

Newsletter

ISSUE 394

Of great merit, character & value



WOLDGATE
THE EAST YORKSHIRE
SIXTH FORM

Currently our Year 12 students are sitting their mock examinations, and our Year 13 students are working through the final weeks prior to commencing their A-level examinations. Once again, I am continually impressed by the work ethic and commitment that our students demonstrate as they navigate these challenges and look forward to exciting plans for the future.



Mrs Smith
HEAD OF SIXTH FORM



Despite our students demonstrating exceptional commitment we know that Sixth Form and A-level study can be challenging, demanding and stressful and we are acutely focused on supporting our students. Furthermore, since starting in this role just over three years ago, I have continually noted the issues that students face securing support with their mental health issues outside of school. In circumstances where students need mental health support, early intervention is crucial as this can ensure issues don't escalate thus empowering the young person to minimise the impact of their mental health issues on other areas of their life.

As a result, we are delighted to announce our partnership with local charity Talking About Loss which is enabling us to provide students with early mental health support through a drop-in session each week. Talking About Loss CEO, Jacqueline Gunn notes that:

Talking About Loss Charity, Workplace Bereavement, and VCare Training Solutions are proud to partner with, Woldgate School to support students navigating bereavement and mental health challenges. This collaboration aims to provide essential counselling and training, helping both students and staff navigate these difficult experiences with compassion and understanding. As part of the initiative, we will be offering a weekly drop-in session where students can access support in a safe, supportive environment. We are thrilled to be collaborating with Woldgate School, to ensure the school community has the resources needed to support young people navigating tough times. This partnership is a step toward making a real, positive impact in the lives of students and teachers and the wider school community.

We are very excited about this partnership and believe it is a fantastic opportunity to support our Sixth Form students and further strengthen our pastoral care.

Elsewhere, life in the Sixth Form continues to be very busy and over the previous half term we have delivered a workshop with Leeds University Economics department with 60 Year 9 and Year 10 girls aimed at encouraging girls to study Economics and to understand why this subject is important and impacts all of our lives. This opportunity also provided our younger students with the opportunity to start considering their future options and understand what life at university might look like.

In addition, 2 of our Year 12 students participated in the Holocaust Education Trust's annual visit to Auschwitz. A visit that both Martha and Joe found to be a very moving experience. This visit involves participating in a series of workshops to understand the history of Auschwitz, the atrocities committed, provides an opportunity to interact with a Holocaust survivor and hear their story and reflect on the lessons we can learn and implement in our lives to ensure that we are making positive contributions to the local and global community. Upon returning from this trip, both students have shared their reflections with the wider community and are using this opportunity to share their learning and understanding further thus acting as fantastic representatives on behalf of the Holocaust Education Trust and the school.

Finally, we are looking forward to what will be a busy and exciting term for the Sixth Form as we work through the examinations period, look forward to the Sixth Form Prom, the annual Year 12 New York trip, visits to a variety of universities and look to support our Year 11 students as they commence their GCSE exams and start the transition to Sixth Form. As a consequence, we know that this time of year can be challenging to navigate for students and families and, as always, we are here to support so please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Sixth Form Team should you have any concerns or queries.





Headteacher's Welcome

Parent and Carer Consultation on the proposal to change the school day from September 2025

I wanted to share with you the proposal for a new school day, effective from September 2025. Following discussions with our Communications and Estates Parent Working Group, this plan is intended to bring a consistent end to the school day every day of the week.



This has the following benefits for staff, pupils and parents:

- Parents and carers can plan consistent childcare arrangements across the week
- Pupils do not have to travel home in the dark during the winter
- Enrichment activities can take place after school on any weekday, including out-of-school activities and clubs etc.
- Sports fixtures can take place after the end of any school day.
- Break and lunch will be earlier (10:25am and 12:40pm respectively compared to the current 11:00am and 1:15pm). This will benefit the wellbeing of staff and pupils.

The proposal facilitates regular time each day for pastoral support of pupils and students. Interventions can be more evenly distributed across the week, allowing for more early action for numeracy and literacy.

In developing the school day proposal, we have ensured that effective school routines and interventions, such as daily reading, are retained. We have also retained the same start to the school day, lessons, break and lunchtime length to maximum pupil and staff familiarity and wellbeing.



The proposed new school day, effective from September 2025, would be as follows:

From	To	Activity
08:45	08:45	Warning Bell – school gates close
08:50	09:00	Reading in Form
09:00	09:25	Assemblies and form-based activities, including reading, spelling and numeracy activities, retrieval and pupil interventions
09:25	10:25	Period 1
10:25	10:40	Breaktime
10:40	11:40	Period 2
11:40	12:40	Period 3
12:40	13:20	Lunchtime
13:20	13:25	Warning Bell
13:25	14:25	Period 4
14:25	15:25	Period 5
15:25	15:25	End of School Day

Our parent and carer consultation will run from Friday 25th April to Friday 9th May inclusive. If you have any comments regarding the proposal, please complete the Consultation Form between these dates. All comments received will be considered.

