

Newsletter

ISSUE 392

Of great merit, character & value

**Have a
wonderful
Easter break!**



***Please enjoy some of the highlights of
the last term on the following pages.***

Year 10 Business Pupils Experience the Magic of Disney!

The end of January saw 41 of our Year 10 GCSE Business pupils set off on an unforgettable adventure to Disneyland Paris for the annual Business Convention. The excitement began in the early hours of Tuesday morning—1am to be precise—with the students joined by their Disney-inspired teachers.

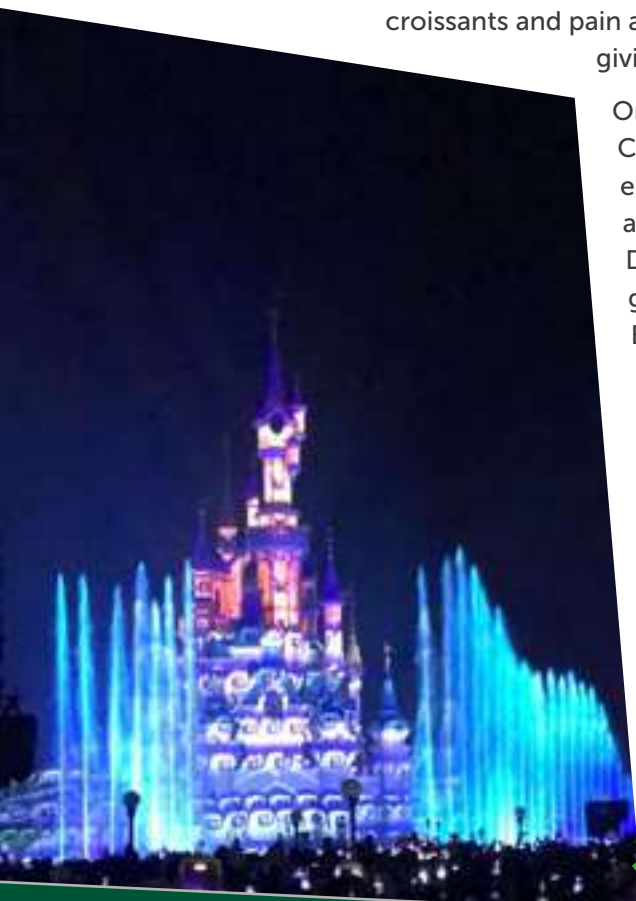
Mr Mahoney embraced his inner bear as Winnie the Pooh, Mrs Fairhurst channelled Minnie Mouse, Mr McKernon transformed into Stitch, and trip leader Miss Laidlaw made a splash as Finding Nemo!

The journey itself was an adventure, with a slightly bumpy ferry crossing due to the windy weather. Despite the choppy waters, spirits remained high, with pupils keeping themselves entertained on board before continuing the coach journey to Disneyland Paris.

Upon arrival, the group checked into Disney's Hotel Cheyenne, a Wild West-themed resort where they stayed for three nights. Each morning began with a delicious buffet breakfast, offering everything from warm croissants and pain au chocolat to scrambled eggs, bacon, pancakes, and fresh fruit—giving everyone plenty of energy for a day in the parks!

One of the highlights of the trip was attending the Disney Business Convention, where pupils gained valuable insights from Disney employees Nick Webb, Disney Destinations International who spoke about paid media and partnerships across the 3 brands of Disney - Disneyland, Walt Disney Studios and Disney Cruises. Next up was guest speaker Michelle Feeney, Floral Street Founder, a modern British fragrance brand with sustainability and eco-responsibility at its very core. Michelle spoke passionately about her start up business stating "I've been captivated by the power of scent and how it links to your personality.

