

Newsletter

ISSUE 447

Of great merit, character & value



Spotlight on English

A new chapter

Why do we use Viking words every day? How has invasion, migration and storytelling shaped the language we speak? And how did English become English? These are the questions Year 7 pupils have been exploring as they begin their journey through our new concept-led English curriculum.



This topic – called How did English become English – introduces pupils to the extraordinary story of our language. By travelling through over 2,000 years of history, pupils discover how invasion, migration, trade and cultural change have shaped the words we speak today. Along the way, they learn that language is not fixed; it reflects the people, cultures and events that have influenced it over time.

A new concept-led curriculum

This year, Year 7 pupils are the first cohort to experience our new concept-led English curriculum.

Rather than simply moving from one text to another, pupils are exploring the big ideas that connect literature across time, place and culture. We want pupils to understand not only what writers say, but also how and why they communicate their ideas.

To achieve this, our curriculum is organised around two types of knowledge: substantive knowledge and disciplinary knowledge.

Substantive knowledge: The big ideas of English

Substantive knowledge refers to the important concepts that pupils encounter repeatedly throughout their study of literature and language. These concepts help pupils make connections between texts and understand what writers are trying to achieve.

Disciplinary knowledge: thinking like an English scholar

Disciplinary knowledge refers to the tools and methods that pupils use to read, analyse and communicate effectively. In simple terms, it is the knowledge required to do English well.





Developing oracy through Voice 21

This year we are continuing our work with Voice 21, placing high-quality classroom talk at the heart of learning.

In English lessons, pupils are taught that understanding develops through discussion. Before writing, they are regularly encouraged to explain, challenge and refine their ideas through structured talk.

Strategies used in lessons include:

- Consensus circles: pupils discuss an important question and work together to reach a shared conclusion, justifying their viewpoints with evidence and reasoning.
- Concept cartoons: pupils are presented with different viewpoints and debate which is most convincing, helping them to evaluate ideas critically.
- Structured discussion: Pupils regularly practise speaking in full sentences, building on the ideas of others and listening actively to alternative perspectives.

Homework and reading

Year 7 homework has been carefully designed to support pupils in the transition from primary to secondary school.

Homework tasks are:

- Linked directly to the topics studied in lessons.
- Reading-focused, helping pupils build knowledge and vocabulary.
- Structured around the primary reading domains that pupils are familiar with from Key Stage 2.
- Designed to develop comprehension, inference, retrieval and interpretation skills.

This means that homework is not an "extra" task. Instead, it reinforces curriculum learning and helps pupils become increasingly confident and independent readers.

When pupils are studying the development of English in class, their homework reading will connect to that topic. As they move on to myths, legends and storytelling later in the year, homework tasks will mirror these areas of study too.



THE BASICS



THE ESSAY



THE SENTENCE



THE STORY



THE WORD

Bringing learning to life: Jorvik Viking Centre

To enrich their study of How Did English Become English?, Year 7 pupils will take part in an exciting visit to York this December.

The trip includes visits to the JORVIK Viking Centre and DIG: An Archaeological Adventure, as well as a specialist workshop exploring Viking sagas and storytelling traditions.

The Viking saga workshop will connect directly to our English curriculum by introducing pupils to the rich oral storytelling traditions that helped preserve history, culture and values long before stories were written down. This learning will provide an important foundation for later work on myths, legends and narrative writing.

By bringing together language, history, archaeology and storytelling, the visit will help pupils see first-hand how the events of the past continue to shape the words we use today.



Presenting the next Woldgate musical

Nativity!

The Musical

Main Cast Rehearsals

Tuesday's After School (KU3) 3.30pm-5pm

Full Cast Rehearsals

Wednesday's After School (KU3) 3.30pm-5pm

Vocal Rehearsals with Mr Schofield

Wed, Thur, Fri Lunchtimes & Thur Registrations (KU1)

See schedule for details





Headteacher's Welcome

Supporting your child in preparing for their mock examinations.

As parents and carers, we play a vital role in helping our children navigate the challenges and opportunities of Year 11 and Sixth Form. While GCSE and post-16 mock examinations can feel daunting for both children, young adults and families, effective revision, strong routines and good wellbeing habits can help pupils and students approach this important year with confidence and resilience.

The most effective revision is often little and often. Encouraging your child to establish a regular routine, rather than relying on last-minute cramming, can make a significant difference. Short, focused revision sessions of 30 to 45 minutes, with regular breaks, are generally more productive than lengthy periods of study and can help learners feel more in control of their workload.

