

Team MINSTHORPE

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AUTUMN TERM

Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation • Commitment • Care



Welcome to our Autumn Term Newsletter 2019!

The first term of the college year is always a busy one and this one has been no exception. We started the year by introducing students, staff and parents to our new vision for the college:

Minsthorpe Community College: A place where everyone plays a part in strengthening our learning community through **motivation**, **commitment** and **care**.

It has been an absolute pleasure to see our students demonstrating this vision in lessons day in and day out, expertly supported by our teaching and associate staff – Team Minsthorpe at work! In addition, students have benefited from a wealth of opportunities that enrich their curriculum and deepen their learning. We are sure that

you will enjoy reading about these and seeing the photos in this newsletter.

We would like to share some of our personal highlights of this term.

Motivation

In September, we welcomed 315 Year 7 students to the college. This is our biggest intake for many years and the Year 7 students have impressed us with their **motivation** in lessons achieving attendance of 96%. It is not easy to move from a small primary school to a huge community college and the parents and carers of Year 7 should feel very proud of the positive first impression their children have made. This was particularly evident at the Year 6 Open Evening when so many of them represented their new school with pride.



Commitment

In August, the incoming Year 11 students celebrated outstanding results in their first GCSE, English Literature, with many of them exceeding their target grades. These students have gone on to show excellent **commitment** to their learning in lessons, in after-college sessions and in their mock exams and are determined to continue their GCSE success across all subjects in next summer's exams. These same students displayed an exemplary attitude in their one-to-one interviews for Post 16 when they spoke with enthusiasm about their future aspirations.



We would like to commend our students for marking November's Remembrance Day with **care** and respect. It was a poignant moment to see so many of our young people attending the service at the cenotaph in South Elmsall standing respectfully alongside members of the local community in honour of the servicemen and women who fought in the wars of the 20th and 21st centuries. On Monday 11th November at 11am the college feel silent as all the

students and staff remembered those who sacrificed their tomorrows for our todays.



2019 has been a memorable year for Minsthorpe Community College as we have celebrated our 50th Birthday. We thank everyone for the part you have played.

We wish you all an enjoyable Christmas break with family and friends and look forward to seeing the students back in college on Monday 6th January 2020.

Mr Gilmore

Mrs Merritt

York University Year 9 Shine Campus Visit

A group of students visited York University last month. Students discussed the range of courses available to study in the UK, how to choose the right course for them and were given information about student finance opportunities available to support their university studies. The Year 9 students then applied this knowledge by playing games involving choosing the right study options for certain career pathways and how to budget well whilst at university.

With the help from the university's student ambassadors, students were given a list of riddles which they were required to solve, leading them to a certain area of the university campus.

Students were then introduced to Fast tomato which involved students undertaking a psychometric questionnaire which assessed their attitudes, interests and motivations and matched them up with a career which would be ideal for them.

Whilst on the trip the students behaviour was excellent.



MCC Students Represent Wakefield

Great news about two of our students who have been selected to represent Wakefield at the West Yorkshire Cross Country Championships to be held in February.

Ella Calverley

Ella has been absolutely outstanding in cross country this year! She has improved every race and has secured top 10 in all 3 of the races.

Reuben St Ange

Reuben has been selected for the 2nd year running and is now in the y8/9 boys race. The fact that he is the lower end of the age group has not phased Reuben at all! He has battled his way through 60+ other students – most of whom are y9, and been selected!

Both students have shown outstanding commitment to cross country this year, alongside their college work and being a part of other school sports teams! Massive well done to both students!!

Skills for Learning Conference

On the 19th November, our Year 11 students had the fantastic opportunity to listen to a talk delivered by David Hodgson, author of "The Brain Box". The aim of this session was to equip students with key information on how to revise.

David, who has a background in psychology, shared information on how the brain works and how it likes to learn new information. This information was then applied to different study methods which equipped the Year 11 with tips on how to study efficiently and effectively – meaning they can work smarter, not harder to achieve their dream grades at GCSE level and beyond!

Throughout the sessions, all students were engaged and cooperative with the session – especially those who volunteered to do tasks at the front.

Not only did the students leave with key skills and information on how to tackle their upcoming exams, teaching staff supporting the delivery of the sessions also came away with information which will help them with their future learning and teaching



Boys Rugby

Two fantastic photos! The year 8 team put in a brave performance in the mud versus a strong Kettlethorpe team. The score ended up 8-8 but the game could have been won by either team. Great performance showing how far they have come with their training every week having lost to Kettlethorpe by 3 scores at the start of the season.



