines and different fabric decorating techniques to bring out their creative skills – looking at fabric pens/ crayons, block printing, tie dye and stencilling.

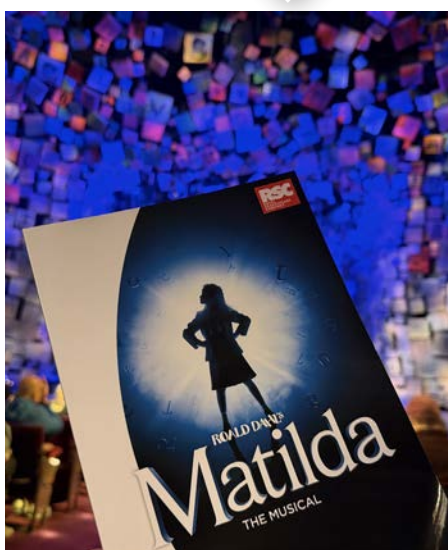
RP4 THRIVE IN DESIGN TECHNOLOGY





MINSTHORPE VISIT THE WESTEND

In June the cast of our college production of Matilda JR. enjoyed a fantastic (if a little rainy and damp) day in London as they watched the West End production of Matilda. There were cheers, tears and multiple ovations throughout the performance. Seeing the professional show only highlighted how incredible our own production truly was, and just how brilliantly our students performed. A proud moment for everyone involved.



Lexonik is a literacy intervention programme designed to close gaps in students' knowledge and strengthen their literacy skills, enabling them to apply these skills more confidently across all subjects. Through a range of activities and games, the 20-minute sessions are engaging, enjoyable, and packed with learning opportunities.

This year, 214 students from Years 7 to 9, along with a small number of Year 10 students, have taken part in and

LEXONIK AT MINSTHORPE

successfully completed the programme. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many students enjoying the sessions so much that they regularly ask when they can return!

We are incredibly proud of the progress our students have made and look forward to welcoming a new cohort of Year 7 students to the programme in September.



120 Year 7 students had an experience of a lifetime on the 24 hour Year 7 residential.

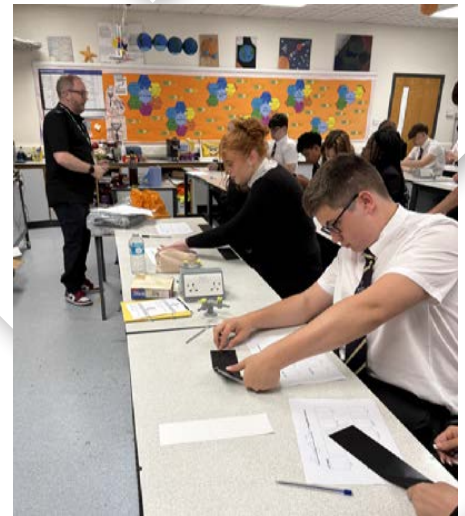
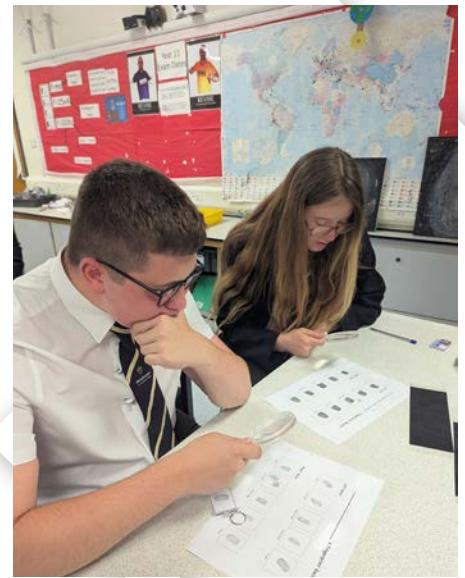
Activities included the blind fold challenge, capture the flag, tug o war, relays, haunted woods walk, team challenges, camp fire, climbing, crate stacking, rifle shooting and paddle boarding all in an action packed 24 hours.

YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL



FORENSIC POLICE VISIT YEAR 10

This term our Year 10 separate science group were visited by a police forensic scientist, who delivered an engaging and inspiring session about his career. He spoke in detail about the different pathways into forensic science, the wide range of roles within the field, and the real-life impact his work has on solving crimes. The highlight of the visit was a hands-on demonstration of fingerprint dusting, where students were able to see the techniques used to reveal hidden prints and even try it themselves. His enthusiasm for the subject was clear, and he encouraged students to consider pursuing a career in forensic science, leaving many of them excited and motivated about the possibilities for their future.



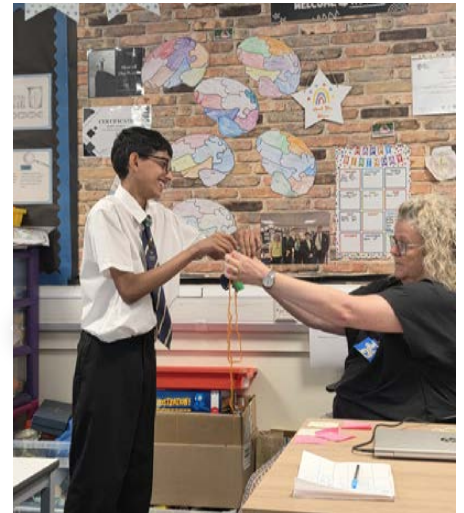
Y7 GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK

Year 7 have been out around the college site this week testing the hypothesis – There are different microclimates around the MCC site. Students really enjoyed the home made wind vanes! Alongside a cheeky roll down the grassy hill!



The Summer Term has been truly jam-packed in the RP4, filled with exciting opportunities for hands-on learning and plenty of new experiences. Students have embraced practical activities across the curriculum, developing their confidence through exploration, teamwork, and problem-solving. Whether working creatively on projects, engaging in outdoor learning, or applying their knowledge in real-life contexts, they have shown enthusiasm and resilience throughout. These experiences have helped to bring learning to life and made the classroom a vibrant and engaging place to be. Alongside this, students have built a range of new skills, both academically and personally. They have demonstrated growing independence, improved communication, and a willingness to step outside of their comfort zones – Y10 Mocks completed. From trying new activities to mastering new techniques, every learner has made meaningful progress this term. It has been our absolute pleasure to see the pride in their achievements and their excitement for learning, making this Summer Term a memorable and rewarding one for everyone involved.

BUSY TERM FOR RP4



PRIMARY SPORTS DAY



Minsthorpe organised and hosted the Primary Sports Day for 8 local Primary

Schools on Friday 19th June. The day was a huge success as 853 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 Year 10 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. It was amazing to hear all the positive feedback from the Primary Teachers about our students. They certainly did our College proud.

YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK

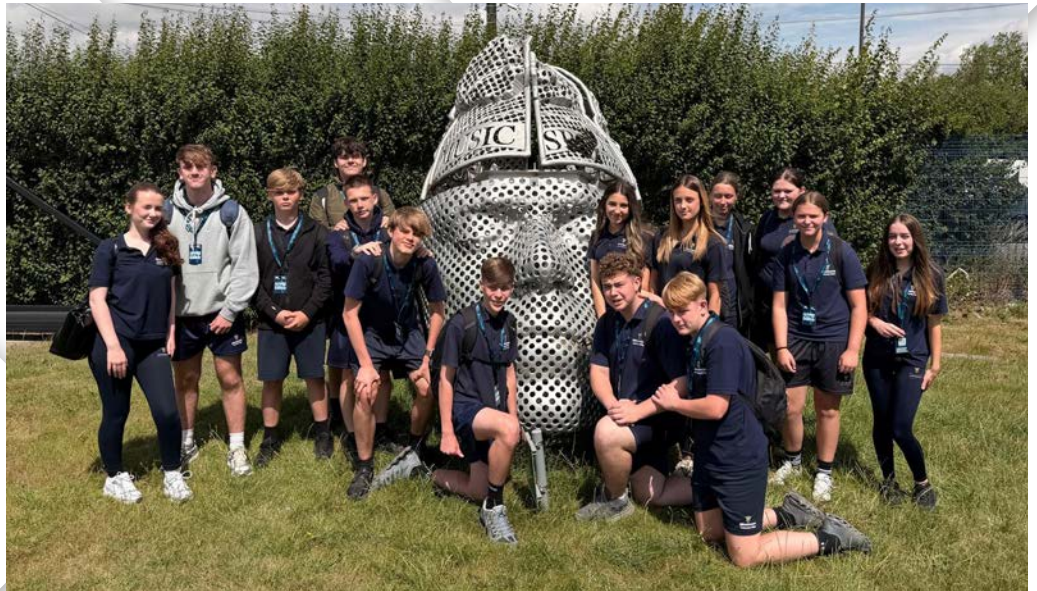


Year 10 have been out at the coast in Hornsea this month to prepare themselves for their Paper 3 exam next year! It was a glorious 2 days where students completed 2 geographical enquiries and enjoyed seaside delights such as fish and chips and ice cream! Well done Y10. Mrs Baxter & the Geography team.



Our Year 10 students recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to Production Park, where they experienced first-hand what it is like to work in one of the UK's leading live events and entertainment industry hubs. Throughout the day, students explored the behind-the-scenes processes involved in creating world-class productions, gaining a valuable insight into the wide range of careers available within the creative industries. The visit also included time at the Academy of Live Technology, where students discovered the exciting university degree opportunities on offer in areas such as live events, production, technology, and creative media. Seeing industry-standard facilities and learning from experienced professionals helped students understand the many pathways available after College. The experience was a fantastic opportunity to broaden horizons, raise aspirations, and connect classroom learning with future careers. Our students thoroughly enjoyed going behind the scenes and left feeling inspired by the possibilities that await them in the world of live production and higher education.

YEAR 10 VISIT PRODUCTION PARK



SCIENCE CLUB



This term science club have enjoyed learning about the amazing life cycle of butterflies. We have carefully observed caterpillars as they grew, formed their chrysalises, and transformed into beautiful butterflies. Watching this exciting process of metamorphosis has helped pupils develop their scientific observation skills whilst gaining an appreciation for the natural world. Alongside caring for the caterpillars, students have taken part in a range of butterfly themed activities. They explored butterfly colours and patterns through chromatography and even made their own mechanical butterflies. Everyone loved seeing the butterflies take flight as we released them into their natural habitat!



