

Newsletter

Of great merit, character and value

Walking to Victory



Mrs Reid writes

England Over 40s women's walking football team retained our status as European champions in the IWFF Winter Nations Tournament held at The University of South Wales the first weekend of December.

We played 6 games beating Wales and France and drawing with Sweden. The event was a cold one with the indoor pitches being measured at 8am at minus 10 degrees warming to minus 6 by midday.

This was a fantastic event with teams from the Caribbean and Australia coming over to attend.

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Mr Sloman writes:

Happy New Year, and I do hope you had a wonderful Christmas with friends and family. Christmas is an important time in which we reflect upon the year that has past and with New Year comes opportunity to look to the future and consider what we want to do and achieve in the coming year.

As we commence 2024, I am looking forward to another exciting year at Woldgate School, as we continue to build on our successes, and create more opportunities for our pupils and students to enjoy learning, develop their talents, interests and skills. I am particularly looking forward to working with parents and carers over the coming weeks and months to ensure that our school provides the very best care, education and enrichment opportunities for our pupils.

Driving everything we do and believe at Woldgate School is our collective vision, shared and believed in by our whole school community, including staff and pupils. Our vision is based upon our school motto and is:

**'A school community where everything we do is worthy,
of great merit, character and value.'**

Our vision runs through all aspects of school life, and ensures that we all maintain a focus on attaining the highest possible standards in everything we do:



Important Dates for your Diary

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)

Wednesday 7th February:
Year 11 History visit to
Berlin 9 departs

Tuesday 6th February:
Year 11 NEA Day

Friday 9th February:
House Enrichment Day
and Year 11 NEA Day.
Last day of half term.



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Teaching and Learning

A world-class curriculum containing the best of what has been thought and said, taught by the best teachers in inspirational classrooms. Our lessons are interesting, engaging and exciting.

Ethos

A school where everyone lives and works by our motto; that everything we do should be worthy of great merit, character and value' – trying our best, being our best and embracing our British values.

Achievement

All pupils, regardless of ability, needs or background, are able to make rapid, sustained progress, achieve exceptional outcomes and grow into lifelong learners and successful individuals.

Care

A school where every pupil is known and cared for as an individual; where their individual needs are supported by the whole school community.

Holistic Education

A school where all children can access a range of enrichment opportunities to broaden their horizons and develop their life experiences.

Our school vision is at the very core of our school community, and inspires everything we do to ensure our pupils and students receive the very best education and experience possible, with the ongoing support of parents, carers and the whole community.

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:

There is no better way to end a school term, but with a celebration and the Autumn Term was no different. We invited our highest Merit winners to Breakfast of Champions once again to celebrate their hard work and achievements.

Year 7 also enjoyed our traditional visit to All Saints' Church, Pocklington for the first time which celebrates and showcases the talents of our pupils. The choir reprised their Christmas Song from Elf and there were readings from Lois and Lottie in Year 7 as well as older pupils and a beautiful rendition of Hark the Herald Angels sung by Evie Woods. Rev Dr Belder gave a short homily about the importance for remembering the Christmas story and all joined in the carols: O Little Town of Bethlehem and Once in Royal David's City. We were grateful that Mrs Berry kindly accompanied us, as she has done for many years on the recently refurbished church organ. Well done to Isobel who played the trumpet as part of the windband ensemble, too.

All year groups donated money to our chosen charity Save the Children who work in the UK and abroad particularly in war zones and the service incorporated the theme of how we need each other through the poem People Need People by the poet Benjamin Zephaniah who died recently. Two poems were also written by our own pupils last year in response to the war in Ukraine; they develop the theme of community and support for each other:

A message for Christmas and throughout the New Year.

Mrs Geary
Head of Lower School

A Helping Hand

There is always a hand to help,
A hand to lift you up,
A hand to guide you through.
There is always a friend,
A friend to comfort or cry with you,
A friend to guide you through.
There is always a hope,
A hope to end all trials,
A hope to guide you through.
A hope to guide you
Through pain,
Through suffering,
Through helplessness,
There is always a helping hand outstretched.