[New School Day Parent and Carer Consultation Form](#)

Many thanks to everyone involved in drafting this proposal and I look forward to receiving your feedback.

Mr Sloman | HEADTEACHER

Key dates

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

W/b Monday 28th April:..... Year 11 GCSE Modern Foreign Languages oral exams

Thursday 1st May:..... Woldgate School Art Exhibition preview evening at
..... Pocklington Arts Centre (5pm to 6:30pm)

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**



SEND & Attendance

Coping with Exam Stress

As we enter exam season, we know that the pressure on pupils and parents can be difficult to navigate. It is vital that pupils seek help if they feel that anxiety levels are beyond what is normally expected. At school, Pastoral staff, Care and Achievement Co-ordinators, Heads of School and Form Tutors and the Attendance Team will be happy to offer support if they can. Websites like Young Minds also offer practical advice and ideas about ways to support.

Stress is a normal part of the exam process and adrenaline can help us to perform at our best: helping us to address what's important. Stress is our body's natural response to pressure. It can help us focus and get things done, but sometimes it can all get a bit much.

Exam stress can affect anyone and it can show up in lots of ways, for example:

- feeling anxious or down
- getting irritable and angry
- struggling to sleep
- changes in your eating habits
- having bad thoughts about yourself
- worrying about the future
- losing interest in things you usually like
- finding it hard to concentrate
- feeling unwell – like headaches, feeling sick or tired.

Teachers and parents provide lots of advice about how to revise and it may feel like there is no time for anything but studying, however, it's also important to factor in time for self-care and regular breaks.

The Young Minds' website suggests:

15-minute mindful revision breaks

- Make a hot drink, but don't take it back to your desk with you. Drink it away from your work space and turn it into a short mindfulness exercise - notice how the mug feels warm in your hands, but cools down gently, and the way the liquid feels when you take a sip. Try to bring your mind back to it if you find yourself going back into revision-mode before your break is over!
- Do something creative, like drawing, colouring or printing off funny pictures to stick on your noticeboard.
- Go for a walk; take a shower; connect with nature; sit in the garden; drink water and have regular and healthy meals.

Most of all, connect with people, not via screens, but in person and when you need help, make sure that you ask for it.



Subject Focus

English

As we head into a busy and exciting term, our English department is proud to share how pupils across the school are embracing reading, writing, and critical thinking through both classroom learning and enrichment opportunities. Here's a glimpse at what's been happening recently in English!

Year 11: focused and ready for revision

Our Year 11 pupils have begun a brand-new revision programme designed to help them feel confident and well-prepared as they approach their GCSE exams. The programme combines targeted skills practice, structured retrieval activities, and exam-style questions to build knowledge and boost confidence. Teachers are working closely with pupils to ensure they feel supported every step of the way. It's been fantastic to see their motivation and maturity as they take this crucial next step in their learning journey.

Year 10: thinking big

Year 10 are diving deep into literature and language with a focus on 'big ideas'. These themes—such as power, identity, morality, and justice—help pupils connect their learning across different texts and contexts. By exploring complex concepts and applying them to their reading and writing, pupils are developing their critical thinking skills and becoming more analytical, ambitious learners. This approach ensures that the teaching is not only rigorous but also meaningful and inspiring.

Enrichment: Bringing Literature to life

Beyond the classroom, our pupils have been making the most of enrichment opportunities



that bring English to life. A recent highlight was the Year 7 visit to the Brontë Parsonage Museum in Haworth, which supported their work on narrative writing and also built on their work on the literary heritage in the Autumn term. Walking in the footsteps of the Brontë sisters gave pupils a powerful sense of the historical and cultural context behind the texts they study. Experiences like this spark curiosity and deepen pupils' appreciation for literature.

Looking Ahead: What's next for the English department?

We're excited about the work happening behind the scenes to continue developing a rich and ambitious English curriculum. Here's what we're working on:

- Some teachers in the department are currently trialling a new strategy to support pupils in using high-quality texts as a springboard for their own writing. Early feedback has been positive, and we're excited to see how this will evolve.
- We're reviewing our Key Stage 4 curriculum with the aim of creating stronger links between English Language and English Literature, supporting co-teaching and making connections across texts and skills more explicit.
- A new whole-school reading and vocabulary initiative is in development, designed to support pupils' understanding and confidence across all subjects, not just in English.
- From September, we will be working with the York Theatre Royal on their Shakespeare in Schools project. This will provide opportunities for pupils to take part in performances and will also provide training for all teachers in order to bring Shakespeare to life in the classroom.
- We're also refreshing the texts and approaches we use in literacy lessons to ensure they are relevant, engaging, and help all learners access and enjoy reading and writing.

