

# 60 seconds with SLT

SLT stands for Senior Leadership Team. They are the people you see and speak to in the corridors every day (the ones with the bright yellow jackets). Sometimes, they will come to your classroom when you have a Positive BFL, or they will come to check that you are being 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'. Not only that, but they also look after you and your learning by working hard when you have gone home from school too.

## Mrs Kell - Head of Nunthorpe Academy.

Mrs Kell is a Rugby Union supporter, with her local team being Stockton Rugby Club. She also supports Leicester - where she went to university and where she used to play scrum half. She told us that although she didn't play that well, she enjoyed it and that is all that matters. Mrs Kell enjoys reading, swimming, gardening, and painting. Her favourite takeaway food is chicken madras, tarka dhal and peshwari naan.



We asked Mrs Kell what the best part of her job was. She said: "Seeing students and staff achieve something that they thought they could not do. Celebrating their achievement and feeling proud, rather than embarrassed, that they have 'been the best version of themselves that they can be' and celebrating successes no matter how small." We asked Mrs Kell if she could describe herself in three words, but she said set us the challenge to do it instead. We think she is kind, organised and hardworking.



## Mr Armstrong - Assistant Vice Principal – Achievement (Open) & Character 11-19

Mr Armstrong is also a rugby fan and a rugby player. Like Mrs Kell, his local team is Stockton. He has lots and lots of hobbies, especially outdoor hobbies, like camping, walking, travelling and taking a car on the tracks. His favourite takeaway is veggie supreme pizza.



Mr Armstrong told us his favourite part of his job is working with children that are learning new things. We also asked Mr Armstrong to describe himself in three words, but he gave us homework too and asked us to describe him. We would describe him as helpful, generous, and humorous. **(IR and BS)**

## Student Takeover Edition...

*What a start to the year!*

# Mrs Kell, Head of School

## Happy half term everyone!

We have had an incredibly positive start to the year with 260 new Year 7 students joining us, one Year 8, 9 and 10, plus 57 students progressing to our Sixth Form. Students are looking incredibly smart and getting involved in all learning and personal development opportunities, a detailed breakdown of half term 1 will be shared alongside this student edition to inform you of student progress and opportunities from the last eight weeks. We hope you enjoy our students voice!!



Following the recent Ofsted we have taken on board all feedback and have developed an action plan with 4 key Academy priorities including three key learning priorities. We also noted the small proportion of parental/carer feedback, in order for us to have greater understanding please could you take the time to complete the survey using the link below, students have already shared their views with thoughtfulness and maturity, so we are now requesting yours :

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSexPned-ZCzn8XSDsZp3\\_bjAwm6QBrfzDaDEmxf\\_MHU8ueR1Q/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSexPned-ZCzn8XSDsZp3_bjAwm6QBrfzDaDEmxf_MHU8ueR1Q/viewform?usp=sf_link)

We have now received official approval from the DfE for Nunthorpe Academy to join the **Areté Learning Trust** and are very much looking forward to this new journey. Go to <https://www.areteltr.com/> for more information on the Trust and to follow the news.

“Whilst, Nunthorpe Academy is already an Associate Member of our Trust and we are providing school improvement support this term, we now expect to welcome Nunthorpe Academy (officially) into ALT by January 2025! We are really excited about having Kate Kell (Headteacher) and her staff join the ALT team, so that together we can strive for excellence to ensure that every learner is inspired and enabled to be the best they can be.”



# Student Takeover...

In this issue of @Nunthorpe magazine, you may notice that there has been a ‘student takeover’. Many of the articles were written by Project Based Learning students as part of our focus on journalism.

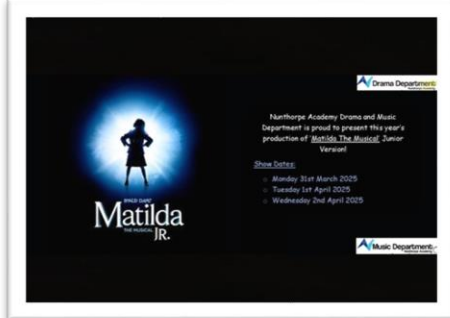
We did the research, interviewing and writing – as well as some of the photography. When studying journalism, we learned about the history of newspapers and important issues like ethics. We also practised our news-writing skills. It was very interesting, but it was also really challenging. For example, we struggled to decide what to include in our articles.