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Middle School



Mr Macdonald writes:

Welcome back, and happy new year. I really hope that each of our pupils and families have had an amazing Christmas break, and I wish each of you all of you the very best for the year ahead.

The two-week festive break provided some opportunities to rest, recuperate – and re-energise. The New Year, itself, brings with it, an opportunity to reflect on the previous year and to set goals for the year ahead – in the form of “new year’s resolutions”.

The year ahead brings with it so many opportunities for the pupils: trips, visits, house enrichment days, music performances, rewards events and sports fixtures.

While we saw previously the amazing contribution Maise made, to the Year 9 Cricket team last year – Mrs McDonough has an update on the U13 girl’s Cricket team and their success we wanted to share this week

Mrs McDonough said, “Just before the end of last term, our U13 girls took part in the East Yorkshire Indoor Cricket Finals, in Hull. The team was made up of Chloe, Evie, Amy, Ella, Charley, Ffion, El and Ruby. Despite having only a quick practice earlier in the week and very limited experience of playing indoor cricket, the team won all their games and qualified for the Yorkshire Finals, which will take place at the Headingley Indoor Cricket School in March! All the team contributed, with positive batting and accurate bowling, holding their nerve in the final game to ensure they went straight through. Well played girls - you all represented the school with pride and thoroughly deserved this success!”

All the best for the year ahead,

Mr Macdonald
Head of Middle School

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**Thank you for sponsoring
hearing dog puppy
Wish**

We hope you enjoy following her training journey as she grows up to become a life-changing hearing dog.

Registered charity in England and Wales no. 293358 and in Scotland no. SC040486



MEET WISH

Welcome to your sponsorship of Wish, a lovable Labrador puppy. One day, she will transform the life of a deaf person and help them leave loneliness behind.

Ms Cross writes

As we commence another term I want to take this as an opportunity to say thank you to everyone in Year 8. It is a real privilege to be the Care and Achievement Co-Ordinator for this year group. I am enjoying getting to know you and supporting you at this stage in your life's journey.

With the start of the New Year I think it is the perfect time for Team Y8 to do something charitable. I love dogs (and I know many of you do also), so what better than sponsoring Hearing dog in training 'WISH'.

Wish is currently a cute and cuddly Black Labrador Puppy, and already growing to become an amazing Hearing Dog. Once trained she will be able to alert deaf people to life saving sounds such as the smoke alarm and a baby's cry.

Eventually Wish will be matched to a deaf person, and as well as helping them will become their loyal furry friend. She'll be by their side where ever they go , helping them enjoy life.

We will be sent regular updates and photos as we follow Wish's progress and passes through each milestone on her way to becoming a fully qualified Hearing dog. If you can't wait that long, then you can see more photos online at hearingdogs.org.uk/puppypen

Ms Cross
Care & Achievement Coordinator for Year 8

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Upper School



Mr Bell writes:

Can I firstly wish you a Happy New Year, even though the New Year festivities seem a long time away, the first week back in a new calendar year gives us all an opportunity to reflect on a year gone by and to think about what the next year holds.

Last year's Year 11 produced an excellent set of results, putting the school firmly in the top 25% for progress. We are expecting a set of results that are as good if not better than the current Year 11 pupils.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will prepare for the mock results to be distributed to pupils and then we will repeat the process of the Leadership Team interviewing all Year 11 pupils to reflect on what went well and what the next steps forward are for everyone to reach their potential.

In tutor time this week we have been looking at the work of Dr Steve Bull. Dr Bull was the England Cricket Team's psychologist for many years. He worked with cricketers asking them to record their previous successes and saw their confidence rocket.

We have been asking pupils to do exactly the same this week. Year 11 pupils know this is the year they will take their GCSE examinations, and it is important for their well-being that we build their confidence to success as much as possible.

I would encourage you to speak to your child, if they are in Year 11, to share how they have filled their 'energy slots' for this activity.

For Year 10 pupils this year is vital for them to continue to build upon their excellent work so far. For optional subjects such as Business Studies, Food Technology, Media Studies and so on pupils are around halfway through these courses and this calendar year they will be sitting two sets of formal mock examinations.

