Woldgate School
Of great merit, character & value

Part of the Family
Wonder Learning Partnership
Educate | Empower | Engage | Enrich

ISSUE 420

Newsletter

Of great merit, character & value

Happy New Year! I hope you and your families enjoyed a restful and joyful holiday. It has been a privilege to begin my first week as Headteacher at Woldgate, and I want to thank you for the warm welcome I've received from our community. From the moment I first visited, it was clear that this is a school built on care, ambition, and a shared commitment to helping every young person succeed. I am excited to work together to make this term a success.

Mrs Adams
HEADTEACHER

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This week, I've been inspired by the enthusiasm and determination shown by our pupils and students. Despite the colder weather, their positive attitudes to learning have set a fantastic tone for the term ahead. To maintain this momentum, attendance is absolutely vital. Every day in school matters – not just for academic progress, but for confidence, friendships, and the opportunities that make school life so enriching. Thank you for working with us to ensure your child is here, ready to learn, every day.

As part of my first week, I have spoken to pupils in assemblies about what being worthy of 'great merit, great character and great value' means to me, and outlined the priorities for them this term:

- Be prepared to work hard and to aim for excellence. You are all capable of this.
- Don't worry about making mistakes – this is such an important part of learning.
- Be ready to learn – wear the correct uniform and make sure you are equipped.
- Attend school every day – we want you here, learning and succeeding.
- Be kind to one another. No exceptions.

Looking forward, this term is full of exciting opportunities to engage in the wider life of the school and to reflect on the progress our pupils and students are making. We have parents' evenings and options evenings to support important decisions, inspiring author visits to spark creativity, and trips that will broaden horizons beyond the classroom. These experiences reflect our belief that education is about more than academic achievement – it is about character, growth, and opportunity.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make this a successful and rewarding year for all.

Mrs Adams
Headteacher

Art Department HIGHLIGHTS OF 2025

OUR ANNUAL TRIP TO THE YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

WILLIAM KENTRIDGE – THE PULL OF GRAVITY EXHIBITION

This summer saw the Yorkshire Sculpture Park present a major exhibition by the South African artist. It was the first time his works have been on display outside of South Africa. Over 40 works made between 2007-2024, this project filled the Underground Gallery, with his outdoor sculptures presented in the surrounding gardens.

This exhibition included a selection of the artists' sculptures from this period across different scales and media, including bronze, steel, paper, cardboard, plater, wood and found objects.

The wide range of materials provided inspiration not only for the YSP workshop but also for the pupils and their ongoing projects back in the Art Dept. Inspired by the artist, the pupils have been working on cardboard, putting textures into their clay works, they have made paper and wire sculptures and have been experimenting with various printing techniques.

The pupils also attended a workshop led by Sarah Jane Palmer, who is a multi-disciplinary artist, with a passion for sculpture, geometry, and natural patterns. She gave the pupils a guided walk through the gardens looking at artists such as Barbara Hepworth, Henry Moore, David Nash, Elizabeth Frink and Niki de Saint Phalle. The pupils found their own natural objects on this walk, which they were to take back to work on their artworks, inspired by the artist and the surrounding natural habitat. The pupils used their natural objects to make beautiful, vibrant prints on pieces of fabric. They have continued to work on the theme of Nature and have expanded their works by including detailed drawings and paintings.

POCKLINGTON GP SURGERY EXHIBITION 2025

This year saw the largest exhibition of pupils artworks on display. Over 150 artworks are currently on display at the Practice. **The exhibition runs until the 31st October 2026.**

If you have not had the chance to see the works, please do pop in to see the artworks of our gifted & talented young people. This is an amazing collaboration between the Woldgate School & the Surgery. It is a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to have their works mounted, framed & curated in a fabulous gallery-like setting. We must thank the Pocklington GP Practice Partners & Staff for giving the pupils the chance to have their works on display. In particular a special mention for Marcia, Martin, Toby & Alex. Their hard work behind the scenes is a real credit to their commitment & dedication in enhancing the workplace environment for not only the staff but the patients too. Thanks to the pupils to allow their works to be on public display.

Whilst working in the Surgery, putting up the works, I had the privilege of seeing first hand the difference a piece of artwork can make to a person. It sparked conversations with complete strangers and brought people together. Both staff & patients asked questions about the works, the pupils & the school. The anticipation for the works was a powerful blend of excitement, wonder & expectation.