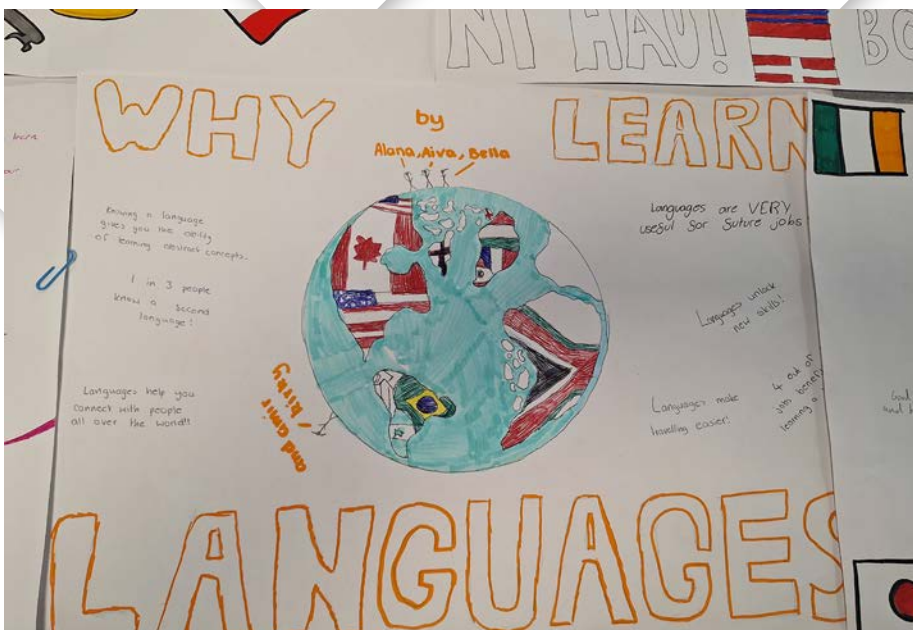
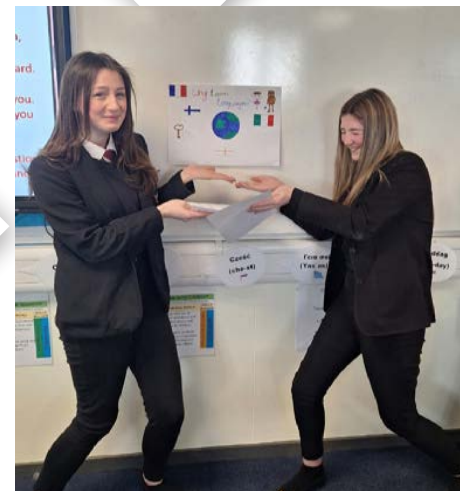
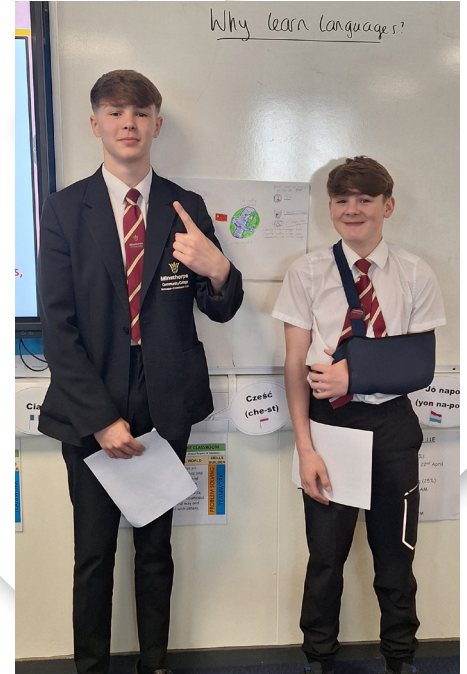
YEAR 7 SPOTLIGHT: TOUCH TYPING

In a recent Computing lesson, Year 7 students were excited to try their hand at touch typing. During this session, they explored correct hand positioning and challenged themselves to type without looking at the keyboard. There was a real buzz in the room as students tested their speed and accuracy, with many already showing rapid improvements. This engaging one-off lesson highlighted an important digital skill that will support their work confidently across all subjects.



YEAR 9 'WHY STUDY LANGUAGES' PROJECT

Last term all students in Y9 completed a 'Why Study Languages' project in their French lessons. They learnt lots of information about the skills that learning a language can give them and how it could be useful for their future education and careers. They then created presentations to show what they had learnt. We were really impressed with their creativity and presentation skills. Well done Y9 – c'était formidable!



