



# Newsletter

*Of great merit, character and value*

Merry  
Christmas

— AND —  
HAPPY NEW YEAR



# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*



## Mr Sloman writes:

As we look forward to Christmas and the New Year, and all the excitement and possibilities ahead and a well-deserved rest, it is also a good time to pause and look back upon everything we have achieved during 2023. This Newsletter is a celebration of a year at Woldgate School, and encapsulates all much of the achievement, learning, fun and experiences that teachers, support staff, pupils and parents bring to our school community.

In particular, I am delighted that we have been able to once again bring our school community together to celebrate our pupils' achievements. This process began in July with our first annual Awards Evening, held at Central Hall at York University. During the evening, we publicly celebrated our pupils' achievements, and were entertained by a musical revue of Bugsy Malone, as well as songs from Matilda.

Since September, we have continued working to ensure that all of our pupils have increasing access to enriching experiences like this. We have run a range of educational visits, including recent Year 7 visits to the Pocklington Arts Centre. Sports fixtures with local schools continue, giving our pupils the opportunity once again to compete and develop their skills and teamwork. We have also enjoyed another fantastic production; Elf: The Musical, and just this week we once again enjoyed our traditional school Christmas services on Friday morning. These experiences all contribute to our pupils' learning experience, and we are looking forward to building on these in the New Year, with visits to Iceland, Germany, France, Spain and the USA for many of our pupils amongst other experiences.

To all our pupils, families and colleagues - I do hope you have a great Christmas and New Year, and find time to rest, recharge and enjoy yourselves. We are looking forward to everything that 2024 holds, and we look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

Mr Sloman  
Headteacher



## Important Dates for your Diary

**Monday 8th January:**  
Staff Training Day – School closed to pupils and students

**Tuesday 9th January:**  
First day of term for pupils and students

**Thursday 11th January:**  
New York Visit Information Evening (6pm to 7pm)

**Tuesday 16th January:**  
Iceland Visit Information Evening (6pm to 6:30pm)

**Thursday 18th January:**  
Year 11 NEA Day (Option B)

**Friday 19th January:**  
Year 11 NEA Day (Option A)

**Monday 22nd January:**  
Year 11 Macbeth Revision Theatre Visit

**Thursday 25th January:**  
Year 13 UCAS Application Deadline

**Thursday 1st February:**  
Year 13 Study Skills Evening

**Tuesday 6th February:**  
Year 9 Options Evening (6pm to 8pm)



# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## Review of the Year

### January and February

After returning to school after the Christmas holidays, our Year 11 pupils and Year 13 students began revising in earnest towards their summer exams, and we arranged Study Support evenings to help them.

In February, we unveiled our House Lego competition winners, and we were amazed by the effort and dedication shown by our winners; Riley Bell, Ruby Rushmer Broome and Freya Saunders.



# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## March

In March we celebrated International Women's Day through assemblies, in form time and wearing purple ribbons. International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated annually on 8 March. Our Year 7 pupils also took part in a sponsored walk on the school field. They raised money for the Disasters Emergency Fund, intended to help those who have been impacted by the earthquakes.



**“**

The 2023 theme is:

### #EmbraceEquity

A focus on gender equity needs to be part of every society's DNA.

The theme aims to get the world talking about why "equal opportunities are no longer enough."

We can all play a part! Each one of us can actively support and embrace equity within our own lives.





**”**

I would like to be remembered as a person who wanted to be free...so other people would also be free.

**”**

### How can you celebrate?

- Share the passion and excitement that comes from valuing and supporting difference.
- Reflect on how we can all be part of the solution, not the problem.
- Encourage your friends, family and community to embrace equity.



### What does equity mean?

Equity means creating an inclusive world.

Equality is the main goal, and equity is the means to get there. Through the process of equity, we can reach equality for all.

**“**

At the end of the day, we can endure much more than we think we can.

**”**

### Why is International Women's Day important?

### Celebration

International Women's Day is an occasion to celebrate the progress made towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

### Focus

We are still not equal so International Women's Day highlights the need for equality across the globe.



