

# Newsletter

*Of great merit, character and value*

# elf

## The Musical

Book by  
Thomas Meehan  
and Bob Martin

Music by  
Matthew Sklar

Lyrics by  
Chad Beguelin

Based upon the New Line Cinema film written by David Berenbaum



TICKETS  
WWW.WOLDGATE.NET

**Opening next week — don't miss out!**

Visit — <https://www.woldgate.net/school-musical-elf-the-musical.html>

**£9 Adults £6 Pupils/Concessions**

7:30pm Main School Hall Licensed Bar and refreshments available

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International  
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI [www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)



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## Mr Sloman writes:

At Woldgate School, we strongly believe that success is built upon a strong, trusting partnership between school staff, pupils and parents. In particular, we recognise that parents, like pupils and staff, have a voice and I would like to respond to some of the concerns raised by parents and members of the community.

As we await the imminent construction of our new school building, we recognise that our existing facilities and buildings still require the care and maintenance necessary to provide our pupils with the best possible experience. We recognise that this matter has caused some concern and we want to reassure parents and members of the community that we have already taken steps to address these, including pre-arranged deep-cleaning of the facilities by an external contractor and the appointment of a fulltime, dedicated Operations and Estates Lead from January to oversee the ongoing repairs and maintenance of school facilities. We are also scheduling a programme of repair and decoration on all school toilets, commencing in the new year. Although this may cause some disruption in the short term, it is necessary to maintain our school facilities in the best possible condition for our pupils.

This week, I and my senior colleagues have met with a group of parents to discuss some of these, and other issues and concerns raised recently. Our meeting was extremely constructive and supportive, and reflected the care and dedication we all feel towards making our pupils' educational experience the best it can be. We have looked at different aspects of school life, and I am looking forward to continuing to work with our parent community over the coming weeks and months to continually



## Important Dates for your Diary

**Tuesday 5th December:**

Elf: the Musical 7:30pm

**Wednesday 6th December:**

Elf: the Musical 7:30pm

**Thursday 7th December:**

Elf: the Musical 7:30pm

**Thursday 21st December:**

Christmas Concert at  
All Saints Church (from 7pm)

**Friday 22nd December:**

Last Day of Term (Half Day)





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improve our school for pupils and students. We welcome all support and constructive feedback from the local community and will be keeping the lines of communication open to move forward.

Thank you again to everyone in the local community; parents, carers, relatives and others, who continue to support our school. I know that our school will be the best it can be when we work together with the community and thank you to everyone for your ongoing support and help. I look forward to sharing our combined achievements for our pupils with you in the weeks and months ahead.

**Mr Sloman**  
Headteacher



## Parents' Evenings

**Year 7:**

Monday 24th June 2024

**Year 8:**

Monday 13th May 2024

**Year 9:**

Monday 11th March 2024

**Year 10:**

Monday 22nd April 2024

**Year 11:**

Monday 19th February 2024

**Year 12:**

Wednesday 8th May 2024



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## Lower School



### Mrs Geary writes:

Yet more success for Year 7 pupils recently – a great win for the Year 7 Netball Team coached by Mrs Dearing; well done and we're looking forward to continued success!

Several of our pupils are keen trampolinists and it is wonderful to hear of how their commitment to training and their resilience is paying off in competitions.

Stan was awarded 1st place at the Yorkshire Championships on the 19 November 2023.

He has been training for three and a half years. The competition was held at John Charles' Centre for Sport in Leeds with teams from the whole of Yorkshire, so to become champion in his 11–12-year category was testament to his hard work. Stan told us that when he started, he just found it fun, but now he is more competitive and enjoys the competitions. He trains three times per week and some of the routines sound difficult to pull off and require lots of practice.

He will be going onto along with all his team to try and qualify for the British Gymnastics Inter Regional Championships 2024. Stan really enjoys trampolining and along with lots of Year 7 pupils would definitely recommend it. We are proud of everything they have achieved so far!

Mrs Geary  
Head of Lower School





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## Upper School



### Mr Bell writes:

This week Year 11 pupils have been learning about the different techniques to use when revising for the December Mock examinations. The techniques fit into one of three categories:

**C - Content**

**S – Skills**

**F – Feedback**

Pupils have learnt that using Feedback techniques such as studying mark schemes or examiners reports or comparing your work against model answers is more powerful revision than content revision alone. Content revision includes rewriting class notes or reading class notes.

Pupils have a worksheet with all these suggestions on them to help them with their revision.

As pupils get closer to their December Mocks examinations it is useful to use all revision time as productively as possible.

