TEAM MINSTHORPE

WINTER TERM 2021 - EDITION 5

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Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation • Commitment • Care

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Welcome to this bumper edition of our termly newsletter. This has been an incredibly busy term and we know you will enjoy reading the articles and browsing the photos which showcase the **Motivation, Commitment** and **Care** shown by our students and staff since September.

It has been a pleasure for College life to get back to normal with a full range of enrichment activities which add so much to our students' experiences at Minsthorpe Community College. As we say repeatedly, everyone has a part to play in strengthening our learning community and the wealth of talent at Minsthorpe is very apparent in this newsletter.

September 2021 saw the launch of our revised **curriculum** at the College which aims to raise the achievements and aspirations of all learners through the delivery of a highly personalised, broad, ambitious and inclusive curriculum that:

Deepens students' understanding and develops their **knowledge** and skills in all subject areas;
Ensures students are **literate and numerate**;
Enriches students' **learning** experiences;
Builds students' **character**;
Empowers students to **realise** their education and employment **potential** beyond Minsthorpe Community College.

We see the curriculum in action every day in lessons and in other activities across the College. We hope you can see examples of this curriculum in action throughout the newsletter.

We are all looking forward to

the festive season and would like to remind you of the arrangements for the end of term.

Arrangements for Friday 17th December 2021
We would like students to have a wonderful Christmas experience on the last day - Friday 17th December. Staff will be celebrating Christmas during lessons in the morning including Christmas quizzes, games or films. We would also like to invite students to bring in some party food for themselves to enjoy during lessons.

Non-Uniform Day – Friday 17th December 2021
Students may attend College in non-uniform on Friday 17th December. If students wish to wear a Christmas jumper, they may, but any (warm) casual clothing is acceptable. We are asking students to donate £1 which will be shared between our students' chosen charities and future student reward activities. Students may wish to donate to the food bank on this day too.

Christmas Holiday Closure
College will be closed for the Christmas holiday from 1pm on Friday 17th December and we will reopen as usual on Tuesday 4th January 2022. Thank you to parents/carers for your ongoing support this term. We wish everyone a relaxing and safe festive season.

Mr Gilmore Mrs Merritt

Our students received their Autumn Term reports last week and the Principals are photographed with the students with the highest number of 'outstanding' effort grades in each Year Group. Congratulations to them and to all our students who have shown Motivation, Commitment and Care this term.

LEEDS UNIVERSITY VISITS MINSTHORPE

In November, Leeds University visited Minsthorpe Community College to deliver part of their STEM Outreach Program to some of our GCSE Design Technology students. The students studied the sustainability of different materials and the environmental impacts they have. Students were engaged within the workshop and showed motivation, commitment, and care throughout.

PIANO MAN

Travis Phillips (Y11) got a Merit in his ABRSM Grade 5 piano exam last month. He has worked extremely hard on all the different disciplines of the exam including 3 pieces, sight reading and scales. He will be taking his Grade 5 theory exam in a few months time.

Anyone who attended the Awards Evening on 1st December were all lucky enough to hear Travis play live. Awesome!

YEAR 11 ART

Year 11 BTEC Art students back to doing what they do best! Demonstrating their motivation, commitment and care to their art. They have been working hard to develop their drawing skills using artist influences.

WELL DONE, FREDDIE

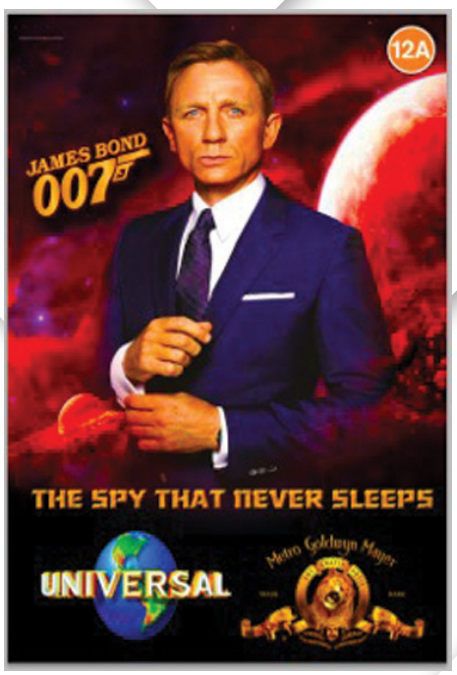
It is great to hear about the footballing success of one of our Year 8 students. Freddie has been selected to play for the Junior Premier League and the North of England Representative Football team. He has also started refereeing Under 10's at Doncaster Elite and running the line in Under 16 games. Watch this space!.