LOOKING AHEAD... TO 2026

There is a lot to look forward to!

The Art Department is running a Photography Competition for all pupils, all staff and all parents. The theme for 2026 is "Natural Forms". We would like you to be as creative as possible and consider close ups or interesting angles. All entries must be submitted as Hard Copies only and must be your own work and no larger than A4. Photographs can be printed in black & white, sepia tones or colour.

Later on in Spring of 2026 , we will be running a Postcard Competition again for all pupils, all staff & all parents. This time the theme is "A Sense of Place". This could include your local area, a place that is special to you, a favourite landmark or a favourite interior, etc. All entries must be submitted as Hard Copies only and must be your own work. Postcards will be available from the main school reception, nearer the show. We will advise of dates when they are confirmed.

Also, looking forward to Spring, the Music, Design Technology and Art Departments will be showcasing a selection of their works at Pocklington Arts Centre. This will be the first time all three creative subjects will have come together to highlight the cultural subjects and the talents of our pupils.

Finally this year sees the launch of the talented Art pupils taking part in the Art Challenge Bingo. Their work will be showcased throughout the year.

Woldgate School

The Woldgate School Art Department
is launching our annual summer photography competition.

The theme is
"Natural Forms"

This could include, leaves, plants, flowers, shells, landscapes, stones, fossils, seaweed, insects, fruit and vegetables etc .

We would like you to be as creative as possible and consider close ups or interesting angles.
Look at the utilisation of shapes, contours, and structures

The competition is open to all students, staff and parents

All entries must be submitted as Hard Copies only and must be your own work and no larger than A4.

Entries must be submitted to reception by 30 January 2026.

Photographs can be printed in black & white, sepia tones or colour.

Key dates

To find out more about upcoming events and visits, please view the Woldgate School Calendar.

Monday 12th January..... Disneyland Paris Trip Information Evening

Monday 12th January..... Berlin Trip Information Evening

Thursday 15th January: ..... Year 11 NEA Day (Option B subjects)

Friday 16th January: ..... Year 11 NEA Day (Option A subjects)

..... Personal Development Day for pupils in Years 7 to 10

Thursday 22nd January: ..... Year 9 Options Information Evening 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Tuesday 27th January: ..... Year 11 Parents' Evening 4pm to 7pm

Tuesday 27th – 30th January: Business Studies visit to Disneyland Paris

Thursday 29th January ..... Learning Support Review Evening – Sixth Form

Wednesday 4th February: ..... English visit to Bronte Museum

Thursday 5th February:..... Year 11 NEA Day (Option B subjects)

..... Curriculum Enrichment Day for pupils in Years 7 to 10

Friday 6th February:..... Year 11 NEA Day (Option A subjects)

Friday 6th February:..... English visit to Bronte Museum

Tuesday 10th-13th February: History visit to Berlin

Wednesday 11th February:.... English visit to Bronte Museum

Thursday 12th February:..... Year 9 Parents' Evening 4pm to 7pm

Friday 13th February:..... Break up for Half Term

Monday 23rd February:..... First day back after Half Term

Friday 27th February:..... Year 8 Careers Day

Thursday 5th March:..... Year 8 Options Evening

WORLD OF RHYTHM

SAMBA WORKSHOP

11AM SATURDAY 24TH JANUARY- POCKLINGTON ARTS CENTRE

JOIN US FOR A ONE HOUR SAMBA WORKSHOP TASTER

LEARN THE DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS OF A TYPICAL SAMBA BAND AND LEARN HOW TO PERFORM LAYERED RHYTHMS AS AN ENSEMBLE.

NO MUSICAL EXPERIENCE REQUIRED. ALL AGES WELCOME.

BOOKING RECOMMENDED TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT
CONTACT POCKLINGTON ARTS CENTRE - £8 PER PERSON

A.I. SCHOFIELD MUSIC

Safeguarding

Ice and Open Water:
A Serious Winter Risk for Young People

Periods of cold weather increase the risk of serious accidents around **frozen lakes, ponds, rivers, canals and reservoirs.** Each winter in the UK, emergency services respond to incidents involving teenagers injured or killed after going onto ice that appeared safe but was not.

