



**Woldgate
School**

Of great merit, character & value

Part of the Family



Wonder
Learning Partnership
Educate | Empower | Engage | Enrich

Newsletter

ISSUE 440

Of great merit, character & value



Stretching Mathematical Minds: Opportunities for Our Most Able Mathematicians

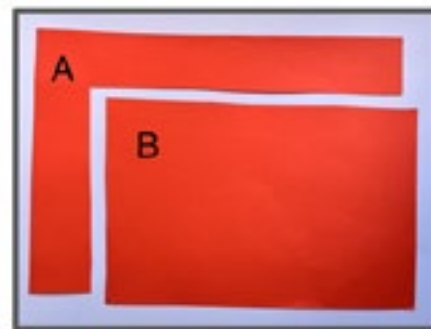
This summer term, our Maths Department has continued to incorporate exciting and challenging material into maths lessons for pupils who are eager to stretch themselves.



While mastering key mathematical skills is important for all learners, we also recognise the value of providing additional stretch and challenge for those with a particular aptitude and enthusiasm for mathematics.

Throughout the year, pupils have engaged with a range of enriching activities designed to develop problem-solving, logical reasoning and resilience. These challenges often require pupils to think creatively, apply their knowledge in unfamiliar situations and persevere when faced with complex problems.

These activities encourage pupils to explore different approaches, justify their thinking and appreciate the beauty and elegance of mathematics. From exploring number patterns to solving advanced logic problems, pupils have demonstrated impressive curiosity and determination.



A sheet of paper is cut in two. Which of the two pieces has the longest perimeter, A or B? Why?

Ace Taxis

£4 + £2 per mile

Best Taxis

£8 + £1 per mile

Cool Taxis

£4 per mile

Under which conditions is each taxi firm the cheapest?

One of the most important lessons these challenges teach is that success in mathematics is not simply about finding answers quickly. The most able mathematicians learn to embrace difficult problems, learn from mistakes and develop the perseverance needed to overcome obstacles. These skills are invaluable not only in mathematics but across all areas of learning and future careers.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, commitment and achievements shown by our pupils. Their willingness to take on demanding challenges reflects the positive culture of ambition and curiosity that continues to thrive within the Maths Department.

We look forward to providing more opportunities for mathematical exploration and enrichment in the coming academic year.

Maths Inspirational Lectures

On Tuesday 10th March 2026, Woldgate pupils embarked on an enriching visit to St George's Hall in Bradford, with a small cohort from Years 11 to 13 attending a series of mathematically inspiring talks. Upon arrival, pupils took time to admire the impressive architecture and grandeur of the venue while enjoying lunch nearby—temptingly close to a popular Subway.



The highlight of the day included a captivating presentation by Colin Wright (Cambridge PhD), who demonstrated that sequences are not always as straightforward as they first appear. In a truly memorable performance, Colin combined mathematics with live juggling, seamlessly explaining the connection between sequences and juggling patterns—without dropping a single ball.

In addition to this engaging session, pupils explored how data can be misleadingly represented in the media, gaining valuable insight into the importance of critically analysing graphs and statistics. Another fascinating talk drew connections between mathematics, physics, and music, revealing how concepts underpinning noise-cancelling headphones could just as easily place Simon and Garfunkel in the realm of physicists.

Both pupils and staff from the maths department were thoroughly impressed by the quality and variety of the talks, and we look forward to attending similar events in the future.

Why Practising Maths Over Summer Matters

As the summer holidays approach, it is important for pupils to continue engaging with mathematics to maintain and strengthen the skills developed throughout the academic year.

Regular practice helps prevent the loss of key knowledge—often referred to as the “summer slide”—and ensures that essential concepts such as algebra, geometry, and problem-solving remain fresh. By dedicating a small amount of time each week to maths, pupils can build confidence, deepen understanding, and return to school better prepared for the challenges ahead.

Consistent practice also supports independent learning habits, which are crucial for success in exams and future studies.

Fun and Engaging Maths Activities for Summer

To make maths practice enjoyable, here are a range of suitable activities:

1. Puzzle Challenges

- Try Sudoku, logic puzzles, or brainteasers.
- Work through online problem-solving challenges such as those on NRICH or UKMT-style questions.
- Challenge friends or family to solve puzzles together.