If pupils know they are using the most productive techniques, they can be more confident and relaxed about their December Mock examinations.

Thank you to all parents / carers who have placed an order for revision books. The books are starting to come into school, and I hope by the time you read this article pupils will have started to receive their revision books.

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I have had the honour of delivering assemblies to year 8-11 this week. We have been learning more about a courageous person called Billy Monger. Billy embodies the Woldgate vision of Merit, Character, and Value. His is an incredibly moving story, if you wish to read more details you can see his Wikipedia page here:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy\\_Monger](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Billy_Monger)

Finally, a small request. If a pupil forgets their tie, we lend them a tie for the day. Sometimes pupils forget to return these ties. Next week we are having a tie amnesty – if there are any plain black ties in your child's bedroom that they have borrowed; please can you ask them to return them to me, their Care and Achievement Co-Ordinator or their tutor. Thank you.

As we enter Advent on Sunday, I wish you a good week.

**Mr Bell**  
Head of Upper School





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WOLDGATE  
THE EAST YORKSHIRE  
SIXTH FORM



## Miss Smith writes:

Thank you for the support and care that you have provided Year 12 and Year 13 with over the previous half term. Most students are making really good progress. Mrs Fairhurst and I have had the pleasure of running pre-mock interviews with Year 13 students over the previous few days and listening to how organised students are in terms of preparing for their mocks is a real pleasure and this is clearly a reflection of the high expectations set across the curriculum.

## Important Dates:

**Sixth Form Taster Day** – 8th December,

**Year 13 Mock Exams** commence 11th December.

Sixth Form focus is on UCAS References, Attendance and Sixth Form House Enrichment Day

**Miss K Smith**  
Head of Sixth Form



# THE ELVES AND THE SHOEMAKER Save Christmas

Adapted by  
**Elizabeth Godber**

Directed by  
**Jane Thornton**



Magical,  
musical fun  
for all the  
family!

## 7-16 December

£12 Adult | £9 Under 25/Concession | £35 Family  
(2 Adults, 2 Children)



pocklington  
arts  
centre.co.uk/elves

POCKLINGTON  
ARTS  
CENTRE





## Safeguarding at Woldgate

### *Social Media – Advice for parents*

We have included some advice on potential risks and challenges that young people may face on social media to support them and help them make smarter choices about how they interact and share with others on social media platforms:

#### Has your child been affected by content shared online?

- » Encourage your child to think about why friends may share certain posts. Show them how to gently challenge their friends if they find their content offensive. Remind them they can always talk to you about things happening online.
- » Judge what effect the content is having on your child. Ensure they know that they should report abusive or inappropriate content on the social platform and consider blocking anyone that may be saying hurtful things.
- » If they are deeply affected by the posts, consider advising them to take a break from the social network and concentrate on other activities that might make them happier.
- » If you feel that the comments may be affecting your child's mental health and wellbeing, it's best to go and see your GP. Depending on the seriousness of the comments, it might be advisable to file a police report. If you do take this step, make sure you keep some evidence that records what's happened and how it's affected them.

#### Are they chatting to strangers online?

- » Make sure your child understands that people may hide behind fake profiles for dishonest reasons and the person they've been chatting to could easily be someone with bad intentions.
- » Remind your child that they should never give out personal information to someone they don't know online. Make sure they understand what personal information is. According to research on average 6 out of 10 of children's online friends are not 'real' friends offline.
- » Be clear with your child that they should never meet someone face to face without your consent. Show them how to block and report anything offensive. Your child should know they can come and talk to you if someone or something is making them feel uncomfortable online.



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## Posting images of themselves online

- » Remind your child that these images are their personal digital footprint for years to come and advise them to use settings that only let them share with friends they know. Posting and/or sharing indecent images online is against the law.

## You can also help them maintain a positive presence online by:

- » Encouraging them to think before they share. They should understand that their actions online can affect both themselves and others.
- » Teach your child that it's difficult to keep things private online. Even messages sent between friends get passed on and accounts can be hacked. You should also tell your child not to post anything they wouldn't want thousands of people to see. If they're not happy to wear it on their T-shirt they shouldn't post it online.
- » Be a role model so your child understands that you'd never post anything that you wouldn't want them to see.

Remember that most social media platforms have a minimum age restriction of 13 years, including Tik Tok, Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. The minimum age restriction for WhatsApp is 16 years. Children under these minimum age restrictions should not be using these social media platforms.