We're doing everything differently, from making recyclability and sustainability the core of our brand, a first in fragrance." Finally, Tom Nelson, Disney Destinations International, talked about the use of digital marketing and the 4 core principles they focus on; digital, design, devices and data. Tom also addressed the use of AI technology and how Disney would continue to explore its use over the coming 5 years to allow them to continue to





innovate in the entertainment industry. The filled auditorium of pupils were then offered the opportunity to pose questions to the guest speakers and pupil Stephanie D was confident enough to ask Michelle a question, winning herself a fashionable and sought after Mickey Wizard Headband.

Of course, there was also plenty of time to enjoy the magic of Disneyland! Pupils explored the 4 lands of Disneyland Park; Fantasyland, Frontierland, Main Street USA and Adventureland. Pupils took on thrilling rides like blasting off into orbit on Star Wars Hyperspace Mountain, fans of Toy Story were able to join an intrepid crew to defeat Zurg in Buzz Lightyear Laser Blast, whilst Indiana Jones offered the Temple of Peril ride.

Pupils also ventured over to Walt Disney Studios. Those that dared ventured into The Twilight Zone Tower of Terror, reaching new heights with eye watering views over the Disney parks. Pupils immersed themselves in the underwater world of Crush, the famous turtle from "Nemo" spinning and diving against the current. And no one could resist the Avengers Assemble Flight Force full of twists, turns and loops at speeds of 92 km/h. For those that wished to remain on the ground, Ratatouille shrunk you down to the size of Remy and immersed you into the film and pupils joining Spider-Man W.E.B adventure, unleashed their inner hero fighting against Peter Parker's Spider-Bots.

Many pupils made the most of the opportunity to meet their favourite Disney and Marvel characters, stopping to take selfies with Locki, Goofy, Aladdin and more. The daily Disney parade was another unforgettable moment, as pupils lined Main Street, U.S.A., to see iconic characters wave from their dazzling floats, accompanied by music and dancing.

Evenings were just as magical. One night, the group enjoyed a lively dinner at Billy Bob's Country Western Saloon, tucking into a buffet of Tex-Mex favourites, including barbecue ribs, chicken and nachos, alongside items such as fillet steak, beef bourguignon, fresh salads and a selection of desserts. The final night pupils took in the breathtaking Disney fireworks and drone show above Sleeping Beauty's Castle, a truly spectacular display of lights, music and storytelling; a truly magical way to end the stay.

The trip was a fantastic mix of education and excitement, giving pupils a real-life look at business in action while immersing themselves in the magic of Disney. A huge thank you to all the staff who made this trip possible—it's safe to say this is a trip our Year 10 pupils will never forget!





Sixth Form Work Experience

Over the previous half term two of our Year 12 students have had the incredible opportunity to complete 10 weeks work experience with York & Scarborough Hospitals in association with Hull York Medical School.

Olivia and Poppy are both interested in applying to Medical School, a route which is always exceptionally competitive, but both students are fully committed to ensuring that they have a wide range of experiences prior to submitting their application.

As part of the process of preparing to submit an application to Medical School both have attended a conference delivered by Coventry University exploring healthcare and attended a problem-based learning experience session delivered by HYMS at Hull University which mimics the learning experience delivered by many medical schools. Both of these events were organised through the MED6 pathway that we run in Sixth Form which support students interested in careers linked to healthcare. In addition, Olivia has attended an in-person experience focused on Allied Health Professions and Poppy has attended St John Ambulance for the previous 3 years.

In order to secure this placement, which has only been offered to 20 students across York, North Yorkshire and the East Riding, both had to submit a written essay exploring concepts linked to healthcare including the issues that the NHS is currently facing. We were delighted when both students were successful in securing placements on this experience, and it is great to hear just how beneficial this placement is proving to be.

Over recent weeks they have had the opportunity to meet a range of medical students, patients and physicians. As well as offering inspiration as to future career specialisms this experience is offering the opportunity to fully understand the reality of roles in the medical profession and help to prepare them for potentially difficult situations they may face. For example, Poppy has met an emergency doctor working in Accident and Emergency and this has led Poppy to decide that this is the area of medicine that she is most interested in. However, meeting a cardiologist, which is an area of medicine that is of particular interest to Olivia, offered insight into the sad reality that doctors can't save all of their patients and helped them to mentally prepare for such events.