Cross Country Season

Autumn 1 term is cross country season. We have had some excellent performances from our students. Amy Caddick and Isabelle Watson have again affirmed their position on the team and have proven they are up there with the

best runners in Wakefield for a 3rd consecutive year! Two fresh faced year 7s have also stamped their Minsthorpe mark on the Wakefield cross country scene by placing top 10 in all 3 races! Oliver Cutler has performed outstandingly over the 3 runs and is sure to be a concrete member of our cross country and athletics team for years to come. The star performer this year has been Ella Calverly. Ella has proven herself to be in the top 3 runners across Wakefield for cross country this year! She has shown motivation throughout all 3 races and has bettered her position with

each run which shows true passion! Ella has given herself the best possible opportunity to be selected to represent Wakefield going forward! The PE department are very proud of ALL our cross country runners this half term!!





Student Leadership

The Student Leadership Team have worked on supporting Anti-Bullying Week (11th – 15th November). They have created an assembly that has been presented to all year groups meaning that all students have had a consistent message about what bullying is and where they can access support if needed. The work of the Student Leadership Team has allowed the college to continue its battle against bullying by promoting the message that change starts with us.



MCC Students Visit The Big Apple

A wonderful time had by all taking in the sights and sounds of the city that never sleeps. We didn't sleep much either and walked 50 miles in 3 days!!



Y11 BeGr8

A very pleasing number of Y11 students have attended the optional BeGr8 sessions after college on a Thursday since the beginning of October. They are demonstrating high commitment levels by completing home learning or creating revision resources for subjects of their choice and are benefitting from the relaxed atmosphere (plus the free hot drinks) and also the opportunity to study with a group of their friends. Well done Y11 students.



Sculpture at Minsthorpe

The Art team have hosted a sculpture in school as the finale for our part in Yorkshire Sculpture International. It's been a year-long project that's really enhanced our students' understanding of sculpture, by creating their own wax sculpture, which was also on display and they were able to experience up close 'The Awakening'.





SMSC

All Year 7 students had an ex-student of ours come back to deliver a talk on the dangers of railways and how to stay safe around them. He also

promoted careers and possible jobs that can be linked to railways.

We once again welcomed back the Riot Act theatre company who delivered a performance on road safety and the dangers of using electronic devices near roads. This was delivered once again to the whole of year 7. One of the actors in the performance was also another ex-student – Lovely to see our

previous students and how successful they have become!

To support all our year 11 students we had the Cross Project come in and provide a workshop on exam stress to support our students in the lead up to the mocks. They had a variety of activities and challenges from Pictionary to film montages to sucking up smarties through a straw! Very engaging and got the message across to students about how to deal with stressful situations and tips and advice to support.



Girls Rugby

The Year 9 girls rugby team travelled to Castleford Academy and took part in the 2019 Wakefield Cup competition placing 3rd. Minsthorpe played 4 games in total beating De Lacy and losing narrowly in other games. A huge well done to all involved, the effort on show was fantastic and the girls' skill set is improving every week. Keep attending training and improving in games and you will continue to improve.

Our Year 11 girls rugby team travelled to Castleford Academy and took part in the 2019 Wakefield Cup competition placing runners up. Minsthorpe played 3 games in total beating Kettlethorpe High and losing narrowly by one try to both Castleford Academy and Carleton High in final moments. A massive well done to the year 9 and 10 students who stepped up to play above their year groups, punching well above their weight. Throughout the tournament our students executed our ethos of how we play rugby league at Minsthorpe and proved yet again how brave and resilient they are

The girls were a credit to Minsthorpe and thank you to all the parents who travelled to support.

Languages Event

In November Mrs Aston took a select group of Y11 languages students to Doncaster New College for a special Languages event. The students took part in several different workshops, dealing with speaking, translation, languages in university and using technology to enhance language learning. Our Minsthorpe students were a credit to the college and came away from the event with plenty of food for thought along with some useful revision resources.