As we bid farewell to another year and welcome this year, I am reminded of the quote by Benjamin Franklin:



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:

As we return from the Christmas break many of our Year 13 students are submitting their final UCAS applications. Meanwhile, our Year 12 students are just starting to consider their university choices or post key stage five options. In order to ensure that all students are able to make informed choices we offer a range of work experience options in the sixth form and a wide range of opportunities for our students to participate in.

Over coming weeks we will be offering the following opportunities for students in the sixth form:

Tuesday 16th of January - Students interested in careers in the NHS will have the opportunity to participate in a workshop with Coventry University, Scarborough Campus focusing on careers in the NHS. Any student interested should contact Miss Smith or Mrs Fairhurst.

UNIQ – Oxford University Outreach Programme -- Applications for unique 2024 Oxford University's undergraduate outreach programme are currently open. The deadline for applications is January 23rd. This programme offers students the opportunity to access expert online support throughout the Oxford University application process. Successful candidates will have the opportunity to attend an open day at Oxford and experience life and learning at Oxford as a student. Any student interested in applying for this opportunity should see Miss Smith for further details.

Work Experience for students interested in Law - We also have two opportunities for students interested in a career in law to participate in work experience opportunities based

in London. Firstly, law firm Baker McKenzie are advertising for students to join their Beginnings at Baker McKenzie programme. Baker Mackenzie work with clients across 70 global offices and employ a team of 13,000 including 6500 lawyers. Beginnings at Baker McKenzie is an 18 month programme that provides students with the opportunity to attend in person and online events. Students involved will also be given a mentor and the opportunity to participate in a summer work experience.

In addition, Alan and Overy law are currently taking applications for their 2024 master class. This is an in-person event taking place in London and successful applicants can receive £100 to cover travel expenses.

Details regarding all of these opportunities have been shared with Sixth formers through Class Charts. Any student interested should speak to Miss Smith for further support with their application.

Miss K Smith
Head of Sixth Form



HISTORY

Autumn Term 2023 was a very exciting and busy term for the history department. Our pupils have been delving into a wide range of British and World History and exploring how historians work by examining evidence, testing historical arguments and deepening their knowledge of the past.

As a department we would like to thank our History Ambassadors for their continued enthusiasm for the subject and the valuable support they have provided already this term. We had many pupils volunteering from KS3-5 to help welcome our potential new pupils during the Year 6 Open Evening. In addition, we would like to say a big thank to our Year 12 historians who were excellent ambassadors for the Year 11 Options Evening.

KS3 History

So far this term our Year 7 pupils have completed an introductory unit to find out what historians do and how they study the past. They have completed a study of the Roman Empire and the reasons why at one time the Roman army was unstoppable!! They have also embarked on their historical investigation into 1066 and the Norman Conquest. Our Year 8 pupils have been learning about how far life changed between 1500-1800, and investigating the religious changes sparked by Henry VIII's 'Break with Rome'. They have also delved into the reign of Elizabeth I and explored HERSTORY and how she solved the problems of her reign. Last, but not least, our Year 9 have been investigating the complex causes of World War One and also looking at the diverse experiences of the soldiers fighting in the war from Britain and the Empire.

All our KS3 groups have been developing their extended writing and essay skills. They have written some very in- depth and well evidenced pieces which have really demonstrated their core substantive knowledge and how far they have progressed in analysing and evaluating the key causes of historical events and developments. We have been really impressed by our Year 7s who have worked really hard on their first history essay on 'Why William won the Battle of Hastings?'.

KS4 History

The Year 10 and Year 11 pupils have been working hard to deepen their historical knowledge of key concepts such as democracy, dictatorship and communism and capitalism within their Germany and Cold War history topics. As a department we have been focusing on developing more effective independent revision, particularly ahead of the Year 11 Mock Exam weeks. Our pupils have been encouraged to trial and develop a range of strategies, in combination with a mixed diet of topics and regular quizzing.



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KS5 History

Our Year 12 students have been studying the War of the Roses with a focus of source analysis and enquiry. They have also just completed their first unit of Russian History and have been debating how far Tsar Nicholas was responsible for his own downfall in 1917. Our Year 13 students have been focusing on Rebellion and Disorder under the Tudors, but also drafting their Independent Study. Enquiries they are pursuing this year range from the causes of the French Revolution and the fall of Napoleon, to the reasons for the failure of the USA in Vietnam War.