We're incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and effort our pupils are showing in English, and we look forward to sharing more updates with you soon. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



We are now a couple of weeks into our Readathon.

I hope you have managed to collect some sponsorship.

Please now start recording the books you have read on the record sheet.

Don't forget there are prizes for Reading the most books!

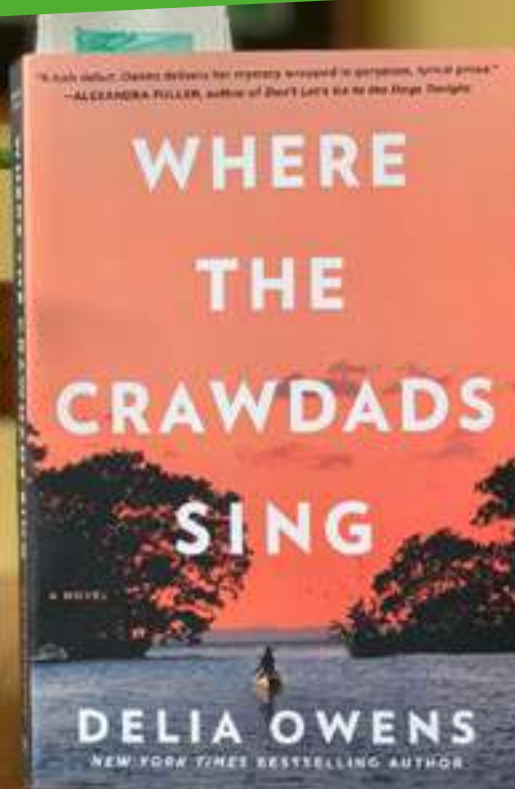
The deadline is Fri 25th April for sponsor money and forms