For more information and advice, visit: [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk). If you would like more information, or would like support, please do contact Luke Sloman (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Claire Wright (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead).





## Personal Development Update

Mr Barrett writes:

### Year 8 update

The focus for this half term for Year 8 in Personal Development is centred around online safety. As people spend more time in the 'virtual' world, whether that it is on a phone, iPad or computer, it is vital young people know how to keep themselves safe. Pupils are looking at the potential dangers online, how to avoid them and to know the range of people that they can seek support from should they need it.

### Careers Update

This week, we continue to explore different aspects of apprenticeships. This information is taken from the most recent edition of the apprenticeships Parent Pack.

#### What are higher and degree apprenticeship vacancies?

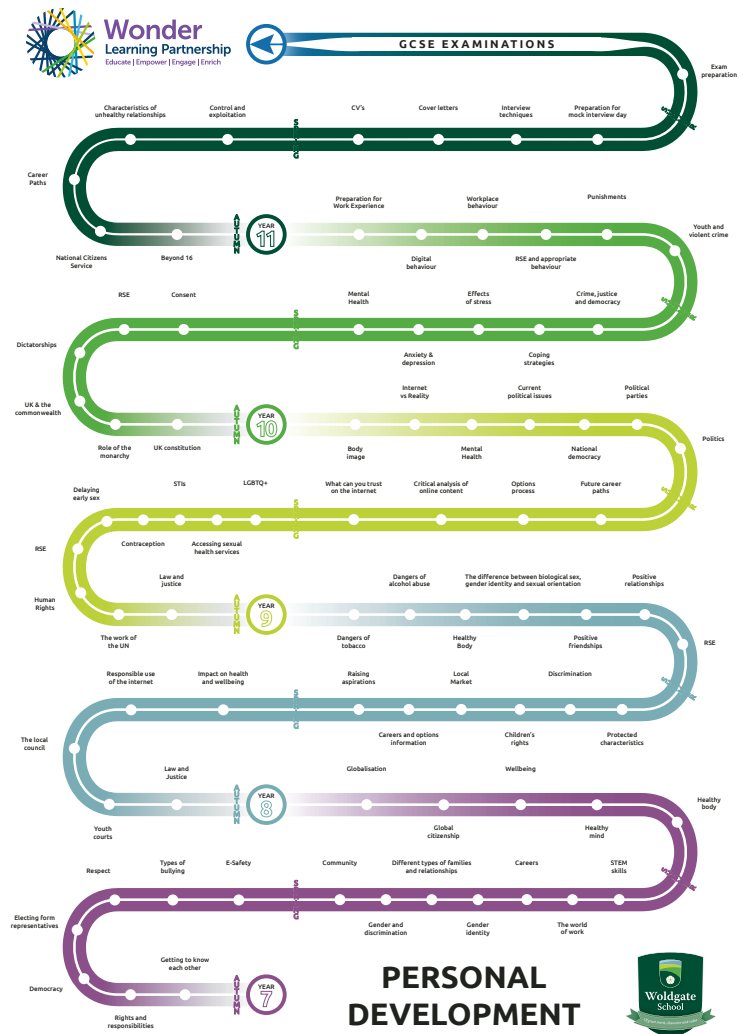
Higher apprenticeships range from level 4 to 7 and are equivalent to a foundation degree up to a Master's. They are a suitable option for progression from a level 3 qualification (e.g. advanced apprenticeships, A-levels, T Levels or BTECs). Degree apprenticeships are available at level 6 (equivalent to a full bachelor's degree) and level 7 (postgraduate, equivalent to a Master's). Both higher and degree apprenticeships combine work with study and may include a work-based, academic or combined qualification, or a professional qualification relevant to the industry.

#### Can my child apply for a higher or degree apprenticeship whilst also applying to university?

Yes, your child can apply for apprenticeships whilst also submitting a UCAS application for full-time university study. This allows them to keep their options open while they consider their preferred route.

#### Who pays the tuition fees when your child completes a higher or degree apprenticeship?

Tuition fees are paid for by your child's employer and the Government. They will be learning whilst earning a salary from day one.





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## Engineering Apprenticeships

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Tomorrow's Engineers Week took place from 6th to 10th November 2023 and shone a spotlight on engineering, engineering careers and engineering professionals. If your child is interested in how things work and would enjoy a hands-on role, an apprenticeship in engineering could provide them with a practical route into a career with opportunities at all levels and career paths across a range of industries including:-

### What are the core skills for an apprenticeship in engineering?

Whilst roles vary widely according to industry, there are core skills essential to a career in engineering which apply to all industries. Amongst these are:-

- » Problem solving
- » Attention to detail
- » Ability to work under pressure
- » Strong mathematical skills
- » Teamwork
- » Creative thinking
- » Communication skills

### What are the benefits of completing an apprenticeship in engineering?

Engineers are in high demand. Completing a qualification in engineering could give your child access to a wide range of opportunities with excellent possibilities for further training leading to career progression within engineering.