2. Maths in Games

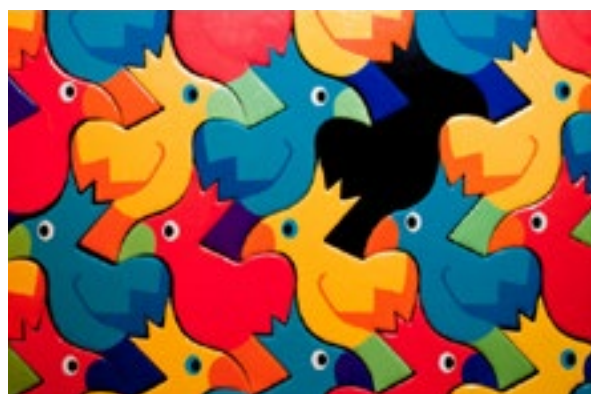
- Play strategy-based games like chess, Monopoly, or card games involving probability.
- Play a game of darts and keep track of the scores.

3. Real-Life Maths Practice

- Budget for a summer outing or holiday.
- Compare prices and discounts while shopping to practise percentage change.
- Plan a journey using distance, speed, and time calculations.

4. Data & Statistics Mini-Projects

- Collect data (e.g., daily temperatures, sports scores, or screen time).
- Present findings using graphs and calculate averages or trends.
- Analyse results and draw conclusions.



5. Creative Maths

- Design patterns using geometry or symmetry (e.g., tessellations).
- Explore coding basics (Python or Scratch) to understand logical thinking and sequences.
- Build models or structures that involve measurement and scale.

6. Learn Through Media

- Watch maths-related videos on YouTube channels such as Numberphile or Corbettmaths.
- Explore how maths is used in careers like engineering, architecture, or game design.

Just 20–30 minutes of maths practice a few times a week can make a significant difference. Keep it varied, keep it fun, and stay curious!

We wish all pupils a relaxing and rewarding summer break while continuing to explore the exciting world of mathematics.

Mr K. McCausland
Director of Studies for Maths





Headteacher's Welcome

As we continue through this spell of warm weather, I would like to commend our pupils and students for the exceptional way they have approached their learning. Despite the rising temperatures, they have remained positive and focused and demonstrated the values that we expect in our community.

In particular, I want to highlight the fantastic efforts of our Year 10 students. Their commitment to attending mock examinations has been exemplary, with attendance significantly higher than both local and national averages. This is a remarkable achievement and speaks volumes about their character and determination. I had the pleasure of speaking with them yesterday to share just how proud I am. They are building such solid foundations ahead of commencing Year 11, and we have every belief in what they can achieve next year and beyond.

A true highlight of the week has been the full launch of our production, *Nativity!*, which will take place towards the end of the Autumn term. It has been wonderful to see such strong numbers at the launch meeting and auditions, with pupils demonstrating confidence, teamwork and enthusiasm. Performing Arts remain a vital part of school life, and it is not too late to get involved - please encourage your child to speak to Mr Schofield, Mr Trevaskiss or Mr Chapman for further details.

We also look ahead to next week's Annual Awards Evening at York University's Central Hall. This is an opportunity for families across the school community to come together to celebrate the achievements of our young people. Invitations have been sent to the families of our award winners, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Thank you to families for your continued support in helping keep pupils comfortable this week and have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Adams
Headteacher



Learning Support Updates

Supporting Our Pupils: Using Support Tools Well

At school, our priority is to help every pupil feel safe, supported and able to engage positively with their learning. Some pupils benefit from additional support tools, and we work carefully with them to make sure these are helpful, appropriate and used in the best way.

Leave Early Pass

A Leave Early pass is designed to support pupils who may find busy corridors and stairways overwhelming, particularly at the end of lessons. For some young people, these moments can feel quite stressful, and having a quieter transition can make a big difference to their wellbeing.

As pupils grow in confidence and settle into school routines, many find that they no longer need this support. With this in mind, we will be reviewing the Leave Early pass list after half term to ensure that it remains in place for those who most need it.