History Enrichment.

This year the department is continuing to offer a wide range of enrichment opportunities for our young historians. As well as running two enrichment groups after school on a Wednesday, we have also organised our Year 12 students to attend a 'Students and Scholars Day' at York University in November. We are also extremely pleased that many of our A-level students took the time to take part in our school round of the Historical Association Great Debate Competition. Isabella Shelton went on to represent the school in the York round of the debate at Bootham School. Isabella gave a wonderful speech and we are very proud of how well she represented the school at this event.

The department are also really looking forward to taking the history pupils on their extra- curricular trips this year. The WW1 Battlefields and the Berlin visit are brilliant opportunities for the pupils to live and breathe the history they are studying. Many thanks go out to all the staff in the department and school that have invested their time and energy in organising these enrichment opportunities.

Year 12 student Emily Guest talks about her experience of history so far in the Sixth Form.

So far I have thoroughly enjoyed starting my Year 12 course ; I have started on Russia from 1900-1941 and the War of the Roses. My teachers are very enthusiastic when it comes to the knowledge that they have about these areas of history, which makes me more enthusiastic to learn. Both Year 12 history classes visited York University to experience the Student and Scholars Day to see what it would be like to learn history at a university, which was enlightening. On a Wednesday after school, Miss Pople puts on the history club, which gives a more relaxed environment to go over topics we are currently learning about- giving a nice space to learn and study. We also had the opportunity to join the Great Debate competition which allowed us to extend our confidence skills. Overall, I've had a great start to Year 12 history and am excited to learn more.

Year 12 Izzy Shelton talks about her experience of participating in the Great Debate.

"I participated in my local York Heat of the national Great Debate on the 4th December, both to increase my confidence by pushing myself out of my comfort zone and also to speak about a local historical figure of great significance, Robert Aske. It was really interesting to hear the other competitors' speeches and to take part in a small part of a much larger event that means so much to other historians around the country. It acted as a great experience for public speaking and having to construct my own speech, so it was definitely very worthwhile taking part."

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Isabella Shelton

Great Debate speech – The Pilgrimage of Grace

Robert Aske: the man who led the greatest Tudor rebellion

- What does religion mean to us today? What does religion mean to *you*? How would we feel if *our* right to follow our chosen religion was threatened by the actions of another?
- I imagine these same thoughts were running through the minds of Robert Aske and the alleged 60,000 rebels that he led in the Pilgrimage of Grace revolt in 1536. *They* acted as *they* saw fit to protect their own religion and core beliefs.
- It is for this reason that I want to talk to you about Robert Aske today, the man at the heart of the rebellion. A man who has significant ties to a wealth of regions across Northern England - particularly in Yorkshire - which are often overlooked.
- Robert Aske was born in 1500 and was the third son of Sir Robert Aske, a cousin of the Earl of Cumberland and distant relative of Queen Jane Seymour. His family was well-connected and long settled at their ancestral home in Aughton, a small village in the East Riding of Yorkshire, a mile or so from where I live.
- Aske was a well-respected lawyer, who practiced in York and London. He was also a devout catholic.
- To truly appreciate why Robert Aske did what he did, we need to understand the turbulent political environment in England at the time and the widespread ramifications of Henry VIII's decision to break away from the Roman Catholic Church. Upon the formation of the Independent Church of England, the religious identities of *all* followers of the Catholic faith were thrown into turmoil – Robert Aske's included.
- Under the first Act of Supremacy, the dissolution of the monasteries began. These pioneering centres of learning and medicine for so many began to be erased from the religious landscape of England.
- Initial unrest sparked on the 1st October with an uprising in Louth, Lincolnshire. Aske became involved when he was accidentally captured on his way back from London by a group of rebels returning from the uprising. He was pressed by them to swear an oath to the cause.
- On returning to Yorkshire, he persuaded people from his own county to join and support the rebellion. On the 12th October 1536, thousands of rebels assembled Skipwith Common, a popular nature reserve which I and many others still walk down the trails of today.
- Aske ensured that the rebels swore an oath to the cause for the Commonwealth and greater good of *all* the people. In this oath, it was made clear that the '*pilgrimage of grace*', as Aske called this second uprising, was borne out of love and loyalty; a want to restore ancient traditions.
- The uprising soon became unstoppable in its momentum as Aske gathered more men. York was within his sights of Aske, who is believed to have visited Nunburnholme Abbey, Warter Priory and Pocklington on his route there.