In addition, this experience has provided the opportunity to use medical equipment including the administration of an ECG machine and in the coming weeks they will be learning to take blood. Additionally, they have also had to the opportunity to view surgery that included a patient having a stent inserted.

Overall, both have found the experience incredibly useful and would strongly recommend this placement next year to any students in Year 11 interested in a career in medicine.

A visit to the Victorian Era

When Year 11 pupils read: *"Have they no refuge or resource?"* cried Scrooge. *"Are there no Prisons?"* said the Spirit, turning on him for the last time with his own words. *"Are there no workhouses?"* in A Christmas Carol, their GCSE text, they struggled to understand the significance of Dickens' damning condemnation of the Victorian attitudes to the poor. Therefore, it seemed helpful to take a group to the Workhouse Museum in Ripon.



The first stop was to the Court House, where pupils, suitably dressed in wigs, gowns and policemen's outfits of the time role-played the true story of a young boy who stole a loaf of bread to feed his family. The judgement was harsh: the boy was sentenced to transportation to Australia for 7 years. There was a gasp from the "jury" and the gallery of onlookers as they re-enacted the response of those who had witnessed the judgement. The pupils began to understand that there was little financial support for those who were starving, and the punishments, severe.





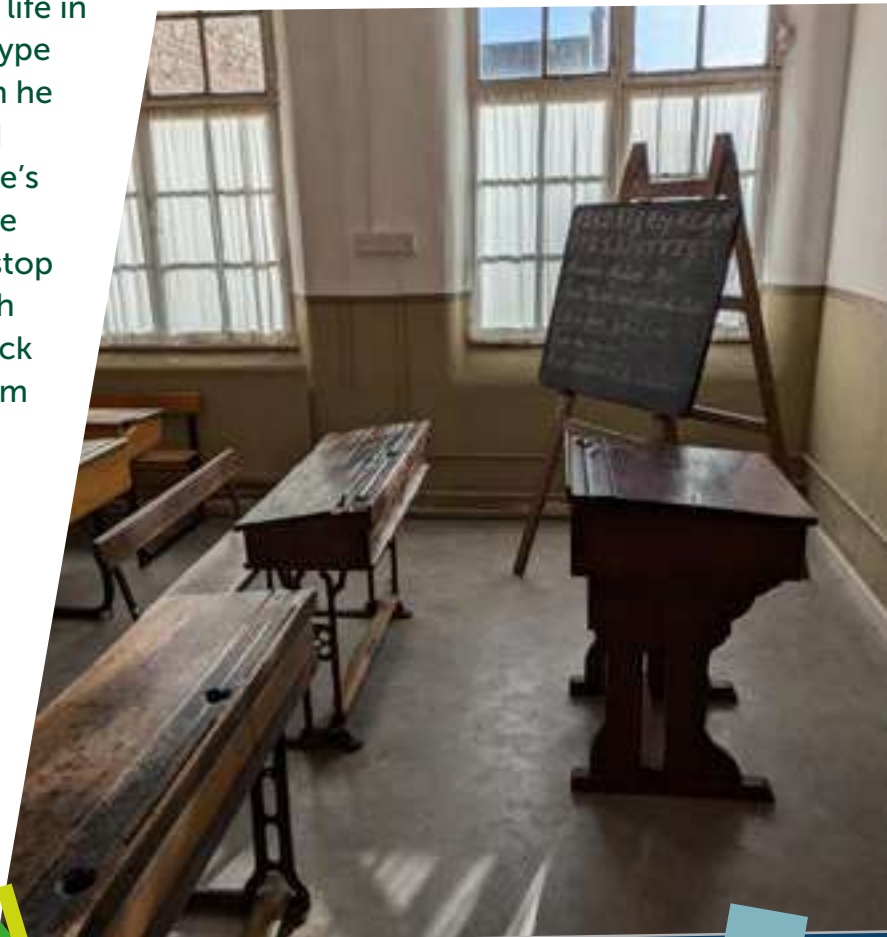
From the courthouse, which was unchanged since the 1800s, the group went on to visit the Workhouse, which has 1854 emblazoned above the imposing door.