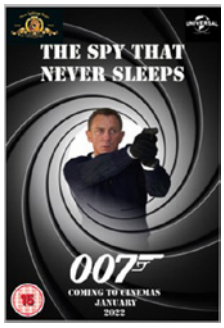
ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

The Student Leadership Team led on the promotion of Anti-Bullying by speaking in Assemblies and creating activities for other students to do in lessons. The college continues to work with the Anti-Bullying Alliance and encouraged students to get behind the national theme this year of 'One Kind Word'

STUDENTS SHINE IN CDM

This term in CDM, students have been learning how to use graphic software to create images for a given purpose. KS3 have been turning famous people into pop art characters and Year 9 have designed a poster for a new James Bond movie.





POST 16 PERFORMING ARTS

Year 12 and 13 Performing Arts students have been learning about children's theatre. They have explored the key aspects of the style and applied this to a re-telling of the classic children's story 'The Gruffalo'.

Our children's centre Happy Days were delighted with their invite to bring a group of children over to watch the show. Using a small set budget our students were professional in transforming the classroom, designing set and costumes, to produce a fantastic show, that the children from Happy days loved!

Well done! Its great to get live audiences back in watching the amazing work students are producing.

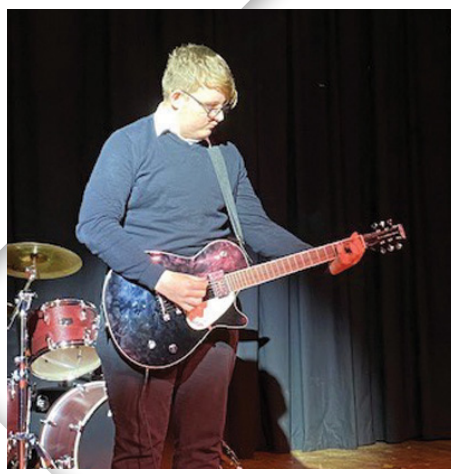
POST 16 UNIVERSITY VISIT

A group of mixed Year 12 and Year 13 students L3 food science and nutrition students spent the morning working with a professor in the kitchen labs at Sheffield Hallam University on the topic of food fraud. The students listened to a talk and then took part in a practical experiment where they tested meat products with antibodies and antigens. They then had a tour of the kitchens and discussions on nutrition courses and then how to apply in terms of UCAS and personal statement- it was amazing and the students really relished in discussions about jobs and careers and higher education in general- lots of them have made the decision to go to university and study nutrition from this which is amazing. Three out of five Year 13s are all applying to study nutrition at Sheffield.

YEAR 10

MUSIC

Year 10 students have done themselves proud and shown resilience and determination, from a tough year, ending with some fantastic performances in the end of year exams in music, with over 40% hitting the distinction criteria in year 10 alone. We are very proud of them all! Well done from Mrs Chamberlain & Mr Jones



YOUNG WRITERS' SUCCESS

Minsthorpe Community College is delighted to announce 6 students have been selected to be published in Young Writers' latest anthology. Perfectly complementing the Gothic Literature scheme of work pupils studied in Year 7, competition entrants were challenged to create a spine chilling story. Only around 300 short stories are selected for publication from 14,000 entries! It is clear that Daria Dehini, Lilly-Jo Ryal, Lydia Clarke, Jaymie-Leigh Hartley, Emily Powell and regular competition winner Ava

Terry are all fantastic writers. Their winning stories are also indicative of their hard work, motivation and commitment to writing. We look forward to seeing their work in print in the coming months.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On 28th September, we celebrated European Day of Languages in college. Each curriculum area displayed a quote about the benefits of language learning and gave students the opportunity to explore a European language and/or country. In Year 7 and 8 MFL lessons on this day, students explored some of the many reasons and benefits of studying languages and enjoyed watching clips of teachers from different subject areas around college speaking different European Languages. They then completed a quiz in order to win a free French lunch with Mr Gilmore, Mrs Merritt and Miss Hartley. After college, students were invited to attend a language club extravaganza where they had the opportunity to learn some Spanish, Chinese and German.

