



**Woldgate
School**
Of great merit, character & value

Part of the Family



Wonder
Learning Partnership
Educate | Empower | Engage | Enrich

ISSUE 431

Newsletter

Of great merit, character & value



BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

Lower School Update

Last half term was another fantastic one for Lower School, marked by both collective and individual successes. Our end-of-term assembly celebrated an outstanding achievement: Year 7 topped the attendance charts with over 95%, alongside earning nearly 150,000 rewards since September. An incredible accomplishment—well done, Year 7!



Mrs Minton
HEAD OF LOWER SCHOOL

These successes were further recognised during our “Breakfast of Champions” in the final week of term, where we celebrated the dedication and effort of pupils who achieved the highest number of merits.

A group of Year 7 pupils also took part in a Panathlon event led by Mrs McDonough. They performed exceptionally well, winning the regional round and progressing to the Humber Finals. As the only secondary school represented by an all-Year 7 team, they secured an impressive 5th place—an outstanding achievement. Congratulations to the team!

More sporting dedication was shown by our Year 7 Swimming Team who took part in the East Riding Swimming Gala at Beverley Leisure Centre. Although they did not make it onto the podium they competed hard against a number of older pupils—well done team!



As the year progresses, our focus also begins to shift towards welcoming our new Year 7 cohort in September. It was therefore a pleasure to host a number of Year 5 and 6 pupils from local primary schools in our new building for our annual Literacy Challenge, led by the English Department. The event featured a carousel of engaging activities, including a spelling bee, a creative writing workshop, and SPaG-themed graffiti. A huge thank you to all the pupils and primary staff who made the day such a success—we thoroughly enjoyed having you with us!





Headteacher's Welcome

It has been a pleasure to welcome our pupils and students back to school after the Easter break; I hope the holidays provided time to rest and recharge. As we begin the summer term, there is a real sense of energy and purpose across the school. It promises to be a busy period, with much to focus on, prepare for and, importantly, celebrate.

That spirit was perfectly captured at the launch of our KS3 Art Exhibition at Pocklington Arts Centre last night. The exhibition encapsulated the joy of our school and the importance of being Worthy of Great Merit, Great Value and Great Character. The pupils' artwork was exceptional, and the confidence and courage they showed in articulating their ideas with such eloquence was utterly inspiring. Every pupil involved should feel incredibly proud of themselves. My sincere thanks also go to our Art Department for their passion and dedication in making this possible.

As the term progresses, we continue to look ahead to the examination period for our Year 11 and Year 13 students. For Year 11, the final phase of form-time interventions has begun, alongside a broad programme of revision and focused teaching in lessons to ensure pupils feel calm, confident and fully prepared. Attendance this week has been excellent, and I cannot stress enough the importance of attending every day - every lesson truly counts. This message applies to all pupils, not only for academic learning but also for accessing our wider offer and nurturing the social relationships that support personal development.

Finally, thank you for your continued support with our uniform reset following the February half-term. I am immensely proud of how our pupils are presenting themselves each day with pride and purpose. We will continue to keep this high profile, as even small details matter when creating the very best school imaginable.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing partnership and support.

Mrs Adams | Headteacher





Key dates

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

Tuesday 21st April: Year 11 High Achiever Evening — English and Maths

Monday 4th May: May Bank Holiday — School Closed

Thursday 7th May: Year 10 Parents' Evening

11th May- 19th June: GCSE and A-Level exam season

Wednesday 13th & 20th May: Year 6 Welcome Evenings

25th-29th May: Half Term Holiday

Thursday 11th June: Year 12 Parents' Evening

Thursday 25th June: Year 7 Parents' Evening



Building Confidence and Community:

Our Thursday Peer Mentoring Programme

A highlight of our week happens every Thursday morning, when something special happens across our school. The food court comes alive with conversation, encouragement, and shared learning as older pupils step into the role of mentors for their younger peers.

Our peer mentoring programme is built on a simple but powerful idea: pupils learn best not only from teachers, but also from each other. By pairing older students with younger ones, we create meaningful connections that support academic progress, boost confidence, and foster a strong sense of community.

For younger pupils, these sessions provide a safe and supportive space to ask questions, practise new skills, and build self-assurance. Whether it's reading together, playing games, or simply talking through the school day, having a mentor makes challenges feel more manageable and learning more enjoyable.

For older pupils, mentoring is an opportunity to develop leadership, empathy, and communication skills. Explaining ideas, offering guidance, and being a positive role model helps them grow in confidence and responsibility. Many mentors tell us that these sessions are the highlight of their week—a chance to make a real difference in someone else's school experience.



Beyond academic support, the programme strengthens relationships across year groups. It helps create a culture where kindness, respect, and collaboration are part of everyday school life. Pupils who might not otherwise interact build connections that last well beyond the Thursday sessions. We have seen examples of Peer Mentors looking out for younger pupils throughout the week.