English and Languages

There has been lots of fantastic cross-curricular events at Minsthorpe during Autumn term. All students have really enjoyed learning a snippet of many new languages for European Day of Languages - even learning some braille in Maths and British Sign Language in English. National Poetry Day sparked some very interesting conversations as we discussed poems about various themes including LGBTQ and immigration. Some of our gifted students entered the young writer's competition with their own poetry and are now published in a book! We have also loved having some very interesting whole class conversations and debates for No Pens Day – our students were extremely thoughtful, formal and respectful whilst giving their own opinions.

Minsthorpe Book Buzz Club have had a brilliant Autumn term! We have discussed many interesting books, played some great games, written our own short stories and read a fantastic book called "The Rest Of Us Just Live Here" by Patrick Ness which we have particularly enjoyed talking about. One of the highlights was going to watch The Tempest at Shakespeare's Rose Theatre in York and we can't wait for the next trip out. The Book Buzz Club are also evolving into a debating team as we love to discuss controversial topics related to literature and we are looking into joining a formal debating contest in the near future. The doors of the library are open for anyone who would like to join us on a Thursday 2.30pm – 3.30pm. Come along for great conversation, company and cake!

Young Writers

Following on from successful entries throughout the last academic year, we have had another amazing recognition of the talented writers we have in Year 8. 15 students have been selected to be published in the 'Poetry Escape' competition established by Young Writers. Over 4000 students entered the competition and only around 300 entries will be published. For 15 students to get published is amazing; we are seeing more and more students entering these prestigious competitions and be rewarded for doing so. The following students will be published in their very own anthology and Minsthorpe Community College would like to congratulate them on their success.



Bebras UK Computational Thinking Challenge

During their CDM lessons at Minsthorpe, all Year 7 and Year 8 students have taken part in the Bebras UK computational thinking test organised by the Oxford University. We are so proud that 12 students have scored in the top 10% nationally and will therefore be invited to take part in the next stage. Computer Science is shortage skill and it is opportunities like this one that will help develop the next generation of coders in the UK.



Beth Shalom

A group of 40 Y8 students had the opportunity to spend the day at Beth Shalom, the National Holocaust Museum on Thursday 21st November. They spent the morning exploring the museum and also spent time in the memorial gardens remembering the 6 million Jewish people who lost their lives, placing a stone on the children's memorial in quiet reflection. In the afternoon they had the privilege of listening to Hanneke Dye, a Holocaust survivor and they asked excellent questions at the end of her talk. They were impeccably behaved and they were told so by the staff at the centre, it was definitely another 'proud teacher moment'.



Netball

Minsthorpe Netball club has been a huge success once again this half term with record numbers of girls representing our school for all year groups.

I would like to give a special mention to the outstanding Y7 netball team. They are showing such great potential as a new and upcoming team. They have won all of these matches this season so far and attend training every single week. I am immensely proud of them so a huge well done.



Year 11 Interviews for Post 16

As part of our comprehensive CEIAG programme all Y11 get a one-to-one interview where they can discuss with a member of the Leadership Team or the Careers Lead what their future plans look like. The students this year showed the impact of the stable careers programme they have experienced, as their knowledge and planning about

their future aspirations, which they shared so articulately at the meetings, was superb. The students were an absolute pleasure to meet with and many students shared extra details about themselves and their interests that was so interesting and useful to know. All the staff involved were

full of praise for the students' engagement and maturity, and that valuable information which we have gathered about what subjects and courses they wish to study will enable us to map our post 16 curriculum offer to meet their preferences ready for when they join us in Post 16 next year.



Eurogamer

In October the CDM department took a mixture of Year 10 Computer Science students and Year 13 Media students to EGX at the Excel Arena in London. This gave students an insight to the whole process of the creation of games. Students had the opportunity to meet and talk

to games developers as well as notorious figures in the games industry. They also had the chance to play some of the rarest forms of computer games on consoles such as Vectrex and Amstrad GX4000 all the way through to the latest releases for PS4, Xbox One and Nintendo Switch. The students were impeccably behaved throughout the

day and were a credit to the college, this was even picked up on by the main EGX organiser who commented that she had never seen a group of school children so well behaved before entering the complex. As a result of this we were given early entry instead of having to wait with the other schools in the one hour queue. A great day was had by all!



Maths Gaming Club

In Maths we have the 'table top gaming club' which, in conjunction with the UK Warhammer Alliance, is designed to support young people with the engineering and maths aspects of the STEM curriculum.