To get an authentic experience, they were split into separate groups of girls and boys. The girls discovered how anyone who entered the Workhouse would be separated from their families; had their clothes fumigated and their hair cut off in case of "nits" and lice, bathed and eventually given workhouse clothes to wear. They saw examples of the type of food on offer to the inmates and learnt about the chores they had to do. Many Year 11 had never smelt carbolic soap, and it left a lasting impression!

The contrast between the life of those unfortunate enough to be placed in the workhouse was clearly shown by the Master's house with its beautiful parlour and dining room.

Meanwhile, the boys were experiencing life in a Victorian school room, similar to the type which Dickens would have known when he was a boy. There were chalk boards and slates, a teacher with a cane and a dunce's cap for those who couldn't say their nine times table! They even saw a device to stop pupils writing with their left hands which involved tying their arm around their back and a plank of wood which stopped them slouching.

The two groups swapped over, and the girls also realised how different life was like for children in Victorian schools, although those in the workhouse were often better educated than those on the streets. Many workhouse girls were put into service for life.



There was also another role-playing opportunity when the pupils learnt about the Poor Law and that those who were in direst financial need could go to visit the Guardians of the Workhouse to ask for accommodation or aid. Those who were propertied or business owners could decide whether to support the poor in this way, but perpetuated the Victorian philosophy that the destitute were responsible for their own fate and handouts should not be given.

Of course, the pupils also learnt that it was a house where people could stay only if they worked, so they saw where stones were smashed for road building and the laundry was done, without the aid of a washing machine! The kitchens are still used to make bread and there is a large allotment garden where fresh vegetables and fruit were grown.

The pupils admitted that, whilst they enjoyed the visit and learnt a lot with this type of hands-on experience, they were glad that they live in 2025 where teachers are kind and caring and there is support for those who need extra help rather than the cane.

Any pauper who shall repeat within a week any of the offences specified in Art. 127,
Or shall insult or revile the Master or Matron,
Or shall strike or assault any person,
Or shall mischievously damage or soil any property,
Or shall be drunk,
Or shall act or write indecently or obscenely,

Shall be deemed to be Refractory and shall be confined in a separate room with the same alteration of diet for a period of twenty four hours, or taken before a Justice of the Peace.

Consolidated Orders of the Poor Law Commissioners 1868





What do you read in a day?

This week we asked pupils to reflect on what they read in a day, or over a week, or reading which has shaped their lives with 'Reading Rivers'.

Last week we asked pupils to reflect on what they read in a day, or over a week, or reading which has shaped their lives with 'Reading Rivers'. All pupils in Years 7-10 begin the day with some independent reading which highlights the importance of reading. 20 minutes reading each day is found to have the biggest impact on reading skills development. Whether you enjoy fiction, non-fiction or poetry, reading for pleasure is also a key factor of success (OECD, 2002).





All pupils have received a World Book Day voucher entitling them to £1 off a book of their choice or one from the selection below for FREE (with comments from our regular library users)!

1. THIS STORY IS A LIE

By Benjamin Dean

"I like the suspense and the mystery of this book. I would definitely read it myself!"



2. THE WOLF TRIALS

By Kiran Millwood Hargrave

"I really like this one; it reminds me of Deeplight by Frances Hardinge."

3. LEGO® OUR AMAZING UNIVERSE

By Jennifer Swanson and Arwen Hubbard

"It's not all about LEGO! It is really informative and uses LEGO to help explain complex ideas."