As the programme continues, we are excited to see its impact grow—not just in developing our community, but in the way our pupils support and inspire one another. Thursday mornings are more than just another part of the timetable; they are a reminder that everyone in our school has something valuable to offer.

We are recruiting...

if you feel that you have the skills to become empathetic and supportive Peer Mentor, look out for the application form and the opportunities for training.

We look forward to seeing these partnerships continue to flourish throughout the term.





Learning Support Updates

GCSE Exams and Pupils with SEND

Supporting Your Child's Wellbeing and Confidence

For young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), the GCSE exam period can present additional challenges. Changes to routine, high expectations, sensory demands and time pressure can all heighten anxiety. With the right support at home and school, however, students with SEND can feel calmer, more confident and better prepared.



Why Exams Can Feel Harder for Young People with SEND

Pupils with SEND may experience:

- Increased anxiety due to unpredictability or fear of failure
- Difficulties with memory, processing speed or organisation
- Sensory sensitivities (noise, lighting, crowded halls)
- Fatigue from sustained concentration or masking
- Reduced confidence from previous academic challenges

These difficulties are not signs of a lack of effort. They reflect the additional cognitive and emotional load many young people with SEND carry every day.



How Parents and Carers Can Help

1. Keep expectations realistic and individual

Progress looks different for every child. Focus on *personal best* rather than comparison with peers or national benchmarks. Reinforce that success includes:

- Trying their best (be clear that this means their comfortable best)
- Attending exams
- Using strategies and support
- Caring for their wellbeing

Reducing pressure often leads to better outcomes.

2. Support revision in short, manageable chunks

Many pupils benefit from:

- Short revision sessions (10–25 minutes)
- One topic at a time
- Visual aids (mind maps, diagrams, colour coding)
- Talking through answers aloud

Break tasks down and celebrate completion of small steps. Frequent breaks can improve focus more than long study sessions.

3. Use familiarity and routine

Predictability helps reduce anxiety:

- Keep daily routines as consistent as possible
- Talk through exam day routines in advance
- Prepare equipment the night before
- Practise calming strategies regularly, not just on exam days

Knowing *what will happen next* is hugely reassuring.

4. Acknowledge anxiety and validate feelings

Statements such as:

- *"I can see this feels really hard for you"*
- *"It makes sense to feel anxious about exams"*

help young people feel understood. Avoid minimising worries, even when they seem small. Feeling listened to is often more helpful than being "fixed".



Exam Access Arrangements

If your child has exam access arrangements (such as extra time, rest breaks, a smaller room or a reader/scribe), reassure them that:

- These arrangements are normal and fair
- They are designed to support access, not give an advantage
- They can ask their Care and Achievement Co-ordinator, Head of School, Mrs Bramall or Miss Pegg if they need clarification or more information

Encourage your child to use their arrangements confidently—they are there to help them show what they know.

Sensory and Emotional Regulation

Some helpful strategies include:

- Encouraging comfortable clothing (within school guidelines)
- Deep breathing or grounding techniques
- Quiet downtime after school or exams
- Reduced demands at home during exam weeks

Energy is limited during this period, and recovery time is essential.

After Each Exam

Avoid analysing questions or answers in detail. For many pupils, post exam discussion can significantly increase anxiety. Instead:

- Acknowledge effort
- Shift focus to rest and recovery
- Remind them that one exam does not define the final outcome

When to Seek Extra Support

Contact school or external support if you notice:

- High levels of distress or panic
- School refusal linked to exams
- Shutdowns, meltdowns or emotional withdrawal
- Physical symptoms with no medical cause

Our Learning Support team or pastoral team can help adjust support, provide reassurance or offer additional strategies.



Upcoming Learning Support Events

Learning Support Review Evenings – Summer Term 2026

We're looking forward to welcoming families to our Summer Term Learning Support Review Evenings in June. These meetings are a valuable opportunity to reflect on progress, celebrate successes, and plan next steps together. Invitations to our booking system will be sent out just before May half term, and we encourage all parents and carers to attend.

Lower School (Year 7) – Tuesday 9th June (4pm – 7.30pm)

Middle School (Years 8 and 9) – Tuesday 16th June (4pm-7.30pm)

Upper School (Years 10) – Thursday 18th June (4pm-7.30pm)

You will receive communication via Arbor with a link to the booking portal.

Please do book your appointment as soon as possible to ensure you are allocated your preferred time slot.

Local offer

[East Yorkshire Parent Carer Forum \(EYPCF\)](#)

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.*



Midday Supervisory Assistant

7.5 hours per week, Mon-Fri

Term-time only

SCP3 £12.85 per hour

Closing Date: 29th April 2026

Apply: www.wlp.education



Stamford Bridge
Primary School

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Part of the Family.



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