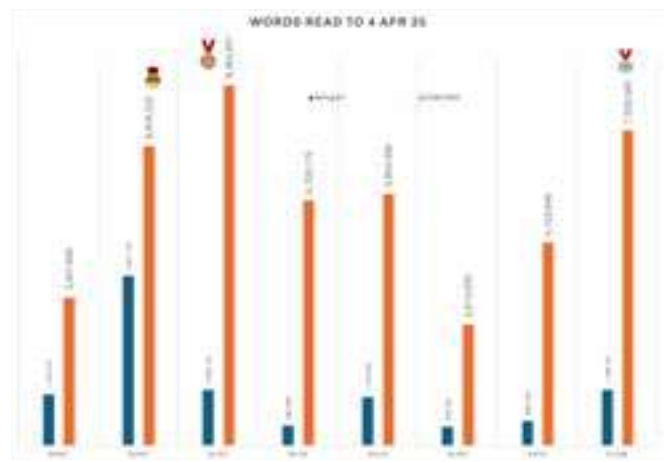
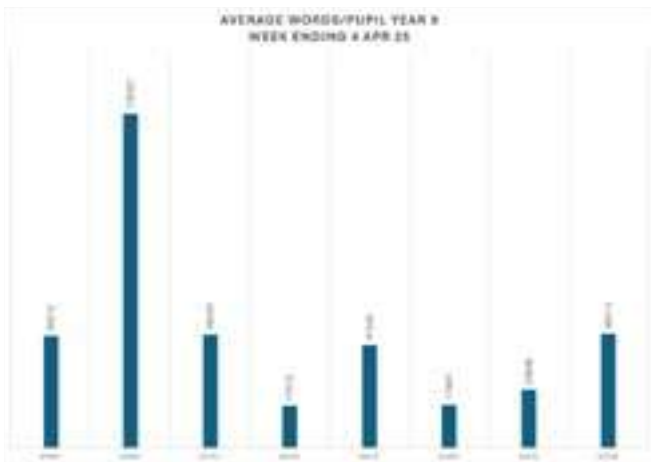
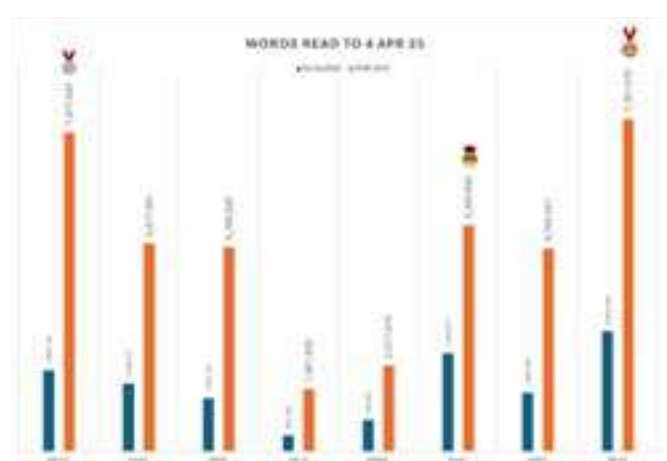
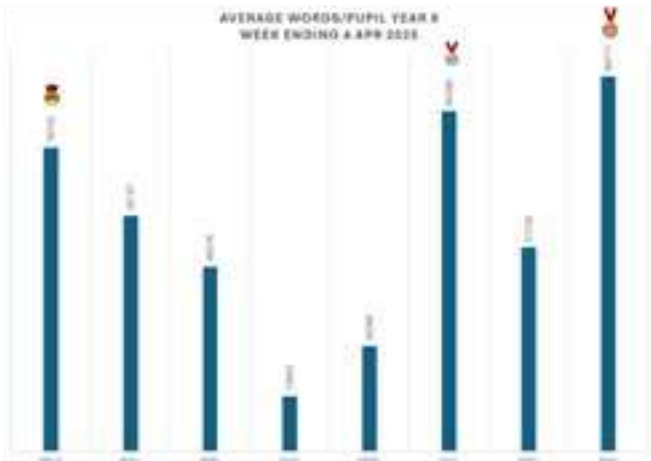
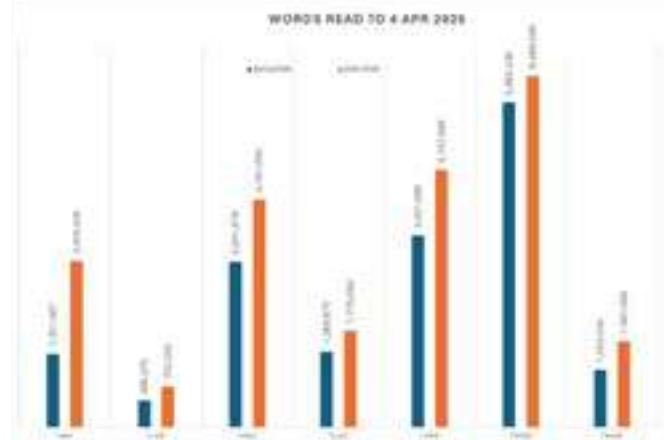
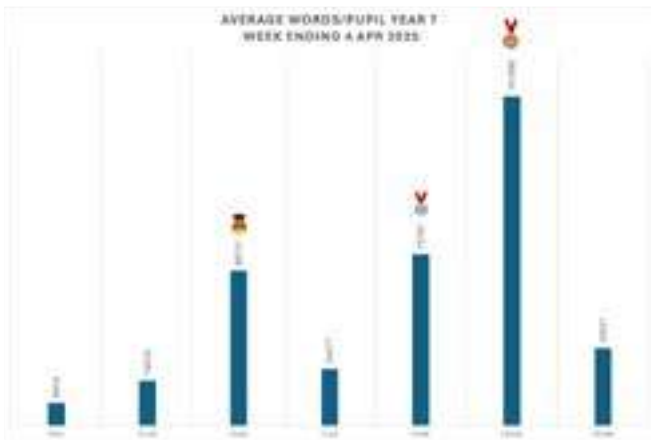
Year 7 Readathon



Recently, Mrs Charlton has been reading....

'Where The Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens







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

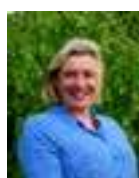
Mrs A Charlton
01759 302395
office@woldgate.net



**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

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

 **Pocklington Junior School** www.pocklingtonjuniors.co.uk 
Part of the Family: Wonder Learning Partnership

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

MIDDAY ASSISTANT

CONTACT: 01759 371430 / OFFICE@STAMFORDBRIDGESCHOOL.CO.UK

APPLICATION DETAILS: WWW.WLP.EDUCATION

Vacancy

SCP2 £22,656 (pro-rata)
7.5 hours per week
(term time only)
11.45-13.15 Monday-Friday
Closing Date: 6 May 2025



Stamford Bridge
Primary School

www.stamfordbridgeschool.co.uk

Part of the Family



Wonder
Learning Partnership
Educate | Empower | Engage | Enrich

KITCHEN ASSISTANT

CONTACT: 01759 371430 / OFFICE@STAMFORDBRIDGESCHOOL.CO.UK

APPLICATION DETAILS: WWW.WLP.EDUCATION

Vacancy

SCP2 £22,656 (pro-rata)
24 hours per week
(term time only)
Monday-Friday
Closing Date: 6 May 2025



Stamford Bridge
Primary School

www.stamfordbridgeschool.co.uk

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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