ACTIVE AND INSPIRED

A select group of Year 9 students began their Active and Inspired Course this term. The ten students completed an intensive two day Fire Fit course at Wakefield Fire Station which included circuit training, learning about a balanced and healthy lifestyle and concluded with a fire engine experience and using 10m fire hoses, feeling the true pressure and force of the water as they controlled the hose.

They have continued to keep active by completing weekly sessions at the Sports and Fitness Centre with their very own Personal Trainer. The students have loved being able to get expert advice on gym techniques and keeping fit using all the vast array of gym equipment. Well done to all the students on showing terrific motivation and commitment to their own health and wellbeing.

Watch this space as throughout the year more students embark on their Active and Inspired course.

BETH SHALOM

On Thursday 18th November, 40 students visited Beth Shalom, the Holocaust Centre in Laxton. Students spent the day listening to the testimony of a Holocaust survivor, exploring the plethora of information in the museum and reflecting on their findings in the memorial garden. This was such an important experience for the students which we hope they will remember for years to come.

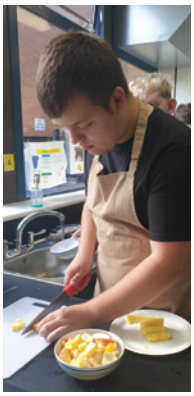
CHRISTMAS ENTERPRISE

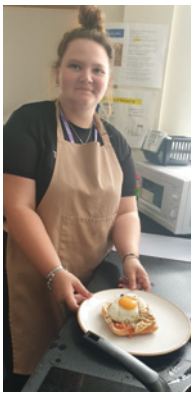
The KS4 RP group have been getting involved in raising money for Maggie's charity by creating hot chocolate stirrers in their hospitality and catering lessons.
The packaging has been designed/ created during their CDM lessons. The tasty items are perfect for stocking fillers and we are sure you will agree they have done a fantastic job!

POST 16 WORK SKILLS

Work skills have been cooking and baking a variety of foods helping them prepare themselves for an independent future. So far they have cooked a hot sandwich, pizza, stir fry and cookies or brownies and created a fruit salad. Just look at a range of skills that they have developed!

We are proud of how far their confidence has grown and shone during practicals.



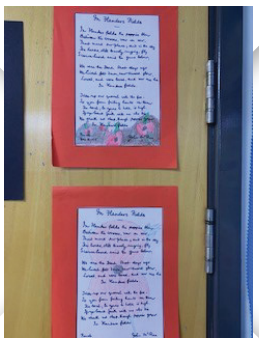


POST 16 ON TOUR

The Post 16 Football Academy went on a fantastic tour to London. The tour involved watching England play at Wembley. A tour of the Tottenham Hotspur ground and a match against Edmonton County School from Enfield. Well done to all the boys that went on this tour. You were great ambassadors for the college.

IN FLANDERS FIELD

Our Nurture students have been learning about the 1st & 2nd world war as part of their History topic. They showed their respect to the fallen by creating sketches of poppies to the poem 'In Flanders Fields' by John McCrae.



CUPCAKES BY KS4

The KS4 RP group have been having fun in the kitchen, learning how to make cupcakes and decorate them professionally with piped frosting. They got competitive during a little bake off competition. Well done to Liam on securing first place, second place went to Jake Simister and third to Max Shaw.

VISIT TO ST. GEORGES PARK

The Years 7 and 8 Boys and Girls Football Teams had an awesome day out at St Georges Park. They had a tour around the multi million pound facility where all the England football teams train. They also had a training session put on by coaches from St George's Park. The England Ladies team where preparing for a world Cup qualifier at the same time as we were there.

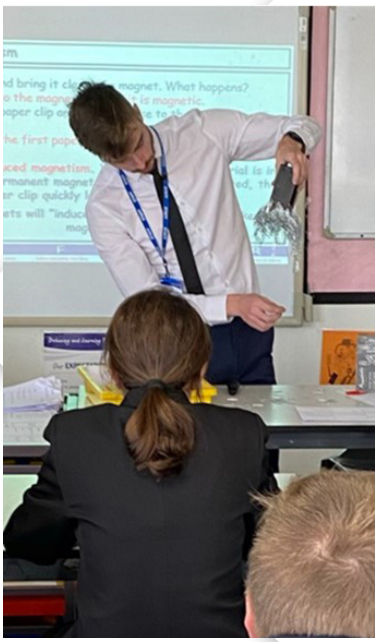
AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