P16 GEOGRAPHY FIELDTRIP



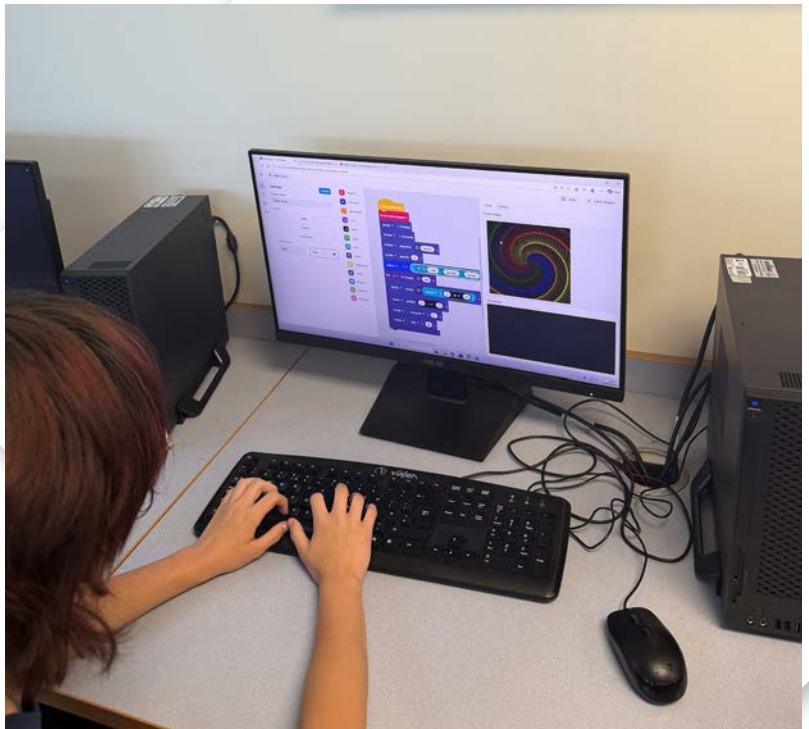
The A level geographers braved sweltering conditions to carry out two compulsory days of fieldwork to support their NEA. On 25th June they visited Doncaster where they investigated contemporary urban environments as part of their Changing Places unit. Luckily, all the local shops had cold drinks available and Mrs Abbott was adept at seeking out shade! The next day they went to Flamborough and Fraisthorpe, accompanied by A level biologists, to gather data on beach and cliff profiles, sediment cells and sand dune succession. Ice creams were a plenty and we even stumbled across an international volleyball tournament to end a perfect day. The students were an absolute joy to be with and are a credit to themselves, their parents and MCC.



YEAR 8 SPOTLIGHT: PROGRAMMING WITH TURTLES

In a recent Computing lesson, Year 8 students enthusiastically explored programming using Edublocks. They gave instructions to a virtual "turtle", controlling its movement to create shapes and patterns on screen. There was a real sense of excitement as students saw their code come to life, with many quickly progressing from simple shapes to more creative designs.

As the lesson developed, students built on these skills to create increasingly complex drawings, including flags from around the world. This engaging activity highlights key programming concepts while encouraging creativity and problem-solving in a fun and accessible way.



WRITING CLUB

This term the English Department's Writing Club have seen students move on from "Writing like a Journalist" and creating their very own editorial pieces, to exploring other genres of writing. Students are busy each week composing their own fiction, poetry, and blog entries! Last week our budding writers created pieces rooted in dystopian or utopian settings; their amazing imaginations really sparkled. A huge thanks to Mrs Jackson and Miss Jacobs for running this exciting, creative, and unifying opportunity for our y7 and y8 learners. It is a joy to hear the buzz of the writing sanctuary found every Thursday in E7.

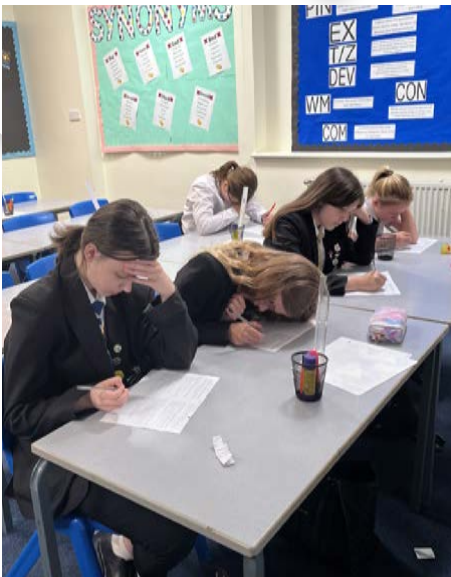


TABLE TOP GAMING & DARTS CLUB

This year marks the 8th anniversary of Table Top Gaming club and the new exciting introduction of Darts club! This year has seen a huge rise in popularity for card games such as 'Muffin Time', 'Exploding Kittens' and 'Magic The Gathering'. Members of the club say that their favourite thing about attending TTGC is the relaxed atmosphere where they just get to play games with their friends. We are always happy to welcome new members and find new games to explore together. If this sounds like something that you might be interested in, come along and join Mr Mountain and Mr Brooks in M2 on Wednesday afternoons.