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- The city of York was shortly after handed over to Aske and the rebels. They nailed a proclamation to the door of York Minster, which was one of the many religious houses reclaimed from Henry and reoccupied by Aske's forces in just a few days. This capture of York is made more tangible for me by its proximity to where I live.
- After York, the rebels marched on to Pontefract and besieged the castle. They had formulated the demands they intended to present to the King. However, when Aske put these demands to the Duke of Norfolk at Pontefract they were met with bitter rejection.
- But as Norfolk and his men were outnumbered by the rebels, he arranged for Aske to meet with King Henry at Greenwich Palace in London. On the 24th October, the King promised a General Pardon to *all* involved in the uprising and redress if there was no further unrest. This was the turning point in the tide of the rebellion for *both* men.
- A dangerous moment for the stability of the monarchy, but also a crucial misjudgement on Aske's part. The Pilgrimage of Grace ended on December 7th, with the rebels believing they *had* been pardoned. However, pockets of unrest persisted, with *some* rebels skeptical of Henry's promise. *This* was the excuse Henry needed to call off the truce.
- The Duke of Norfolk was instructed to act '*without pity*'. Trials took place; bodies were left hanging from the gallows. Aske was arrested in London, *falsely led to believe* he was safe there. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London and interrogated by Thomas Cromwell. Aske was accused and found guilty of treason.
- On the 12th July 1537, Aske was sent to York, where he was dragged through the streets and hanged in chains from the top of Clifford's Tower. This very public and horrific execution was a clear warning to all those continuing to defy Henry's authority to cease immediately or meet a similar grisly fate.
- The Pilgrimage of Grace was one of the most important popular uprisings in English history. It posed a significant challenge to the King's authority and had a profound effect on his reign and how he responded to later unrest.
- This is why I believe Robert Aske, who was from our local area, is an important historical figure with a powerful and interesting story that should be more widely known by people of my age.
- Although the Pilgrimage of Grace rebellion *failed*, Aske's leadership ensured that it *succeeded* at making the people aware of the power *they were* capable of wielding against the King and his government, when they knew where and how to direct it.
- It is because of this that I think we can all relate to aspects of Aske's defiance in the face of adversity to one extent or another. Particularly at times when we feel ourselves echoing his frustrations, as we stand up for what we fundamentally believe in.



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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

187,018

CHARACTER

26,960

VALUE

20,923

**TOTAL
REWARD
POINTS:**

450,910

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:	Bella Lilley-Cook
Year 8:	Eleanor Harvey-Walker
Year 9:	Freya Taylor
Year 10:	Cesca Moll
Year 11:	Freya Stride
Year 12:	Callum Glover
Year 13:	Eloise Curran





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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:



91,362



102,073



112,703



87,234



88,618



TOTAL
HOUSE
POINTS:
209,254





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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:	Saffy Nichol
Year 8:	Ellie Spink
Year 9:	Roan Coulthard
Year 10:	Isobelle Smith
Year 11:	Theo Crawford
Year 12:	Bethany Bartle
Year 13:	Jorja Thornett

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:	Jacob Derwin
Year 9:	Ben Hudson
Year 10:	Oliver Martin
Year 11:	Amelia Bottom
Year 12:	Eva Harris
Year 13:	Gabby MacNichol

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:	Lilia Harrison
Year 8:	Jack Grassam
Year 9:	Mia Anderson
Year 10:	Mutiya Gibson
Year 11:	Isaac McKernon
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
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Year 8

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Year 9

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Year 10

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Year 11

Mrs S Clark
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Sixth Form

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Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

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Attendance Officer

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Inclusion Manager

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