

# Newsletter

ISSUE 425

Of great merit, character & value



It has been wonderful to see our pupils' enthusiasm and readiness to learn during this half term.

This term is always a particularly vibrant one in school, with a wide range of opportunities designed to support pupils' personal growth, academic progress and wider development.



**Mr R Askoolum**  
HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Over the past few weeks, pupils have taken part in an exciting mix of activities—from careers education sessions that help broaden their understanding of future pathways, to engaging form time programmes that build confidence, teamwork and a sense of community. Many pupils are also beginning to think carefully about their next steps, and our options process is now well underway, providing guidance and support as they make these important decisions.

We were especially pleased to see the high level of participation during our recent Personal Development Day, where pupils explored key themes that help them develop the skills, knowledge and values they need to thrive both in and beyond school.

## Careers education – Morrisby



At school, we recognise that high quality careers education plays a vital role in helping young people understand their strengths, explore future pathways and make confident, informed decisions as they move through their education. By exposing pupils to a wide range of opportunities, we aim to broaden their aspirations and ensure they are well prepared for life beyond school—whether that is further education, apprenticeships or employment.



To support this important work, we are pleased to introduce Morrisby, an online careers platform designed to help pupils discover their interests, identify potential career routes and access personalised guidance. Morrisby provides tools such as careers quizzes, skills assessments and tailored recommendations, giving pupils the chance to explore a variety of future options in an engaging and meaningful way.

This week, all pupils have been issued with their Morrisby login details, and we encourage them to begin exploring the platform at home as well as in school. Engaging early with careers education helps pupils understand the links between their learning, their strengths and the opportunities available to them in the future.

We hope you will find the platform a useful starting point for conversations at home about your child's interests, aspirations and next steps.

## Personal Development Day

Pupils recently took part in our Personal Development Day, engaging in a series of workshops designed to support their wellbeing and prepare them for life beyond the classroom. The day focused on three key themes: mental health, financial literacy, and positive peer relationships.

Pupils explored the importance of looking after their mental health with guest speakers from HeyMind, recognising emotions and developing strategies to manage stress. They also took part in activities from Barclays Bank that introduced essential financial skills such as budgeting and responsible money management—important foundations for their future independence. In addition, pupils reflected on what makes positive peer relationships, considering how kindness, respect and good communication help create a supportive school community. In addition we had talks from Cornerstone on Health and Humberside Road Safety.



We were incredibly proud of the mature and thoughtful way pupils approached these sessions. Personal Development Day plays an important role in helping our pupils grow into confident, responsible and compassionate young people.

## Assembly with the Army cadets

Pupils recently enjoyed an engaging assembly delivered by representatives from the Pocklington Army Cadet Force. The team (pupils at Woldgate school) introduced fellow pupils to the wide range of opportunities the cadets offer, including outdoor adventure, leadership development, teamwork, community service and practical skills that help build confidence and resilience.

During the assembly, pupils heard first hand experiences from cadet members and learned how the organisation supports young people in developing discipline, character and a strong sense of responsibility. They also had the chance to explore how joining the cadets can open doors to new hobbies, qualifications and friendships.

We are grateful to the Pocklington Army Cadets for visiting our school and inspiring our pupils to try new challenges and discover what they are capable of.



## Reading at form time

At school, we place great value on developing strong reading habits, and our daily form time reading sessions play an important role in supporting this. Reading regularly not only strengthens pupils' literacy skills but also has a significant impact on their wider learning, confidence and wellbeing.

Form time reading gives pupils the chance to start each day with a calm, focused activity that helps build vocabulary, improves comprehension and encourages a love of reading. These shared reading sessions also expose pupils to a variety of authors, genres and topics, helping broaden their understanding of the world and deepening their cultural awareness.

The average number of words read this year from our middle school pupils is 43,000. A super achievement.

Importantly, reading supports progress across all subjects. Strong readers are better able to access complex texts, understand exam questions, and communicate their ideas clearly—skills that underpin success throughout school and beyond.

We encourage all pupils to make the most of these sessions and to continue reading regularly at home. Thank you for your support in helping us nurture confident, enthusiastic readers.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another productive and inspiring term ahead.





## Headteacher's Welcome

**As we come to the end of this half term, I want to start by saying a heartfelt thank you for the wonderful welcome I have received since joining the school as Headteacher. It has been truly uplifting to meet so many of our pupils, staff, parents and carers, and I am deeply appreciative of the kindness and support you have shown me. It already feels a privilege to be part of this community.**



It has been a busy and hugely rewarding half term. Our Personal Development Day gave pupils valuable time to explore pertinent issues around keeping themselves and other safe and we have recently sent out guidance on how to access our new careers pathway platform for all pupils. Residential visits have provided our pupils with opportunities to build friendships, resilience and independence, and once again they represented the school brilliantly. Alongside this, our ongoing focus on exam preparation has seen pupils working with determination and purpose, supported by staff who continue to go above and beyond.

We've also enjoyed a wide variety of enrichment opportunities across the school this half term. Theatre visits, author workshops, clubs and wider opportunities have given students the chance to explore new interests and develop their talents - something I am keen we continue to grow.