We are writing for this issue of @Nunthorpe magazine to help Year 7 students learn more about the people, projects, and positivity at our Academy. Students can contribute to Nunthorpe Academy’s future in lots of different ways: you can join our School Council, Anti-Bullying Group, or any club of your choice. If you like this issue, and have an idea for an article, speak to your form tutor or teacher, as they can contact the editor for you. **(FF)**



## And... Action!

Get ready for *Matilda The Musical 2025!* Nunthorpe Academy is excited to present this year’s production of *Matilda*, with rehearsals already in full swing. Evening performances are scheduled for Monday 31st March, Tuesday 1st April, and Wednesday 2nd April 2025. Ticket information will be available later this year. We can’t wait to welcome you to the show!



## Student Success!

Congratulations to Poppi (Year 8) and Scarlett (Year 7) for their incredible adventure performing on the West End stage recently. What an amazing achievement! Have any of our students participated in competitions or events outside of the Academy? We’d love to see your photos—don’t forget to share them with us!



# Team Year 7!

At Nunthorpe Academy we have a pastoral team in each year group. They help with everything from rewards to if you're feeling poorly. With Year 7 students having just joined the school, we decided to chat to their pastoral leaders Mrs Carter and Mrs Foster about themselves and their role.

Mrs Carter is excited to be a part of the new Year 7 team with new tutors. She is learning the names of over 200 new students who are part of her year group - what a job! She said: "I am very excited for my year team to be the best!". When she is not at work, she enjoys walking her dog, reading, and going to the cinema. In addition, she loves spending time with her family.

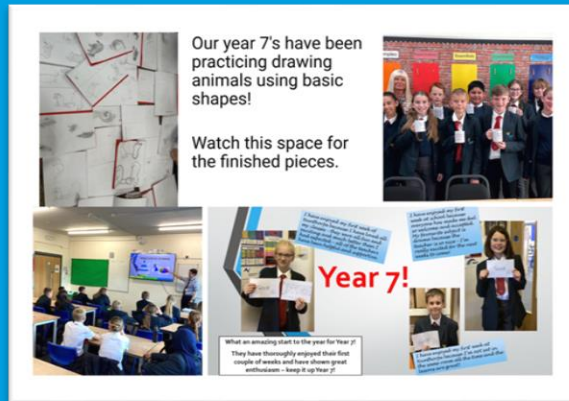
Mrs Forster feels lucky to be a part of the 'Invincible' (Red) Team. She has already started on her first challenge of getting to know all of her students. She said: "I will be excited to watch students flourish and grow in confidence." In her spare time, Mrs Forster enjoys supporting her favourite team: Middlesbrough Football Club. She also likes walking, eating out and travelling with her family. Her family has a garden centre, which has been in the family for over 80 years, and she helps out there too. She's a very busy lady! **(AA and YM)**



# Strong Start for Year 7!

We are incredibly proud of our Year 7 students for their fantastic start to school life! They have settled in remarkably well, demonstrating enthusiasm and commitment. With an impressive 95% attendance rate and an outstanding total of 205,220 positive praise points accumulated so far, their dedication and positive attitude have truly shone through.

We are excited to see them continue to grow and excel throughout the year. Well done, Year 7! Keep up the fantastic work!



# Books galore and so much more...

Have you ever visited the library at Nunthorpe Academy? If not, make sure to check it out. The library is in the ELZ and is run by Mr Simpson. If you can't find it, look for Doctor Who's TARDIS and you're in the right place.

The library has a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books. From this year, it will also offer anime and comic books too! As well as reading, you can play chess, draughts, or other board games in the library.

If you're not sure what to read, you can chat to Mr Simpson or one of the student librarians. There are lots of titles to choose from, so there will be something you like. We asked Mr Simpson what his favourite book series is. He said: "This is a hard one! I'd say 'The Hunger Games'. The movies are great too." If you haven't read it before, you can find the full series in the library.