YORK UNIVERSITY SHINE PROGRAMME

Our Year 9 representatives on the York University "SHINE" Programme made an outstanding first impression with the student ambassadors. The ambassadors commented on what a fantastic group of students they were, noting their enthusiasm, confidence, and willingness to engage in the tasks. The students interacted from the very beginning, showing a positive attitude and a genuine interest in the experience. They approached every activity with energy and commitment, fully involving themselves in discussions, tasks, and collaborative work. Their behaviour was excellent, and they represented the school with motivation, commitment and care..



RP3 LEARN ABOUT REPRODUCTION

This term RP3 have been learning about reproduction. To support their learning and understanding of this topic, we had some caterpillars in our class. We watched them grow into larger caterpillars, before eventually they turned into a chrysalis. We patiently waited for them to go through a metamorphosis and turn into beautiful butterflies. We have released them into the school garden where they can continue their life cycle.



GLOBAL EXPLORERS

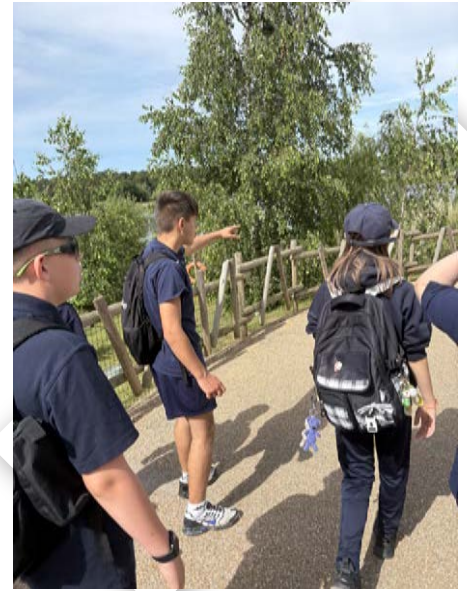


The Nurture students have been focusing on the topic of Global Explorers this half term, exploring different continents, cultures and customs. They investigated the countries involved in this year's World Cup and created a colourful bunting display of flags. In addition, pupils studied the art style of pointillism & outdoor learning producing African-inspired patterned prints using a range of materials.



YORKSHIRE WILDLIFE PARK

Students in RP3 have enjoyed their recent trip to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. We have seen a variety of different animals, including capybaras, polar bears, leopards, tigers, and wallabies. The students had an amazing time learning about the animals' welfare and the projects that are in place to support and prevent the animals from becoming extinct.



RUGBY TOURNAMENT



Minsthorpe came runners up in the Year 7&8 Castleford rugby League 9-a-side tournament on Tuesday 2nd June, losing narrowly in the final two tries to one. Minsthorpe played some great rugby throughout the tournament. They were brave and physical in defence and skilful in attack. The games were played with great respect and camaraderie between schools. Well done lads.



SUMMER CONCERT



Our summer concert was a truly memorable celebration of the incredible talent, from the youngest performers to our most experienced musicians, every performance reflected dedication, enthusiasm and countless hours of practice. The variety of styles and instruments showcased the breadth of talent across the school, with each musician growing in confidence and ability year after year. Congratulations to all of the performers whose passion and commitment shone throughout the evening. The evening concluded with a special performance dedicated to Mrs Merritt, who is retiring, the heartfelt song was a fitting tribute to her leadership and unwavering support to our students.



ATTENDANCE WINNERS

What an incredible afternoon our Attendance Competition winners have had at It's A Knockout! They threw themselves into every challenge, showed amazing teamwork, and had so much fun making memories together—well done to all our winners for earning such a fantastic reward! Keep up the fantastic attendance everyone!