One of the best ways to support revision is to encourage active learning. Rather than simply reading notes, pupils and students should test themselves regularly, complete practice questions, use flashcards and revisit topics over time. These strategies help strengthen memory, build confidence and improve long-term retention of knowledge.

Creating the right environment at home can also be beneficial. A quiet space, clear routines and encouragement to minimise distractions can help pupils and students focus on their studies. Equally important is helping young people maintain a healthy balance between work and wellbeing. Regular exercise, a good night's sleep and time to relax are all essential components of effective preparation.





It is entirely normal for students to experience some worry before examinations. Parents and carers can help by reassuring their child that nerves are a natural response to a challenge and do not necessarily indicate a lack of readiness. Encouraging students to focus on the process, rather than the outcome, can help reduce pressure and build confidence.

There are also several practical calming techniques that students can use when they are feeling apprehensive:

- **Box breathing:** Breathe in for four seconds, hold for four seconds, breathe out for four seconds and hold again for four seconds. Repeating this cycle several times can help slow the heart rate and reduce feelings of anxiety.
- **The 5-4-3-2-1 technique:** Ask your child to identify five things they can see, four things they can touch, three things they can hear, two things they can smell and one thing they can taste. This grounds them in the present moment and can reduce anxious thoughts.
- **Positive self-talk:** Encourage students to replace negative thoughts such as "I'm going to fail" with more balanced statements such as "I have prepared well and will do my best."
- **Movement and fresh air:** Even a short walk can help break the cycle of stress and improve concentration.
- **Regular sleep routines:** Avoiding late-night revision and maintaining consistent bedtimes can improve both wellbeing and memory retention.
- **Breaking tasks into smaller steps:** Large revision tasks can feel overwhelming. Focusing on one topic or one set of questions at a time can make revision feel far more manageable.

Talking openly about worries can also help. A listening ear, reassurance and encouragement often make a significant difference. Try to celebrate effort, commitment and progress rather than focusing solely on grades. Building confidence throughout the year is just as important as academic preparation.

As a school, we encourage pupils and students to make full use of the revision materials, intervention sessions and support available from their teachers. Small, consistent steps taken now can have a significant impact on achievement next summer.

Most importantly, remind your child that examinations are an important milestone, but they do not define them as a person. With preparation, perseverance and support, every pupil and student can approach the examination season with confidence and resilience.

How Parents and Carers Can Help

- Encourage a regular revision timetable and good study habits.
- Help your child break revision into manageable chunks.
- Ask them to explain what they have learned; teaching others is a powerful revision tool.
- Support attendance at intervention sessions and revision activities.
- Promote healthy routines, including sleep, exercise and balanced nutrition.
- Encourage time away from screens and opportunities to relax.
- Practise calming techniques together when anxiety levels rise.
- Listen to concerns and reassure your child when they feel anxious.
- Celebrate effort, perseverance and progress, not just outcomes.

The Year 11 and Sixth Form journey is an important one, and your support makes a tremendous difference. By working together, we can help every pupil and Sixth Form student achieve their potential while maintaining their wellbeing throughout this important year.

Sixth Form mock examinations commence: 30th November 2026

Year 11 mock examinations commence: 14th December 2026

Jonathan Britton
Headteacher (Interim)

Key dates

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

October

- 12th-16th** Geography trip to Italy
- 15th** School closed to pupils
- Staff training day and preparation time for Open Evening
- 15th** Year 7 Parent Tutor Evening 4-7pm (online)
- 15th** Open Evening event for Year 5 and 6 pupils 4:30-7:30pm
- 15th** A Level Drama visit to York Theatre Royal
- 21st** Year 11- Every Second Counts Evening
- 21st-22nd** Year 13 History and Politics London visit
- 24th-31st** Half Term
- 28th** GCSE Drama Hull Truck visit



OPEN EVENING



**Thursday 15th October
4.30-7.30pm**



**Book your place
by visiting
www.woldgate.net**

SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES SEND EVENT

5pm, 13th October

Presentation Starts at 5.15pm

Location York College Learning
Support area 1st Floor.

ARE YOU READY TO LEAVE EDUCATION AND ENTER THE WORLD OF WORK?

This one-year transition programme
could be the perfect fit for you.