This message is particularly important for **secondary aged pupils,** who may spend more time outdoors independently and may underestimate the dangers.

Ice forms unevenly and can be **much thinner than it looks.** Even during prolonged cold weather, ice in the UK is **not strong enough to support people safely.**

Ice is especially weak:

- Away from the edges
- Where water flows underneath
- Near plants, bridges or drains
- After temperature changes

Emergency services state clearly: **no frozen open water in the UK is safe to walk on.**

The Risk of Cold Water Shock

If someone breaks through the ice, the danger is immediate. Sudden entry into cold water can cause **cold water shock**, which:

- Triggers an involuntary gasp
- Makes breathing difficult or uncontrollable
- Causes panic, loss of strength and rapid exhaustion

Even strong swimmers can become helpless within seconds. Many drownings occur before hypothermia even develops.

What to Reinforce at Home

Please remind your child that they should:

- Never go onto frozen water for any reason
- Keep away from the edges of icy ponds, rivers and canals
- Never attempt to rescue a person or animal from ice
- Call 999 immediately in an emergency

If they fall in accidentally, the safest advice is **"Float to Live":**

- Stay calm
- Lie on their back if possible
- Control breathing
- Shout for help

How does your attendance impact your future?

Woldgate School

Of great merit, character and value

Data released by the UK Department for Education shows that the lower your attendance the less likely you are to achieve in your GCSEs.

100%

82%
Achieved 5 GCSEs Grade 5+
(inc. Maths and English)

OVER 95%

77%
Achieved 5 GCSEs Grade 5+
(inc. Maths and English)

92%-93%

53%
Achieved 5 GCSEs Grade 5+
(inc. Maths and English)

BELOW 90%

43%
Achieved 5 GCSEs Grade 5+
(inc. Maths and English)

Research shows that for every 17 days you miss across your school career, your GCSE results go down by one whole grade!

£

Achieving 5 or more GCSEs at Grade 5+ has shown to increase your lifetime earnings by **41%**

There are **365 DAYS** in a year

175 are not spent in school!

**That gives you plenty of time for holidays, TV, shopping and video games.*

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.

159,997	MERIT
23,720	CHARACTER
12,611	VALUE
407,724	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.

190,610	HOUSE TOTAL

Great Givendale	Kirby Underdale	Millington Dale	Thixendale	Warrendale
91,783	87,235	83,772	77,297	76,445

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:	Pelham Warner
Year 8:	Ayesha Rowell
Year 9:	Ellen Greensted
Year 10:	Laura Simpson
Year 11:	Emelia Ellis
Year 12:	Mia Wood
Year 13:	Iona Mackay

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:	Holly Allan
Year 8:	Grace Wilford
Year 9:	Bonnie Farthing
Year 10:	Harrison Best
Year 11:	Olivia Murphy
Year 12:	Seth Watson
Year 13:	Matthew Richardson

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:	Edie Melling
Year 8:	Ledley Frankland
Year 9:	Isla Garner
Year 10:	Aiden Walker
Year 11:	Jessica Edmonds
Year 12:	Rhianna Watts
Year 13:	Adam Brown

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:	Isobel Coleman
Year 8:	Edward Swales
Year 9:	Erin Jackson-Brooke
Year 10:	Hermione Senior
Year 11:	Yuri Korchaha
Year 12:	Imogen Kendall
Year 13:	Lily Staveley

Meet our Pupil Care Team

Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 7

Mrs F McDonough

year7@woldgate.net

Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 8

Mrs S Oliver

year8@woldgate.net

Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 9

Mrs S Clark

year9@woldgate.net

Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 10

Mrs R Marsden

year10@woldgate.net

Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 11

Mrs L Cavanagh

year11@woldgate.net

Care & Achievement Coordinator: Sixth Form

Mrs E Fairhurst
07790 987137
sixthform@woldgate.net

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs C Wright

safeguarding@woldgate.net

Attendance Officer

Mrs R O'Brien

attendance@woldgate.net

Attendance and Wellbeing

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

Office Manager

Mrs A Charlton
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Office Assistant

Mrs V Mills
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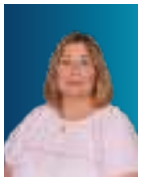

Care & Achievement Coordinator: Diabetic Care and First Aid.

Mrs L Kendra

lkendra@woldgate.net