Woldgate School
Of great merit, character & value

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

ISSUE 449

Newsletter

Of great merit, character & value

Open Evening 2026

It was a privilege to be a part of the amazing Woldgate Team to welcome the families and members of our community into our school for Open Evening.

Mrs Atkinson
HEAD OF UPPER SCHOOL

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92 Kilnwick Road, Pocklington, York, YO42 2LL

It was lovely to greet the children at the door, with some looking excited at the prospect of entering a building quite different to their local primary schools. Our amazing Year 7 guides, volunteers, and staff soon made the evening a very enjoyable experience.

What was brilliant was at the end of the evening, although we had tired faces from the little ones, it was the feedback that the families had a great evening. They spoke, among other things, about the entertainment and drama in Kirby Underdale Block, the food in Technology, the exciting tasks in the various departments and the Science experiments! I looked on as they posted their 'passports' into the collection box, with fingers crossed in hope of winning the Sporting Equipment for their schools.

The families commended the staff for their enthusiasm for their subjects and the huge planning and preparation that went into this event. On behalf of all collegues, we thank the families for taking the time to come to see our school and we look forward to welcoming all our new pupils in September.

Lily's Equestrian Journey: Learning, Growing and Achieving

Since I was a little girl, I have always loved spending time with animals, especially horses. Two years ago, for my 13th birthday, I started horse riding at Howden Equestrian Centre. I ride Snickers, who is pictured here, and Lola. I love spending time with them and getting to know their different personalities.

During the summer holidays, I completed a two-day course to achieve my BHS (British Horse Society) Riding Centre Assistant Award. I learned how to groom horses properly, as well as the important yard rules and safety procedures that help keep everyone safe. I also had the opportunity to help out during some riding lessons, which was great fun! I really enjoyed learning new skills and spending even more time with the horses.

Horse riding has helped me become more confident and responsible, and I always look forward to my lessons every other week. Being around horses has always given me an amazing feeling, whether it's seeing donkeys on the beach or spending time with horses at the yard.

I hope to continue learning, developing my skills and improving my riding in the future.

Lily B

A weekend in the life of Lance Corporal Adams and Cadet Gray

Lance Corporal Adams and Cadet Gray are in the Army Cadet Force in Pocklington. Every week, they attend sessions in Pocklington and around England to plan, prepare and execute various exercises under the funding of several businesses and the Army. This past weekend was the Cadets Field Craft Camp.

Adams and Gray wrote:

In fieldcraft we do many different activities such as shooting, camouflage training and patrols. While training, we must really remain focused on many skills including how to shoot. Many think that you point and fire to your hearts content but no, in some cases, you will be taught how to fire like 2-3 rounds every 5 seconds. If you are lucky, you may be allowed to fire full magazines at a time.

In fieldcraft, we use camouflage cream, which is a form of face paint for the army. It is used to help break up the human face and skin to let you blend into the environment. We also cover our kit in foliage to blend us in with nature. While the light of day is disappearing, we often go out on patrol which is a way of us surveying the area and removing any potential threats.

It is great to practice the skills that we learn each week on weekends like this. As we continue to prepare for further events, we value the time and commitment taken by our leaders to teach us new skills and provide us with great experiences.

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy half-term, I would like to thank you, our fabulous parents and carers, for your kindness and support.

It has been a half-term full of great teaching and fabulous opportunities beyond the formal curriculum, as well as a highly successful Open Evening. These have included A-Level Drama enrichment visits, a wonderful Careers Fair, our Geography expedition to Italy to visit Vesuvius and Pompeii, the Year 13 History and Politics visit, and a wide range of opportunities provided by our PE colleagues. In addition, all our Year 7 pupils have participated in an enrichment activity and joined a club.

This wealth of opportunity helps to create lifelong memories, enables our children to explore and develop their talents, and provides experiences beyond the classroom. I am therefore very grateful to parents for your support, and to my wonderful colleagues for planning and leading these activities. They involve considerable time, commitment and responsibility, and that deserves both recognition and our thanks.

Our Open Evening was another highlight. We welcomed more than 800 visitors on the evening and now look forward to receiving applications from the 270 families who visited. I am particularly grateful to those parents who supported the wider school community by enabling their child to act as a guide or help with activities in lessons.

It was exciting to welcome visitors into our new school and to share the world-class facilities that are now complete or in the final stages of construction. Occasions such as this give us a genuine opportunity to celebrate all that is great about our school and to see the achievements of our children and colleagues through the eyes of our visitors.

I also hope our Year 7 parents found last week's settling-in Parents' Evening useful. Our tutors greatly valued the opportunity to speak with families and to support parents and children following their first few weeks of the new term.

Next half-term, we have our Sixth Form Open Evening, when we look forward to welcoming Year 11 students and their parents. Rehearsals for our production of Nativity will also be well underway as we prepare for the performance itself.