4. THE SOCCER DIARIES: ROCKY TAKES THE LEAD

By Tom Palmer

"If you love football, or are passionate about any sport, this story about teamwork, overcoming challenges and striving to be the best in a sport is for you!"

We also started the week with a visit from local poet, Henry Raby. Henry Raby is a York-based, performance poet, theatre-maker, play-wright, and workshop facilitator.

As he has in two previous years, Henry gave an assembly to Year 10 focused on performance poetry as an artform, explaining how performing poetry for an audience is a key part of communicating and creating meaning. His performance of 'I'm sorry I missed your gig' was energetic, engaging, and relatable. Henry also shared some of the inspiration for his latest work, Orwell and Shelley, which link closely with the unit of poetry in GCSE English Literature: Power and Conflict.

For the 48 pupils who attended his workshops, Henry showcased methods for getting started when creating poetry. There is nothing more frightening when beginning to write than the empty page. Consider how you would describe the moon (try not to be too precise); can this definition also be applied to a home, a tree, the sea, a mirror, a ghost, or a book? Sometimes these most unusual metaphors can reveal something unexpected and form the concept for a poem. Here pupils were able to make links to Wordsworth's The Prelude.



Staff in costume for World Book Day 2025 – to spark conversations with pupils about reading!

We are committed to providing resources and opportunities which will inspire our pupils to read widely. Therefore, we are continuing our fundraising efforts to ensure the library space

in our new building is well-resourced, welcoming, and inviting for pupils. If you want to contribute to our campaign, please use this link:

<https://supportyourschool.org.uk/woldgateschool/new-library>

A visit to our Upper School Pupils from the Elite Skills Academy

70 pupils had the opportunity to attend the Elite Skills Academy and Careers Presentation that was delivered by the Outreach Team and Army Careers Office. It was designed to raise awareness of, and build interest in the Army, and the objectives were fourfold:



Information.

To provide basic information on Army careers opportunities.

Insight.

To provide an insight into the Army's ethos, via the conduct of practical activities with military personnel.

Personal Development.

To develop attendees' personal skills and attributes, e.g. teamwork, communications and self-confidence.

Inspire.

To create enthusiasm for the work of the Army and inspire young people to consider a wider range of careers.

Our pupils did us proud and engaged well in the activities, asked relevant questions and were grateful for the experience. The Team commented on how respectful they were and what a pleasure it was for them to share their knowledge and experiences with them. They look forward to delivering the sessions again, to those pupils who, on this occasion, were not able to attend.



Headteacher's Welcome

As we approach the Easter Holidays, it is a good opportunity to look back at our pupils' and students' experiences and celebrate their achievements over the term. Time moves quickly, and it is important that we, as a school community, take the time to reflect upon all of the events and achievements that have helped to shape our pupils and students over the months.

This issue of the Newsletter is such an opportunity. It includes a review of the term, and the key events, visits and experiences that have taken place. Like last the two academic years, we continue to increase the number of visits and activities available to our young people, and this term has been no exception, with international visits to Disneyland Paris, Berlin and Iceland as more local visits to the Yorkshire Wildlife Park, the Bronte Parsonage and theatres.

We have also had the pleasure of welcoming visitors into school, including a published poet to visit our Year 10 pupils, local employers to provide practise interviews for our Year 11 pupils, the Wates team to deliver sessions for International Women's Day and Year 8 Careers Day, as well representatives of a wide range of local religious communities to speak to our pupils.





Alongside these opportunities, our pupils have also had a wealth of events and opportunities in school, including enrichment activities at lunchtime and after school. All of these experiences will help to shape our pupils' and students' interests and hopefully inspire them to pursue interests or careers into the future.

We hope you enjoy reflecting upon these experiences, and please do talk to your child about their experience if they took part. We do hope you have an enjoyable Easter whatever your plans, we look forward to welcoming our pupils and students back into school on Tuesday 22nd April.