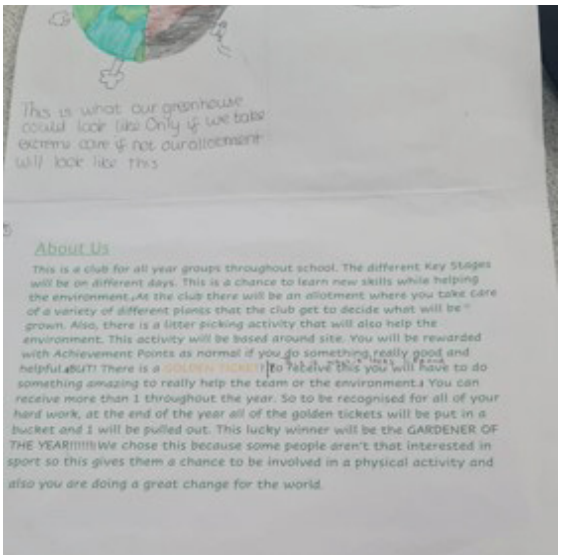
We enjoyed a wonderful evening on 1st December when we celebrated the exam success and other achievements of Year 11 2020/21. The Main Hall was filled with students, family members, staff and members of the local community who joined to congratulate the young people. Special guest at the evening was Michael Shenton, former Minsthorpe student and professional rugby league player and coach, who delivered an inspirational speech which provided motivation for the young people as they move forward on their journey.

YEAR 8 HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

Year 8 have been very busy this term in Learning for Life! A plethora of students produced 'outstanding' pieces of home-learning. Students also had the opportunity to enter a competition, designing a Holocaust memorial to remember the 6 million Jewish people who were murdered during WWII. Choosing the best one was difficult due to the quality and thoughtfulness of each and every entry – Well done Year 8!

SCIENCE CLUB





In Science Club this year, students from Year 7 and 8 have gathered after school to explore and discover the world around them through the lenses of Physics, Biology and Chemistry. From the magnetic poles of the Earth to the heart of Daphnia (microscopic water fleas), students have challenged themselves and tried to answer big questions; Could we actually bring dinosaurs back to life? Should we do it? How are acids and alkalis used in everyday life? Is it ethical to use live specimens for scientific investigations? These students have come together and used a hands-on approach to answer these questions using scientific models – just like real-world scientists!

Throughout November, Science hosted several ABM J.E.E.P days helping to promote engineering as a career choice and help tackle the skills gap faced by the industry. Students spent three days working on a variety of practical experiences, problem solving activities and designing their own sustainable venture. They interviewed the CEO of ABM, who commented that some of the questions she received from our Year 7 cohort were the best she had ever heard! The presentations and poster produced during the third session were outstanding. Well done Year 7!

EXAM PREPARATIONS BEGIN

On Thursday morning, a group of Year 11 students received a presentation from SENDIASS about how to access support should they need to. Anna from WESAIL spoke about the services available to our young people in Wakefield, the range of support that is on offer and how to access this. The Year 11 students responded well to Anna's questions around SEND and asked important questions with regards to their own access arrangements, showing a real sense of responsibility towards their exams, as well as their normal way of working in the classroom.

TRAINING TO TEACH

The first term of our teacher training has been an incredible experience. As trainees on the YTCA SCITT, we observe and teach alongside experienced practitioners and we read a variety of pedagogy to improve our teaching practice. Our Hub Days at Minsthorpe are spent discussing tried and tested teaching theory as well as learning new, innovative approaches. In the recent 'Active Approaches' session, we explored how movement improves understanding through the lens of Shakespearean texts. We recited, repeated and performed scenes from Hamlet, Macbeth and Othello, and I was surprised by how the active approaches made these texts much more accessible. We can't wait to implement some of these strategies in class!

MINSTHORPE CONCERT

We were delighted to play to a live audience at the Christmas Music Concert. It had been 722 days since the last live performance in the Main Hall, but it was well worth the wait. The capacity crowd were entertained by singers, drummers and instrumentalists of the highest standard. Another evening to remember!

Language Club Christmas Event
Tuesday 14th Dec.
Christmas French Food, Games, Music and much more
Joyeux Noël