If you wish to read the November Apprenticeships Parent Pack, you can find it at the following:

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/influencers/support-for-parents-and-guardians>







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## Rewards

Our school motto is 'Everything you do should be worthy, of great merit, character and value', and every day our pupils' efforts, contributions and achievements are recognised with rewards that reflect these values. Our pupils understand these core values as being the foundation of successful learning, and a successful life, and each of the rewards holds a special significance:



Acts of Great

**MERIT**

**148,403**

**CHARACTER**

**21,180**

**VALUE**

**15,936**

**TOTAL  
REWARD  
POINTS:**

**344,476**

### Headteacher Award

The following pupils earned the highest total number of Rewards in their respective year groups, and have won the Headteacher Award for this week:

|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| Year 7:  | Amber Stanhope |
| Year 8:  | Archie Sissons |
| Year 9:  | Riley Bell     |
| Year 10: | Harry Bishop   |
| Year 11: | Katie Twigg    |
| Year 12: | Jake Martin    |
| Year 13: | Candice Moyo   |



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## House Points

Every pupil belongs to one of our five Houses, representing our local countryside. Pupils can be awarded House points for exceptional contributions to school life, and for participating in House competitions and events, and all rewards contribute to each House reward total:

*All rewards earned by each House since the start of the year:*



**68,588**



**77,120**



**85,798**



**65,801**



**67,074**



**TOTAL  
HOUSE  
POINTS:  
153,799**







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## Acts of Great Merit

The quality of being particularly good or worthy, especially deserving of praise or reward. For example, the production of an outstanding piece of classwork, home learning or an outstanding assessment outcome.

The pupils with the highest Great Merit awards this week are:

|          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| Year 7:  | Ellen Greenstead    |
| Year 8:  | Harley Spence       |
| Year 9:  | Noah Shanmuganathan |
| Year 10: | Charlotte Nicholson |
| Year 11: | Charlotte Lamb      |
| Year 12: | Lucy Johnson        |
| Year 13: | Lucy Jones          |

## Acts of Great Value

The principles or standards of conduct we work to; those acts and skills that are valued by our wider society. For instance, the ability to demonstrate emotional intelligence, to communicate effectively or be a leader of a team.

The pupils with the highest Great Value awards this week are:

|          |                |
|----------|----------------|
| Year 7:  | Isla Garner    |
| Year 8:  | Calico Rackham |
| Year 9:  | Violet Craggs  |
| Year 10: | Max Lambert    |
| Year 11: | Alex Pinchon   |
| Year 12: | Eleanor Lewis  |
| Year 13: | Olivia Aaltio  |

## Acts of Great Character

The moral qualities that define an individual. For example, demonstrating kindness, offering support or actively engaging with the wider community.

The pupils with the highest Great Character awards this week are:

|          |                    |
|----------|--------------------|
| Year 7:  | James Laverick     |
| Year 8:  | Mary Thomson       |
| Year 9:  | Yuri Korchaha      |
| Year 10: | Sam Grassam        |
| Year 11: | Maisie Page        |
| Year 12: | Joseph North       |
| Year 13: | Phoebe-Sophie Wood |



*Please discuss these values with your child, and do regularly look at your child's rewards on the ClassCharts Parents' App.*

*Every week, our Newsletter and weekly pupil briefing highlights examples of our pupils demonstrating each of these values, and we encourage all of our pupils to embody each of these values in everything they do.*



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## Care and Achievement Coordinators



Year 7

Mrs F McDonough  
07980 702715  
fmcdonough@woldgate.net



Year 8

Mrs H Cross  
07790 987131  
hcross@woldgate.net



Year 9

Mrs L Cavanagh  
07790 987139  
lcavanagh@woldgate.net



Year 10

Mr M Joseph  
07790 987142  
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Year 11

Mrs S Clark  
07790 987009  
sclark@woldgate.net



Sixth Form

Mrs E Fairhurst  
07790 987137  
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Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead

Mrs C Wright  
07790 987007  
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Attendance  
Officer

Mrs R O'Brien  
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Inclusion  
Manager

Miss Parkin  
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