A particular highlight has been our Interfaith Day for Year 10. I would like to share the following from Mrs Shearing, our Head of RS:

“Our school recently came together to celebrate Interfaith Day, a special occasion dedicated to learning about the diverse beliefs, traditions, and values represented within our community. The day was a reminder that while our faiths and worldviews may differ, respect, curiosity, and kindness are things we all share. It is the third year we have delivered this event with all our Year 10 pupils. This year many world faiths and non-religious worldviews visited from York Interfaith. YoYo (York Schools and Youth Trust) and York Street Angels also spent the day running sessions with our pupils”

Interfaith Day also reinforced our school’s commitment to inclusion. Celebrating diversity is not about focusing on differences alone, it’s about recognizing the strength that comes from a community where everyone feels seen, respected, and valued. Events like this help foster a sense of belonging and prepare pupils to engage thoughtfully with the wider world.”

As we approach another productive half term, we will be sending out further communication, including a reminder of our **uniform expectations for all pupils**, and Year 11 parents and carers will also receive details about our **Every Minute Counts evening on Wednesday 25th February, 5.30pm–7.30pm**. Please look out for these important communications and take the time to read through the information provided. As always, through working together, we can ensure that every child feels supported, happy and successful at our school.

Wishing all our families a lovely, restful break.

**Mrs Adams**  
**Headteacher**



## Key dates

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

- Friday 13th February:**..... Break up for Half Term
- Monday 23rd February:**..... First day back after Half Term
- Tuesday 24th February:** ..... Learning Support Coffee Morning 10-11.30am
- Wednesday 25th February:** ... Year 11 English and maths walking talking mocks  
..... and study skills event 4-7.30
- Friday 27th February:**..... Year 8 Careers Day
- Tuesday 3rd March:**..... Woldgate School Oracy Day  
..... Year 11 Geography Fieldwork to Beverley
- Wednesday 4th March** ..... Year 11 Geography Fieldwork to Beverley
- Friday 6th March:** ..... Year 11 Geography Fieldwork to Beverley
- Thursday 5th March:**..... Year 8 Options Evening  
..... World Book Day
- Wednesday 11th March :**..... New York Trip information meeting
- Friday 13th March:** ..... Year 11 Mock Interviews Day
- Tuesday 17th March:**..... Year 6 English Challenge
- Thursday 19th March:** ..... Year 8 Parents' Evening
- Friday 20th March:**..... Learning Support Coffee Morning 10-11.30am
- Mon 23-Fri 27th March:** ..... Geography trip to Naples
- Monday 23rd March:** ..... Pocklington Arts Centre Art Exhibition Launch
- Friday 27th March:** ..... Break up for Easter Holidays



# Safeguarding

## Safeguarding contact reminders

To access safeguarding support from school please e-mail [safeguarding@woldgate.net](mailto:safeguarding@woldgate.net) or if urgent contact reception on 01759 302395.

Out of school hours or during the school holidays this safeguarding e-mail address is regularly monitored but if your concern is urgent please contact the following:

**East Riding Children's Safeguarding Hub** on 01482 395500

**Out of hours team** on 01482 393939

For more information please see <https://www.erscp.co.uk/>

**If someone is in immediate danger,  
call the Police on 999.**

# How does your attendance impact your future?



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.

**213,646**

**MERIT**

**34,659**

**CHARACTER**

**19,998**

**VALUE**

**557,262**

**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.

**257,470**

**HOUSE TOTAL**



**125,992**



**118,361**



**113,220**



**107,255**



**103,926**



# 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:** Abigail Wright
- Year 8:** James Hodgkinson
- Year 9:** Evie Lyall
- Year 10:** Laura Simpson
- Year 11:** Olivia Murphy
- Year 12:** Harry Bishop
- Year 13:** Leon Lindley

## 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:** Isobel Coleman
- Year 8:** Ledley Frankland
- Year 9:** Katie Hallam
- Year 10:** Eleanor Vaughan
- Year 11:** Blake Lindley
- Year 12:** Rhianna Watts
- Year 13:** Iona McTernan

## 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:** William Tayles
- Year 8:** Elliot Graves
- Year 9:** Jobe Liversidge
- Year 10:** Jenson Hatch
- Year 11:** Melisa Vatansever
- Year 12:** Emma Wood
- Year 13:** Olivia Simpson

## 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:** Alise Rupeika
- Year 8:** Lacie Dodsworth
- Year 9:** Alyssa Ferry
- Year 10:** Hermione Senior
- Year 11:** Gabe Fielding
- Year 12:** Saffron Bond
- Year 13:** Ella Wilson

# Meet our Pupil Care Team



**Care & Achievement  
Coordinator: Year 7**

Mrs F McDonough

year7@woldgate.net



**Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead**

Mrs C Wright

safeguarding@woldgate.net



**Care & Achievement  
Coordinator: Year 8**

Mrs S Oliver

year8@woldgate.net



**Attendance Officer**

Mrs R O'Brien

attendance@woldgate.net



**Care & Achievement  
Coordinator: Year 9**

Mrs S Clark

year9@woldgate.net



**Attendance and Wellbeing**

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



**Care & Achievement  
Coordinator: Year 10**

Mrs R Marsden

year10@woldgate.net



**Office Manager**

Mrs A Charlton  
01759 302395  
office@woldgate.net



**Care & Achievement  
Coordinator: Year 11**

Mrs L Cavanagh

year11@woldgate.net



**Office Assistant**

Mrs V Mills  
01759 302395  
office@woldgate.net



**Care & Achievement  
Coordinator: Sixth Form**

Mrs E Fairhurst  
07790 987137

sixthform@woldgate.net



**Care & Achievement Coordinator:  
Diabetic Care and First Aid.**

Mrs L Kendra

lkendra@woldgate.net