Mr Sloman
HEADTEACHER



Key dates

To find out more about upcoming events and visits, please view the [Woldgate School Calendar](#).

- Tuesday 22nd April: First Day of term
- Year 8 Immunisations
- Year 12 Mock Exams begin
- W/b Monday 28th April:..... Year 11 GCSE Modern Foreign Languages oral exams
- Monday 5th May:..... Bank Holiday
- W/b 5th May:..... Year 11 GCSE Art exam
- Wednesday 7th May:..... Year 10 Parents Evening 4:30pm to 7:30pm
- W/b 12th May:..... Year 11 and Year 13 exams begin
- Monday 19th May:..... Year 8 Parents Evening 4:30pm to 7:30pm
- Friday 23rd May: Last Day of half term

Art Exhibition

Age 11 to 13

28 April to 29 May 2025
Pocklington Arts Centre



Preview Event:

Thursday 1 May

5:00pm to 6:30pm

Free entry

Featuring live music
performed by Woldgate pupils

POCKLINGTON
ARTS
CENTRE

Subject Focus

Psychology

Spring 2025

Psychology students were recently given the opportunity to participate in a webinar hosted by the University of Southampton, alongside several other sixth form and post 16 providers. The session was aimed at Psychology and Health students and was led by Jasmine Snowden who is the Senior Teaching Fellow in Mental Health Nursing. The focus of the course was providing examples of practical applications of concepts students have studied as part of the Approaches and Psychopathology topics.

Over the course of the session students reviewed the work of psychologists Freud and Jung, exploring how the mind works, the role of unconscious thoughts, and how these ideas are applied to help people overcome mental health challenges. As part of this, students were exposed to a range of real-life case studies and were encouraged to apply their knowledge of psychoanalysis to suggest positive interventions for the patients.

The second half of the webinar was focused on avenues students may consider for future study and careers. A number of our students are interested in pursuing a career in psychology/mental health and were interested to hear about the possible pathways to becoming a clinical psychologist or a mental health nurse. We were also interested to discover the range of roles available in mental health nursing, including those which involve research and teaching in a university.

The webinar was attended by both Year 12 and Year 13 Psychology students. For Year 12, the content provided an excellent introduction to the upcoming Psychopathology topic. Year 13 students were given the opportunity to revise and apply their learning, as well as gaining invaluable insight into what to expect at university and from a career in relation to mental health.



Rewards

Rewards for the Week

Our school motto is **'Everything we 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.

299,912

MERIT

41,539

CHARACTER

22,577

VALUE

645,059

TOTAL

Our School Houses

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.

249,575

HOUSE TOTAL



136,194



148,081



154,817



117,992



114,866



Awards

Headteacher Awards

The Headteacher Award is given to those exceptional pupils and students who achieve the highest number of rewards in their year group each week.

The recipients of the Headteachers Awards last week were:

- Year 7:** Jake Thackeray
- Year 8:** Sebastian Fielding
- Year 9:** Freya Sanders
- Year 10:** Matthew Golightly
- Year 11:** Erin Williams
- Year 12:** Adam Brown
- Year 13:** Alfie Lord-Laverick

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 most Great Character awards last week were:

- Year 7:** Monty Owens
- Year 8:** Leah Berwick
- Year 9:** Aiden Walker
- Year 10:** Autumn Dobson
- Year 11:** Harry Bishop
- Year 12:** Lily Stavely
- Year 13:** Chloe Massey

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 most Great Merit awards last week were:

- Year 7:** Freddie Maxted
- Year 8:** Jake Lawrence
- Year 9:** Hermione Senior
- Year 10:** Leon Cook
- Year 11:** Jack Irvin
- Year 12:** Sky Gibson
- Year 13:** Jennifer Aguirre-Hernandez

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 most Great Value awards last week were:

- Year 7:** Niall Fennell
- Year 8:** Ollie Dower
- Year 9:** Kai Barrett
- Year 10:** Travis Donockley
- Year 11:** Max Bartram
- Year 12:** Gracie Cheshire
- Year 13:** Oscar Rose

Meet our Pupil Care Team



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 7

Mrs F McDonough

fmcdonough@woldgate.net



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs C Wright

cwright@woldgate.net



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 8

Mrs S Clark

sclark@woldgate.net



Attendance Officer

Mrs R O'Brien

robrien@woldgate.net



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 9

Mrs R Marsden

rmarsden@woldgate.net



Attendance and Wellbeing

Mr J Marks
01759 302395 Option 1
jmarks@woldgate.net



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 10

Mrs L Cavanagh

lcavanagh@woldgate.net



Office Manager

Mrs A Charlton
01759 302395
office@woldgate.net



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 11

Mrs S Oliver

soliver@woldgate.net



Office Assistant

Mrs V Mills
01759 302395
office@woldgate.net



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Sixth Form

Mrs E Fairhurst
07790 987137

efairhurst@woldgate.net



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Diabetic Care and First Aid.

Mrs L Kendra

lkendra@woldgate.net



Pocklington
Junior School

www.pocklingtonjuniors.co.uk

Part of the Family:



Wonder
Learning Partnership
Worthington • Epsom • Tring • Welwyn

Recruiting



Cleaner

SCP2: £23,656 full time equivalent
20 hours per week: Term time only
Closing Date: 22 April 2025
Interview: 24 April 2025

Apply: admin@pocklingtonjuniors.co.uk



Pocklington
Junior School

www.pocklingtonjuniors.co.uk

Part of the Family:



Wonder
Learning Partnership
Wonders of Learning. Inspiring Lives.

Recruiting



Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA)

£30,060: Pro rata

33.75 hours: Mon-Fri, Term time only

Closing Date: 28 April 2025

Interview: w/c 5 May 2025

Apply: admin@pocklingtonjuniors.co.uk



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Junior School

www.pocklingtonjuniors.co.uk

Part of the Family:



Wonder
Learning Partnership
Wonders of Learning. Inspiring Lives.

Recruiting



Teacher

M1-M6

Thursday & Friday (0.44) -plus 2 days

PPA time paid

Closing Date: 13 May 2025

Interview: 16 May 2025

Details: www.wlp.education

Apply: admin@pocklingtonjuniors.co.uk

Teach with Wonder

Paid Teaching Internship Programme 2025

£1,275
Teaching
Internships
available
now!

After an extremely successful internship programme in 2024, we are delighted to once again be able to offer more young people an opportunity to find out why teaching is such an inspirational career choice.

Our internship programme combines professional development, talks from external speakers, a visit to one of our primary schools, planning a trip and of course an opportunity to teach our pupils. You receive dedicated mentorship, support, and training over the three-week period and in your final week, you can choose to teach your very first lesson. It is simply a privilege to see our interns flourish and utterly amazing to see them stand in front of their first class after just three weeks.

In addition to all the great opportunities you will receive during this three-week programme, you will also receive a payment of £1,275.00 funded by the Department for Education.

Our paid internships are available for people who:

- have a genuine interest in teaching
- have not already accepted a place on an Initial Teacher Training programme
- have not completed a paid internship before
- have (or are working towards completing) a degree or a related degree in mathematics, physics, chemistry, or modern foreign languages (French and Spanish)

We are recruiting for placements in maths, physics, chemistry and modern foreign languages starting on:

- 9th June 2025 to 27th June 2025
- 23rd June 2025 to 11th July 2025

Our internships are available at both:

Woldgate School and Sixth Form www.woldgate.net

and

Longcroft School and Sixth Form www.longcroftschoo.co.uk



Wonder
Institute of Education
Educate | Empower | Engage | Enrich

Recruitment now open!

To register and receive an application pack please contact:

Victoria Tomlinson

Wonder Institute of Education

IOE@WLP.education