Stem Club

STEM club has increased in popularity this term with students in Y7-Y10 being involved in engineering cars, making bath bombs, sparklers and looking at static electricity to name a few of the sessions. A group of exceptional Y7

students have been chosen to take part in an engineering experience this year, working with an external company to take part in engineering workshops and activities to broaden their understanding of the opportunities available outside



of college.

Some of our Y10 students have also taken part in an STEM experience with Wakefield Council. They took part in different workshops and talks about educational opportunities in STEM subjects as well as liaising with local employers and universities. The students then undertook a careers question and answer session in college to ensure they have understanding of the wealth of opportunities that STEM subjects can lead to.

Progression Plus Module Ceremony

In November we took a group of students to receive their progression plus module certificates at Leeds Beckett University. The ceremony was excellent and the students enjoyed their day out. The Progression Module is a year-long structured programme which aims to support students in Year 12 in their preparation for both higher education and employment. The Module is delivered by tutors within schools and colleges with support given by Leeds Beckett University.

Within the Module, students are guided through how to compose a CV, how best to research different courses and

how to effectively budget when at university. Students also undertake a mock interview and are assessed on the delivery of a presentation. Staff from Leeds Beckett University are available to support throughout the programme and to deliver sessions to

introduce new aspects of the Module to students. Upon successful completion of the module, students are awarded 12 UCAS points which are accepted by Leeds Beckett University, University of Huddersfield and Leeds Trinity University



Pre-Apprentice Programme

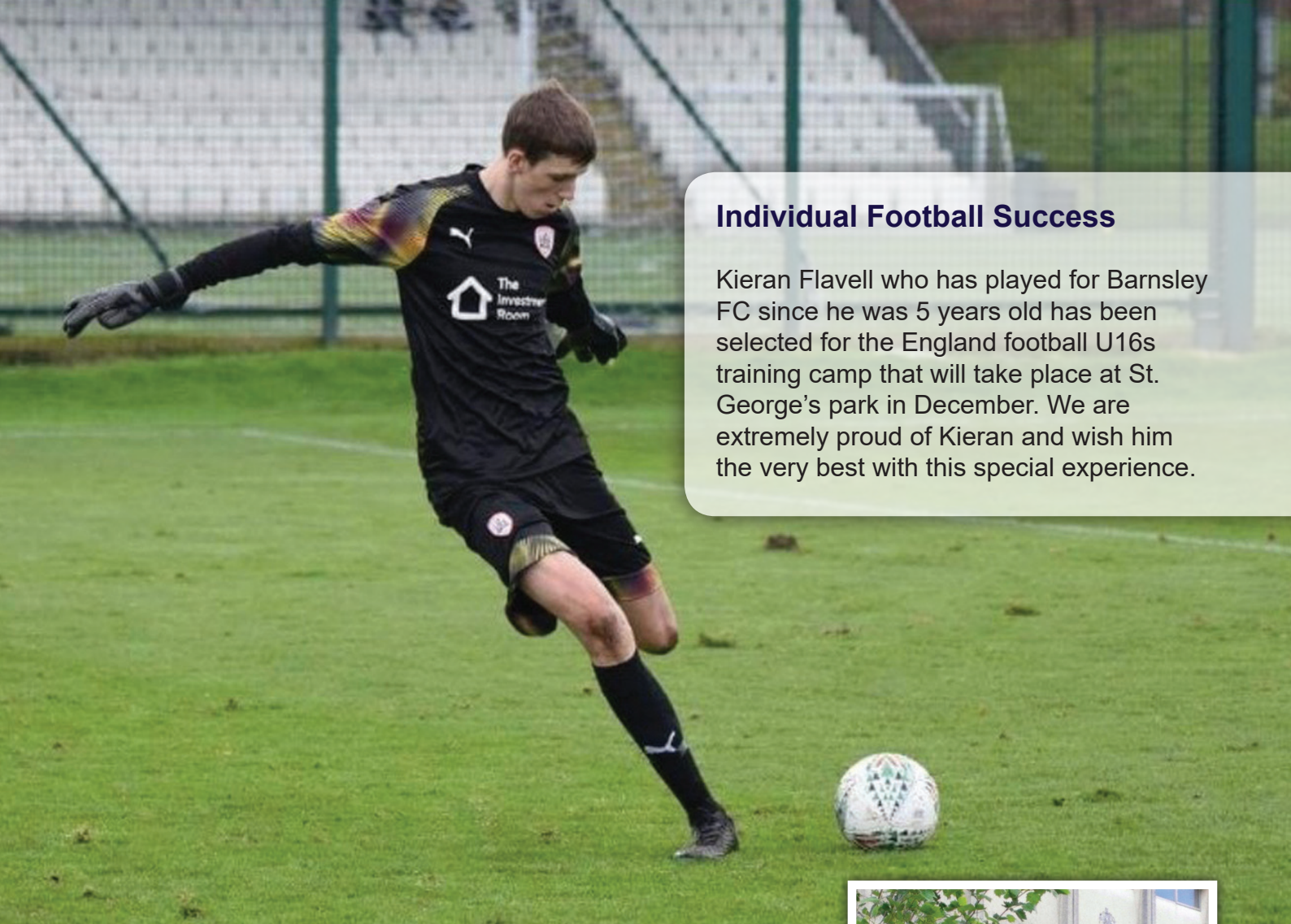
During the autumn term the Year 12 Level 1 Cohort make a weekly visit to Castleford Fire Station to follow a course in Young Fire Fighters. This is a 23-week course covering all aspect of the Fire Service, from the use of hoses, ladders, breathing apparatus, CPR, First Aid, fitness, how to rescue injured people from cars and homes to name but a few things which we cover.