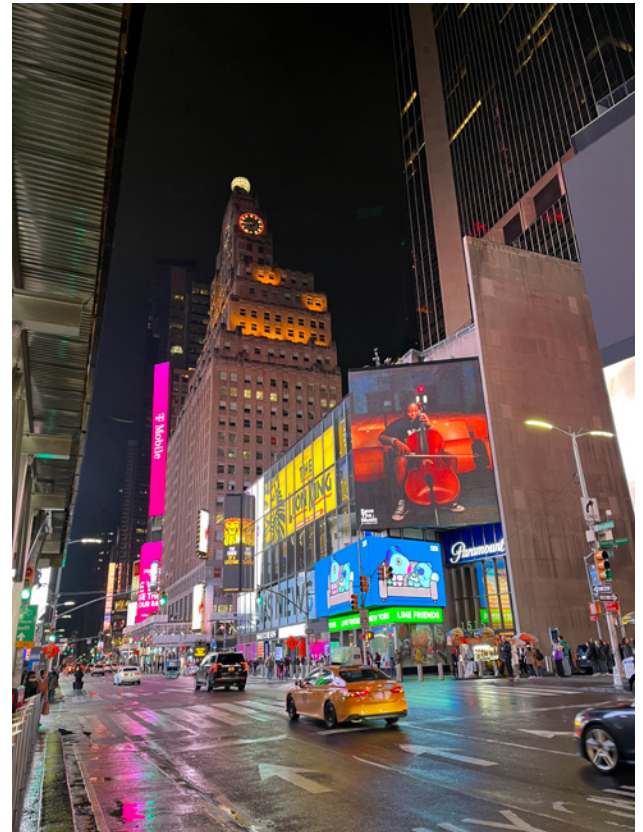


# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## April

In the final week of term, our Sixth Form students visited New York in the first of two visits in the year. Our students visited the major landmarks, including the Empire State Building and Times Square, as well as museums and other attractions. Visiting New York gave our students a wonderful insight into the American life and culture, as well as their first visit abroad post COVID for many of our students.





# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## May



In May, our pupils were visited by Henry Raby, a local poet. Raby himself as a performance poet, theatre-maker, playwright and workshop facilitator. His work has been described as playful, highly charged, passionate and anarchic. Henry led our year 10 pupils in a poetry writing workshop to develop their creative writing skills and ideas. Our Year 11 pupils reflected upon their visit to Berlin, during which they visited key landmarks and buildings that played central roles in the history of Germany. Finally, our Geography Ambassadors enjoyed a visit to The Deep in Hull, where they learnt about the impact of humans on the environment.





# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## June

Throughout most of June, our Year 11 pupils and Year 13 students sat their GCSE and A Level exams respectively. We held our first art and music exhibition at Pocklington Arts Centre, during which pupils explained their artwork to parents and members of the public.



Our Year 10 pupils visited the Holderness coast as part of their Geography exams and at the end of the month, our Year 13 students celebrated at their Prom after many of



them had returned from the second visit to New York. During the evening, they looked back across seven successful years at Woldgate School, and the friendships and experiences to last a lifetime.



# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## July

In July, we welcomed our newest pupils into school as part of our transition week. During the week, Year 6 pupils met their form tutor and each other, and began to find out about life at Woldgate School. Our Year 11 pupils celebrated their achievements at their Prom, held at Barmby Fields, and we once again celebrated all of our pupils' achievements at our annual Awards Ceremony held at Central Hall at the University of York. Finally, we finished the year with our annual school walk in the Yorkshire Wolds on the last day of term.





# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## September

During the summer holidays, our Year 11 pupils and Year 11 students collected their exam results. We were incredibly proud of their achievements.



In September, we welcomed many of these same pupils back to our Sixth Form. Many of our Year 13 students commenced the next stage of their studies and training. We welcomed our new Year 7 pupils to our school community and everyone looked forward to the year ahead.

We were incredibly proud to hear that an ex-pupil, Thomas Brighton, had been crowned the youngest ever V8 Stock Car World Champion! This is a remarkable achievement, and we wish him all success for the future.





# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## October

We celebrated more of our pupils sporting achievements when Ellie and Maisie were awarded their Black Belts in Kick Boxing. We were also excited to hear that Elsa had represented Yorkshire at the British Gymnastics Inter-regional Championships in Birmingham. During October, we welcomed hundreds of future pupils, parents and carers into our school for our annual Open Evening. During the evening, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils had an opportunity to find out about life at Woldgate School, speak to current pupils and staff and ask lots of questions.







# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## November

Many of our pupils entered the Young People Count Photography Competition, which challenges young people to develop their photography skills and artistic talents. The entries were varied, thought-provoking and evocative, with each pupil capturing a thought, feeling or experience. During November, our entire school learnt about the importance of Remembrance Day, and the sacrifices made by others to protect our British values. We celebrated yet more of our pupils' sporting achievements when Stan was awarded 1st place at the Yorkshire Championships on the 19 November 2023.



# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## December

From September, our pupils and students began working in earnest towards our latest musical production; Elf: The Musical and in December, they finally had the chance to show our local community what they could do. Over three nights, our pupils and students gave their all to deliver one of our best ever productions, which also garnered rave reviews.

Our pupils were also visited by The Riot Act; innovative and informative Theatre In Action project, on the theme of Road Safety. The subject of being safe when near roads is a key message for Year 7 as they become more independent and so it was important

to raise awareness about being responsible and thinking when crossing roads. The performance was delivered by 3 actors who took the roles of school friends walking to and from school with the distractions, such as music, phones and friends which may affect young people's judgement when crossing busy roads.







# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## Safeguarding at Woldgate

Looking after your child's  
mental health this Christmas

Among all the fun and festivities, Christmas can be an overwhelming time for some people. Here is some advice on how to look after your child's mental health over the holidays.

### Take time out

It's so important to take time out every day, not just in the festive period. If your child feels themselves getting a bit overwhelmed, or upset, take five to ten minutes away from everyone on Christmas Day to just have a bit of time to themselves. Christmas Day can be quite an overwhelming day, so by taking time out can allow time to recharge.

### Sleep

A good night's sleep is so important when it comes to looking after mental health. Teenagers need an average of nine-and-a-half hours' sleep each night. When it comes to the festive period, ensuring your child gets enough sleep can become difficult due to things like late nights at home and parties. To make sure your child gets back into their normal sleeping routine easily, suggest they go to bed at normal times as the festive period draws to a close. This'll make getting up for school a lot easier and, in turn, will help their mental health a lot.

### Exercise

Physical activity releases a chemical called endorphins, which makes us feel good, so if your child is feeling a bit overwhelmed or low at Christmas, why not suggest a walk? You could even suggest a bike ride or even a run.

### Try to relax

It's easy to say "Christmas is fun - just relax", but the reality is that relaxing can be tricky. Suggest things like breathing

exercises or meditation to help your child calm down if they are feeling a bit stressed over the festive period.

Just because it's Christmas, it doesn't mean caring for your child's mental health has to be put on hold. Mental health and physical health are as equally important; if you fell over and grazed your knee on Christmas Day, you would put a plaster on it. So if your child's mental health needs a plaster, you're allowed to do something about it.

For more help and advice, visit: [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)

### Police StreetSafe Website

StreetSafe is a pilot web service for anyone to anonymously tell us about public places where you have felt or feel unsafe, because of environmental issues, eg street lighting, abandoned buildings or vandalism and/or because of some behaviours, eg being followed or verbally abused.

### Streetsafe Website

Please note 'StreetSafe' is not for reporting crime or incidents. If something has happened to you or someone you know (including in public spaces online) you can call the police on 999 for emergencies, or 101.

As ever, please do contact us at Woldgate School if you have any concerns. We hope that you and your family have a merry and restful Christmas, and a happy New Year. We are looking forward to welcoming your child back to school in January.





# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## Vacancies



**Wonder**  
Learning Partnership  
Educate | Empower | Engage | Enrich

## Administrative Assistant

NJC SCP5, £23,500  
(pro rata for term-time working)

34 hours per week (Mon-Fri)  
Term Time Only Plus 5 Days

Closing Date: 9am Monday 8th January 2024

For more information and application forms visit:  
[www.wlp.education/vacancies](http://www.wlp.education/vacancies)

Email completed applications to:  
[recruitment@wlp.education](mailto:recruitment@wlp.education)







# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## 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**

**179,465**

**CHARACTER**

**25,786**

**VALUE**

**20,059**

**TOTAL  
REWARD  
POINTS:  
441,440**

### 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:	Chloe Graves
Year 8:	Alfie Isted
Year 9:	Harry Kinsey
Year 10:	Eden Mills
Year 11:	Antoinette Van Greuning
Year 12:	Caitlin Martin
Year 13:	Jorja Thornett



# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## 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:*



86,372



96,436



106,972



82,517



84,279



TOTAL  
HOUSE  
POINTS:  
194,949







# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## 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:	Alyssa Ferry
Year 8:	Michaela Firth
Year 9:	Ethan Haigh
Year 10:	Anya Howard
Year 11:	Hannah Jones
Year 12:	Joshua Richards
Year 13:	James Tyndall

## 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:	Nathan Lewis
Year 8:	Caitlynn Ling
Year 9:	Harry Leeper
Year 10:	Chloe-May Simpson
Year 11:	Molly Cutting
Year 12:	Callum Glover
Year 13:	Ethan Beck

## 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:	Isabella Pockley
Year 8:	May Parsons
Year 9:	Shay Brookes
Year 10:	Reilly Fentum
Year 11:	Ryan Clarkson
Year 12:	Harriet Thompson
Year 13:	Bobby Blenkin



*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.*



# Newsletter

*Of great merit,  
character and value*

## 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  
mjoseph@woldgate.net



### Year 11

Mrs S Clark  
07790 987009  
sclark@woldgate.net



### Sixth Form

Mrs E Fairhurst  
07790 987137  
efairhurst@woldgate.net



### Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs C Wright  
07790 987007  
cwright@woldgate.net



### Attendance Officer

Mrs R O'Brien  
01759 302395 Option 1  
robrien@woldgate.net



### Inclusion Manager

Miss Parkin  
gparkin@woldgate.net