You can go to the library Tuesday to Thursday from 3:00pm until 4:00pm and on Friday from 3:00pm until 3.30pm. But don't worry if you can't stay after school. The library is open at

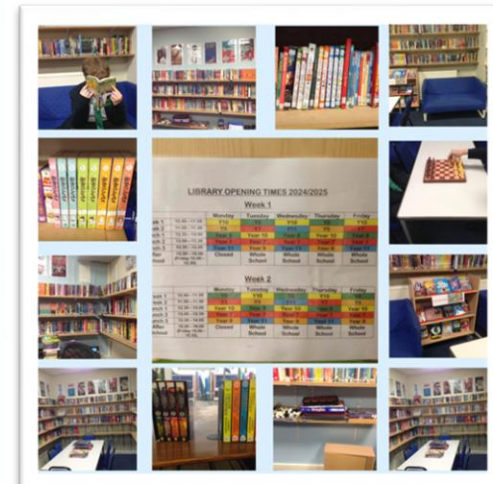
break time and lunch time too for each year group.

# Welcome to Nunthorpe!

A big thank you to everyone involved in making last month's Welcome to Nunthorpe event such a success! It was a lively and exciting evening, filled with a great atmosphere throughout the building. We hope all parents, carers, and students found the event informative and enjoyable!



We had one final question for Mr Simpson: what is a book that everyone should read (apart from The Hunger Games, of course)? Mr Simpson suggested one of his favourite dystopian novels: 'Brave New World' by Aldous Huxley. **(DBT and MM)**



# All for a great cause!

Here at Nunthorpe Academy, we care about helping people locally, nationally, and internationally. In the past, the Project Based Learning groups have hosted events for students, but we went for a twist this time. In July, we hosted a charity event for staff only, it was to say thank you during 'Wellbeing Week'.

Hosted in the staff room, we offered cakes, doughnuts, muffins, meringues, and cupcakes. We received the cakes from donations, but instead of charging for the cakes, we asked for donations to charity. This was great because staff generously donated more money than we would charge for the cakes. The chosen charities were Moving Windmills (in Malawi) and Bryson's Animal Shelter (a local charity). The chosen charities were linked to our Project Based Learning, and we raised £144.62 in cash. This is on top of the £236.49 raised for Water Aid the year before.

In preparation for the event, we had to contact everyone from the Site Manager to the Head of School to get permission. We had a meeting about health and safety, and we created all of our own advertising. It took a lot of hard work, but it was worth it. We gave out stickers to staff to show our appreciation for their support and sent cards and letters of thanks to everyone who helped us to make it a success.

But this was not the only charity event in the summer term. Mrs Murray and Team Alliance also held a super Summer event: an ice lolly sale!

Sexual orientation is a protected characteristic and is therefore an area that Mrs Murray and the students who form Team Alliance try to educate our students about. They have established a strong connection with the local charity Hart Gables, which aims to spread awareness and give support to those within the LGBT+ community.

Mrs Murray said: "By doing the event, it supports those in the Academy who are a part of this community. This helps to create awareness amongst our students and it also helps to raise funds for Hart Gables so they can continue with their amazing work supporting those who are vulnerable."

You may be wondering how she came up with the event. Mrs Murray explained that it gave students the chance to purchase something different when the weather is hot! The team sold multiple lollies, including rocket lollies, traffic light lollies and Cornettos. We wondered what Mrs Murray's favourite ice cream is and said it was bubblegum! The sale raised an amazing £180 for Hart Gables. Mrs Murray will no doubt repeat the event next year. **(OW and KT)**



# Building a bridge...

At the front of the school, next to the main office is Nunthorpe Academy's very own, The Bridge. Here, Mr Jackson and Mrs Fish work to support students who might be having a tough time at school.

We asked Mrs Fish and Mr Jackson to tell us more about the wonderful work they do. Mrs Fish said: "Children at The Bridge may experience emotional or/and behavioural issues and the staff are there to support them."

The Bridge team practises Thrive, which is a holistic approach to help children with the wellbeing and social skills that are needed to enable learning to take place - which is very important.

Lots of different tasks take place at The Bridge – ranging from academic activities to just-for-fun times, such as Play-Doh creations, relaxing reading and using sensory toys. Students can sometimes take part in off-site events and take on responsibilities, like gardening.

We think it is a brilliant safe space for children who need to use it. Thank you, Mrs Fish and Mr Jackson! It's good to know there will be a Bridge if you ever need it. **(CA)**

# Sound of Music...

Our GCSE Music students went to see Wicked at Sunderland Empire recently and had a fantastic time! The experience allowed them to see a professional musical production, enhancing their understanding of musical theatre and its elements. The students thoroughly enjoyed the performance, gaining inspiration and insights that will undoubtedly enrich their studies.