In partnership with employer
companies, our fantastic Supported
Internship programme is for any young
person with a current Education, Health
and Care Plan (EHCP).

The programme has been designed to
give young people the opportunity to
gain real-world work experience that
will help you gain marketable job skills,
independence and confidence, while
being supported and guided by a
tutor and job coach.

Contact [supportedinternships@
yorkcollege.ac.uk](mailto:supportedinternships@yorkcollege.ac.uk)

WWW.YORKCOLLEGE.AC.UK



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YORK**
COUNCIL



Safeguarding

School Nurse

Kerri Hutchinson, Specialist Community Public Health Nurse

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/f6yGCgzyFfvPKjFe?ref=Link>

Please see link for health and wellbeing advice we are sharing in form time and assemblies. Our School Nurse is in school each Monday and offers 1:1 meetings with pupils or students referred to her by the Care and Achievement Team and a drop in service available to all pupils and students during Monday lunch time.

Please see the following link for more information regarding the School Nurse Service and details of a health text line service they offer.

[School Nursing - East Riding Health Visiting and School Nursing - Connect NHS](#)



Text ChatHealth - 07507332891

Our confidential messaging service for young people aged 11-19 or up to 25 if you have special education needs and/or a disability. Texts are usually replied to within one working day. ChatHealth is available Monday - Friday 9am - 4.30pm (excluding Bank Holidays).

[Find out more](#)



These resources have been/are being shared with their children in assemblies and Tutor Time.

Your Year, Your Health, Your Future

A new term is a great time to try something new, build healthy habits and look after your wellbeing.

Small steps can make a big difference.

Here's some tips from your School Nurse Team on how to look after yourself this year:



Move Your Body

Moving your body can:

- ☒ Boost your mood
- ☒ Improve sleep
- ☒ Increase energy
- ☒ Help you focus in lessons



Things to try:

- Walk or bike your journey to school
- Join a club or sports team
- Dance to your favourite music for 15 minutes

Sleep Challenge

Did You Know?

Most teenagers need around 8-10 hours of sleep each night.

Four Sleep Tips:

- ☒ Put your phone away 30-60 minutes before bed
- ☒ Have a regular bedtime
- ☒ At night, keep your bedroom more on the cool side and dark
- ☒ Get some natural daylight after waking up

If you're struggling to reset after the summer try shifting your bedtime 15-30 minutes earlier each night.

Fuel Your Body

Quick healthy swap ideas for school:

- Sugary/cafeinated drinks → Water bottle
- Chocolate bars/sweets → Fruit and yoghurt
- Daily takeaway → Packed lunch a few times a week



Tip: Your brain needs energy and water to focus and learn. Eat regularly throughout the day and drink 6-8 glasses or more, to help!

Mind Matters

Looking After Your Mental Health

Try:

- Spending time with people that you trust
- Taking breaks from social media
- Getting enough sleep
- Spending time outdoors
- Build routines around school, such as homework, clubs, packing school bags, brushing teeth, getting a bath or shower and remember to include the things you enjoy!
- Ask trusted adults around you for help when needed.