When the students are back in school, they take on board the task of rejuvenating the old school green house. They have visited several local garden centres to learn which plants are suitable to grow in the Autumn Term and will be returning in Spring to learn how to make hanging baskets, which they will be looking to sell in the Summer Term. The Garden Centres we have visited have included small local ones to larger business enterprisers, these have included, Ackworth Nursery, Markham Grange, Wentworth and Nottscutts Garden Centre.

Throughout the term the Level 2 Pre-Apprentice Group have had the opportunity to visit several local organisations to help them with their studies. They have visited local Trussell Trust Food Bank in Pontefract to gain an insight and understanding of the tremendous work the voluntary organisation does within the local community to help vulnerable people.

The students have also visited several local businesses for example The Litestructures Projects UK Ltd in South Kirby and Xscape in Pontefract to investigate different job roles which they could aspire to.





Individual Football Success

Kieran Flavell who has played for Barnsley FC since he was 5 years old has been selected for the England football U16s training camp that will take place at St. George's park in December. We are extremely proud of Kieran and wish him the very best with this special experience.



Doncaster Magistrates Court

Year 13 Sociology students follow a unit on Crime and Deviance and Beliefs in Society. To enhance their knowledge of the criminal justice system a trip to Doncaster Magistrates Court enables the students to gain a valuable insight into how criminals are defended, prosecuted and punished. To further their understanding of the Jewish Faith the students visited the United Hebrew Church in Leeds and received a talk from the Jewish Community.



We Love Reading!

Thank you to Minsthorpe students and staff who have donated books to the children of Happy Days. These books will allow the centre to build up their library so that the pre-school children can share our love of reading.

Football Crazy!

Our students have continued to represent the College with pride in various football leagues and cups this term. The Year 10 football team became Wakefield Outdoor 5-a-side champions last week. Twenty teams entered the tournament. Minsthorpe won their group stage, then we beat The Kings School in the semi-final in a nail biting penalty shootout and were victorious against Castleford Academy in the final. Well done!



Got to Dance

A fantastic evening of dancing to kick off the Christmas festivities with Minsthorpe's 'Got To Dance'. The students' commitment and enthusiasm for dance shone through with fabulous performances from our Year 7 to 11 students. It was a real community event with our local dance school SK Dance Academy joining the evening with two brilliant performances from their mini and senior teams. It was fantastic to see all students performing with such confidence and enjoyment. A big well done to all students involved.



Christmas Concert

We enjoyed the most fantastic evening of music performances from our amazingly talented students this December. Students were represented from Y7 through to Y13 and each and every one performed with talent and confidence.

It was great to see lots of parents and teachers there supporting our students performing and huge thanks must go to the music team who supported with both rehearsals and on the evening.



Reverse Advent Calendar

As well as receiving this festive season why not give something back? Throughout December we will be collecting donations of food and other small items from all staff and students in college for a local foodbank and a soup kitchen.



Christmas Jumper Day!



Our top 10 in Year 8



Owen & Jack in Year 10 got excellent reports



Our top 10 in Year 9



Our top 10 in Year 7



Merry Christmas!