Finally, a reminder to parents of Year 13 students, and particularly Year 11 pupils, that revision at home should now be underway. I would refer parents to the newsletter from a fortnight ago, which included guidance on how effective revision can be planned and undertaken. Mrs Atkinson will also be contacting parents with information about our forthcoming Study Skills Days, which will support families in preparing for mock and final examinations.

I do hope that, over the half-term break, you find time to relax and enjoy being together as a family. I look forward to welcoming our children back to school, as normal, on 2nd November.

With my very best wishes,

Jonathan Britton
Headteacher (Interim)

Key dates

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

October

24th-31st ..... Half Term
28th ..... GCSE Drama Hull Truck visit

November

4th ..... Year 11 Study Skills Evening
5th ..... A Level Film Festival visit
10th ..... Primary Maths Challenge
12th ..... Sixth Form Open Evening
21st ..... Nativity Full Cast Rehearsal
26th ..... Year 11 Parents' Evening
27th ..... Sixth Form Taster Day
28th ..... Nativity! Band Rehearsal
29th ..... Nativity! Full Cast Rehearsal
30th Nov-11th Dec ..... Year 13 Mock Exams

December

1st ..... Y7 Learning Support Review Evening 3.40-5.30
1st, 2nd, 3rd ..... Nativity! Performances
8th ..... History of English visit to Jorvik
8th ..... Y8 and Y9 Learning Support Review Evening 3.30- 5.30
10th ..... Y10 and Y11 Learning Support Review Evening 3.30-5.30
10th ..... Y13 Parents Evening
14th ..... Y11 Spoken Language Day- English
14th & 16th ..... History of English visit to Jorvik
17th ..... Mathstravaganza
17th ..... Christmas Concert at All Saints Church 7.30-9.30
21st Dec-3th Jan ..... Christmas Holiday

January

4th ..... Staff Training Day (school closed to pupils)

Safeguarding

Halloween and Bonfire Night: Keeping young people safe

As Halloween and Bonfire Night approach, many young people look forward to spending time with friends, dressing up and enjoying seasonal celebrations. While these events can be great fun, they can also bring additional risks, particularly as evenings become darker and many activities take place outdoors. Planning and awareness can help ensure everyone enjoys the festivities safely and responsibly.

Staying safe at Halloween

Halloween often involves trick-or-treating, parties and spending more time out with friends after dark. Please take time to discuss expectations and arrangements with your child before they head out.

Road safety

- Encourage young people to stick to well-lit areas and travel with friends rather than alone.
- Remind them to stay alert when crossing roads and avoid using mobile phones while walking near traffic.
- Consider adding reflective accessories, glow sticks or reflective tape to costumes and clothing to help increase visibility.

Costumes and face coverings

- Ensure costumes fit properly and do not create a trip or fire hazard.
- Choose face paint instead of masks where possible, as masks can restrict vision.
- Take care with costume accessories or props, particularly anything that could be mistaken for a weapon.

Social media and personal safety

- Agree meeting points, collection arrangements and return times in advance.
- Encourage your child not to share their live location publicly on social media.
- Remind them never to enter a stranger's home or vehicle.
- Ensure they know who to contact if plans change or they feel unsafe.

Respecting our community

Halloween should be enjoyable for everyone. We ask all young people to be respectful of local residents and their property.

- Avoid pranks that could cause distress, damage or alarm.
- Be considerate of younger children, older residents and pets who may find Halloween activities unsettling.

Bonfire Night safety

Fireworks and bonfires can be spectacular, but they must always be treated with care. Every year, preventable accidents occur because of unsafe use of fireworks or a lack of supervision.

Choose organised displays where possible.

Attending a professionally organised display is often the safest option. These events are managed by experienced organisers and have appropriate safety measures in place, allowing families to enjoy the occasion without the risks associated with handling fireworks themselves.

Firework safety

If attending a private display:

- Only adults should handle fireworks.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully.
- Store fireworks in a closed container and use them one at a time.
- Never return to a firework that has failed to ignite.
- Keep a bucket of water or sand nearby.
- Ensure spectators remain at a safe distance throughout the display.

Bonfire Safety

- Build bonfires well away from buildings, fences and overhead cables.
- Check carefully for wildlife, particularly hedgehogs and other animals, before lighting.
- Never use petrol, paraffin or other flammable liquids to start or revive a fire.
- Keep children and pets away from the bonfire area at all times.

Sparklers

Although sparklers may seem harmless, they can reach temperatures hot enough to cause serious burns.

- Children should always be closely supervised.
- Hold sparklers at arm's length.
- Consider wearing gloves when handling sparklers.
- Place used sparklers in a bucket of water and allow them to cool completely before disposal.

Safety reminders:

Many secondary-aged pupils will spend time with friends over the Halloween and Bonfire Night period. Please encourage your child to:

- Stay with trusted friends.
- Let you know where they are and how they can be contacted.
- Contact a parent, carer or trusted adult if plans change.
- Plan how they will get home safely.
- Look out for one another and seek help if someone is injured or feels unsafe.