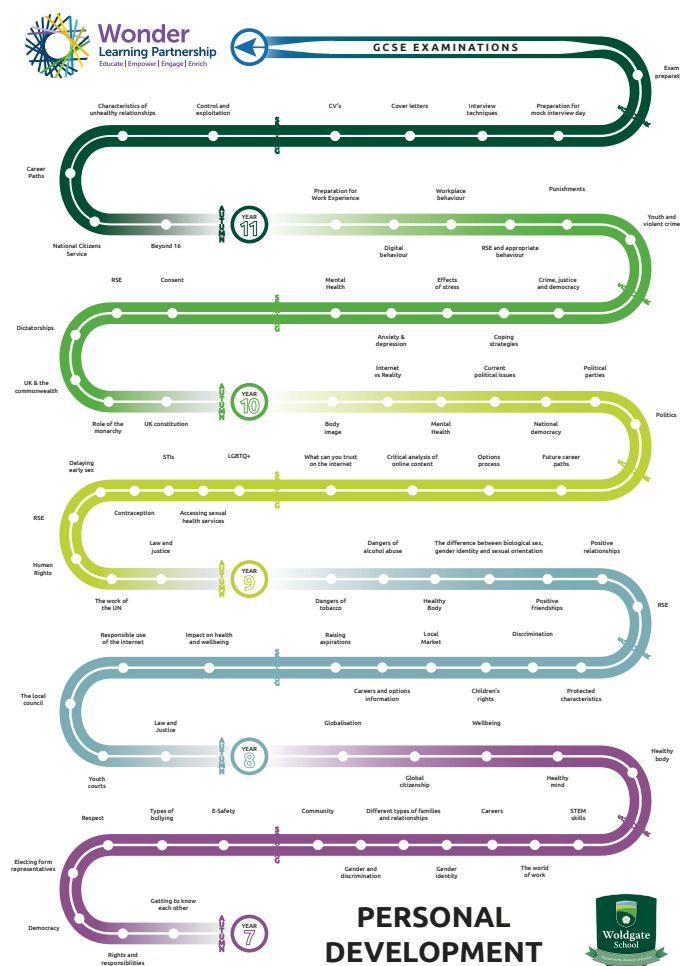


Personal Development

What is Personal Development?

Personal Development refers to the knowledge, concepts and skills that pupils need to learn to be able to navigate the world successfully and safely. Personal Development comprises of elements of Citizenship, PSHE, RSE (Relationships and Sex Education) and Careers and is split into 4 themes; Living in the outside world, sex and relationship education, careers and IAG as well as wellbeing.

As Year 7 settle in this half term, they are exploring the issue of rights and responsibilities in society. This topic will culminate in a look at the principles of democracy, which they will then put into practise by electing their form representatives.





Careers Update

On Wednesday 30th September we hosted our Year 11/12 careers fair. This was an opportunity for pupils and students to attend to listen the talks and learn more about what their post 16 and post 18 options could be. There were over 35 companies / institutions in attendance, with representatives on hand to give information and answer any questions that the pupils and students had. Pupils and students had the opportunity to hear about the range of options within Woldgate Sixth Form, as well as with the local Further Education providers. They were given information about A Levels, apprenticeships and T Levels. In addition to this, a range of universities were present as well as local and national employers. Feedback from the pupils and parents was really positive and the employers also commented on the quality and thoughtfulness of the questions asked of them.

Meet our Pupil Care Team



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 7

Mrs F McDonough
year7@woldgate.net



Attendance Officer

Mrs R O'Brien
01759 302395 Option 1
attendance@woldgate.net



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 8

Mrs D Ellis (Interim)
year8@woldgate.net



Attendance and Wellbeing

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



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 9

Mrs S Oliver
year9@woldgate.net



Office Manager

Mrs A Charlton
01759 302395
office@woldgate.net



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 10

Mrs S Clark
year10@woldgate.net



Office Assistant

Mrs V Mills
01759 302395
office@woldgate.net



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 11

Ms R Marsden
year11@woldgate.net



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Diabetic Care and First Aid.

Mrs L Kendra
lkendra@woldgate.net



Care & Achievement Coordinator: Sixth Form

Mrs E Fairhurst
07790 987137
sixthform@woldgate.net

Meet our Pupil Care Team

Heads of School



Head of Lower School

Mr J Williams



Transition Coordinator

Miss K Lindsey



Head of Middle School

Mr R Askoolum



Head of Upper School

Mrs I Atkinson



Head of Sixth Form

Miss K Smith

Safeguarding



Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs H Handley
safeguarding@woldgate.net



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs L Cavanagh
safeguarding@woldgate.net



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss K Smith
safeguarding@woldgate.net



Woldgate
School

www.woldgate.net

Part of the Family:



Wonder
Learning Partnership
Educate | Empower | Engage | Enrich

Casual Examinations Invigilator

Application Form: www.wlp.education

- Reliable and responsible colleague needed to join our examination invigilator team
- Play a key role in ensuring examinations are conducted in a fair, secure and controlled environment.
- All invigilators are employed on a casual basis and required to work during both internal mock and external examination periods throughout the academic year.
- SCP3 £12.85 p/h - SCP4 £13.05 p/h



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Part of the Family:



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Learning Partnership
Educate | Empower | Engage | Enrich

Care & Achievement Coordinator

37 hours per week, term time only

SCP11: £28,142 (Full time equivalent)

Closing date: 9am 12th October 2026

Apply: www.wlp.education



WE'RE HIRING

**SENIOR SCIENCE TECHNICIAN
&
SCIENCE TECHNICIAN**



Immediate start (subject to DBS check)

Senior Science Technician SCP6

Science Technician SCP4

Closing Date: Wednesday 14th October 2026

APPLY: WWW.WLP.EDUCATION



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