We also gently remind pupils that the pass is there to support them, and it's important that it is used responsibly. Where it is not used as intended, we may need to reconsider its use so that it remains fair and effective for everyone.



Time Out Pass

A Time Out pass gives pupils the opportunity to take a short break from the classroom if they are feeling overwhelmed or need a moment to re-regulate. This is an important tool to support emotional wellbeing and help pupils return to learning ready and focused.

Time out should be:

- Brief (up to 5 minutes)
- Used when genuinely needed
- Spent in a safe, supervised area just outside the classroom

During this time, we encourage pupils to use simple strategies to help them calm and refocus, such as:

- Practising slow, steady breathing
- Standing quietly and taking a moment of reflection
- Leaning against the wall and grounding themselves
- Thinking through what they need to do next in the lesson

The goal of Time Out is to help pupils successfully return to learning as quickly as possible.

Fidget Tools and Concentration Aids

Some pupils find that small, discreet items can help them to focus during lessons, and we are happy to support this where it is genuinely beneficial.

To help maintain a calm and purposeful learning environment, we encourage the use of tools that are:

- Quiet and unobtrusive
- Not distracting to others
- Helpful in supporting focus and learning

Simple options such as a small piece of blue tack, a subtle fidget ring, or a scrap piece of paper or small notebook for doodling can work well.

We do ask that larger, noisier or more noticeable items are not brought into lessons, as these can unintentionally distract others. As always, these tools should be used in a way that supports, rather than disrupts, learning.

We really value your support in helping young people develop independence, self-awareness and positive learning habits. By working together, we can make sure all pupils feel comfortable, confident and ready to succeed.

Upcoming Learning Support Events

Learning Transition Coffee Morning

We are delighted to invite families of pupils who may require a little extra support as they prepare for the transition to secondary school to our **Learning Support Coffee Morning**.

This relaxed and friendly session is a great opportunity to:

- **Meet our Learning Support Team** and put faces to names
- Listen to a short **well-being talk** focusing on supporting pupils through transition
- **Meet our peer mentors**, who will share their experiences of starting secondary school
- Take part in a sensory circuits activity, designed to support regulation and readiness to learn
- Begin creating an individual **Learning Plan** tailored to your child's needs
- Work together on a **Pupil Passport**, helping staff understand how best to support your child from day one

This event is designed to provide reassurance, practical ideas, and a chance to build supportive relationships ahead of September.

We look forward to welcoming you for a chat, a coffee, and an opportunity to work together to ensure a positive and successful transition.

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.*



HAF
Holiday Activities & Food



YPC

**BE A PART OF HAF
THIS SUMMER!**

Make some fun memories this
summer by signing up to our HAF
sessions!

There are lots of exciting activities available for
young people aged 11-18, with free HAF spaces
for those eligible to receive benefits-related free
school meals, as well as paid spaces (£2-5).

Why not get active this summer by joining us in our
boxing, water activities and nerf wars sessions?
Or you could learn a new skill by getting creative with
graffiti art, music making, science workshops -
and more!

**Each session is 4 hours long and includes a hot
meal! - BOOKING IS REQUIRED!**



WHEN?

23rd July - 4th
September 2026

WHERE?

17 Railway Street,
Pocklington,
YO42 2QR



- Youth Boxing
- STEM Workshops
- Water Activities
- Graffiti Canvas Art
- Outdoor Theatre
- Nerf Wars
- Sculpture Making
- Music Making
- Trashion Show



To book your place and see our full timetable
scan the QR code above or visit: eequ.org

For more info:
youthworker@ypcount.org.uk



Meet our Pupil Care Team



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 7

Mrs F McDonough
year7@woldgate.net



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs L Cavanagh
safeguarding@woldgate.net



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 8

Mrs S Oliver
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Attendance Officer

Mrs R O'Brien
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Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 9

Mrs S Clark
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Attendance and Wellbeing

Mr J Marks
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Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 10

Mrs R Marsden
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Office Manager

Mrs A Charlton
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Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 11

Mrs L Cavanagh
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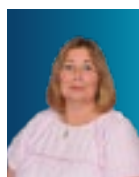
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Care & Achievement Coordinator: Sixth Form

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Care & Achievement Coordinator: Diabetic Care and First Aid.

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