By making sensible choices and showing consideration for others, young people can enjoy the celebrations safely while helping to keep our communities safe too.

We wish all our families a safe, enjoyable and memorable Halloween and Bonfire Night. Please encourage your child to look after themselves, their friends, and to enjoy the celebrations responsibly.

Safeguarding

Keeping Our Children Healthy This Winter:

During the colder months, we typically see a rise in common winter illnesses. These infections are the leading cause of school absences. While some illnesses can't be avoided, many can be reduced through simple, proactive steps that limit the spread of germs.

Evidence shows that vaccination, regular cleaning, good hand hygiene, and proper ventilation all help reduce the spread of viruses. By working together, families and schools can help keep pupils healthier, learning in class, and attending school more regularly throughout winter.

Professor Russell Viner, Chief Scientific Adviser at the Department for Education, shared seven practical actions schools and families, can take to reduce illness this season. Professor Viner is a clinical paediatrician, a professor at UCL Great Ormond St. Institute of Child Health, and former President of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

1. Supporting Good Attendance: What Parents Can Do

The NHS provides clear guidance on when children are well enough to attend school. Most mild symptoms do not require children to stay home, unless they have a temperature.

When Your Child Can Go to School

Children can usually attend school if they have:

- **A mild cough or cold**
  If they have a runny nose, slight cough, or are just "under the weather," it's generally fine for them to be in school.
- **A sore throat**
  A sore throat without a high temperature is usually safe, and children can often still go to school.

- **Headache**
  Mild headaches aren't usually a reason to stay home.

In many cases, children recover more quickly with routine, fresh air, and gentle activity.

Support good attendance by:

Checking NHS guidance when unsure whether your child should stay home. https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

Scheduling routine medical appointments outside school hours whenever possible. If an appointment must take place during the day, please bring your child to school before and return them afterwards if they are well enough.

2. Vaccinations: Protecting Pupils and the School Community

Vaccinations are one of the most effective ways to protect children from flu and other preventable illnesses. If your child missed the opportunity for a flu vaccine, please contact your GP, health visitor, or the school nurse. Continue to check any updates the school shares about vaccination dates or catch-up clinics.

3. Handwashing: A Simple but Powerful Habit

Regular handwashing significantly reduces the spread of germs, especially those that cause stomach bugs. Schools reinforce handwashing routines, and you can help by encouraging these habits at home; particularly before eating, after using the toilet, and after play.

4. "Catch It, Bin It, Kill It": Encouraging Good Respiratory Hygiene

Coughs and sneezes can spread infections quickly, but simple habits make a big difference:

- **Catch it:** Use a tissue to cover the nose and mouth.
- **Bin it:** Dispose of tissues immediately.
- **Kill it:** Wash hands straight after.
- **No spitting:** It spreads germs.

These small actions help protect everyone.

Healthy Habits: Small Reminders with Big Impact

Children benefit from gentle reminders about how to stay healthy. Schools reinforce this through daily routines, posters, and lessons on wellbeing, hygiene, and healthy lifestyles. Parents and carers can help by talking to children about why these habits matter, especially during winter.

A Final Note

With simple, coordinated efforts between home and school, we can reduce the spread of winter illnesses, support pupil wellbeing and help children stay in school and learning. Thank you for partnering with us to keep our school community healthy this winter.

Meet our Pupil Care Team

Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 7

Mrs F McDonough
year7@woldgate.net

Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 8

Mrs D Ellis (Interim)
year8@woldgate.net

Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 9

Mrs S Oliver
year9@woldgate.net

Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 10

Mrs S Clark
year10@woldgate.net

Care & Achievement Coordinator: Year 11

Ms R Marsden
year11@woldgate.net

Care & Achievement Coordinator: Sixth Form

Mrs E Fairhurst
07790 987137
sixthform@woldgate.net

Attendance Officer

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

Attendance and Wellbeing

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

Office Manager

Mrs A Charlton
01759 302395
office@woldgate.net

Office Assistant

Mrs V Mills
01759 302395
office@woldgate.net

Care & Achievement Coordinator: Diabetic Care and First Aid.

Mrs L Kendra
lkendra@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

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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

Stamford Bridge Primary School

www.stamfordbridgeschool.co.uk

Part of the Family:

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Teaching Assistant Level 2

SCP5 | 32.5 hours per week | Term time only | Fixed term contract to 31/08/2027

Closing date 12 noon 11th November 2026 | Apply: www.wlp.education

Pocklington Junior School

www.pocklingtonjuniors.co.uk

Part of the Family:

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Teaching Assistant Level 2

SCP5 £26,427 (pro rata)

Term time only I Mon-Fri

30 hours pw I 8.15am-3.15pm

Closing Date: 8am 3rd November 2026

Interview w/c: 9th November 2026

Apply: www.wlp.education