# A space for you!

Do you ever feel the need for some quiet time at school? If you do, you can go to our Safe Space. We know lots of students are curious to know more about this, so we spoke to Miss Dixon as she organises the Safe Space. Miss Dixon is a teacher, form tutor and Director of Student Leadership at Nunthorpe Academy.

“The ‘Safe Space is a quiet and peaceful location for students to have a break and clear, their mind,” Miss Dixon told us. She explained: “It is quieter than the dining room, which might suit students who don’t like loud noises or large crowds”. You can do lots of things at the Safe Space. They have board games that you can play, you can do a wordsearch or relax with colouring sheets. Sometimes you can do cool crafts as well.

Safe Space offers much more than this. Miss Dixon said: “It also helps if a student needs to chat to someone about any friendship or bullying issues, or if they just want to connect and make new friends.” At Safe Space, there are Anti-Bullying Ambassadors present if anyone needs help or advice. At the moment, the Safe Space runs at lunchtime on days when Miss Dixon and her classroom (L2) are available. She is trying to find ways to make more space and time available.

Everybody is welcome to attend the Safe Space, but people with a sticker in their planner will be given priority. If you do not have a sticker, you may still be able to attend, depending if there is space. There are also expectations for behaviour to ensure that Safe Space stays a nice place. If you would like to try the Safe Space, ask your tutor about the days your year group can attend.

If you want to know more about Safe Space, please email Miss Dixon. **(WH and ARV)**

# The Wright Book Club

Do you like to read? Do you like sharing your ideas about what you have read? Do you want to chat about books with others? Maybe you should try a book club.

In Inclusion, we have ‘The Wright Book Club’ after school where we read a book that Miss Wright has chosen. The club runs every Monday from 3.15 to 4:00pm. At the Book Club, Miss Wright starts by reading and then if people want to, they can read out loud too. If not, we can just listen. If some students are absent, we may watch a movie or play Uno. We also have snacks and drinks. Once a book is finished, we can give Miss Wright book ideas and she might select the best one for us to read, but it has to be kind of chunky. Right now, we are reading a book called Blue.

The best thing about Book Club is that everyone gets a chance to read and share what they think. It’s better than reading on your own (or to the wall). Before we turn the page, you get to think and chat about what happens next. Why don’t you see if there are any book clubs in your year group or local community? **(ET)**

# Sport @ Nunthorpe

It has been an exciting Summer for sport and what better way to start the year than to talk to Nunthorpe Academy’s Mr Bunn about past successes and possibly get some PE spoilers.

## We are curious - what is your favourite sport?

“My favourite sport is athletics. I got involved when I was 11 and it provided me with lots of opportunities to compete against the country’s best performers, make lots of new friends and it provided a pathway in sport. This certainly helped me get my dream job of becoming a PE teacher. I now run County teams that compete at National level and have recently just come back from the English School Championships. For this, I get the honour of working with our best athletes and seeing the best athletes in the county, many of whom go on to represent the country at the Olympics and World Championships.”

## What successes have already happened so far in 2024?

“We have had many successes with our teams, including five of the seven football teams winning the Middlesbrough Leagues. Indoor athletics teams performed well, with three

qualifying for the Tees Valley Championships. Our Year 8 basketball team won the bronze medal in the NBA Junior North East Championships. Many athletes gained national medals or represented England in their chosen activity.”

## What’s happening this year in PE?

“There will be many changes to the curriculum. One area we are looking at is the inclusion of international sports, so watch this space. We are also hoping to have more rewards, including visits, to celebrate the many successes in PE.”

Thanks, Mr Bunn. Sounds like it’s going to be an exciting year! **(AJ and AL)**

# Nunthorpe Alumni!

It was an absolute pleasure having ex-student Ben Suggitt back in last week to talk to Year 13 about his journey into the Fire Brigade. Ben left Nunthorpe Academy in 2022 and we were so pleased that he returned to give us a great insight into his career.

The students really appreciated Ben’s time especially with him coming in straight from a night shift to present! Thanks again Ben and keep up the excellent work!



# Making a difference!

## Use Your Voice

As a student at Nunthorpe Academy, you can get involved in activities like School Council and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors. This is how you can make a difference.

The School Council gives an opportunity to students to have their say on what happens within the Academy. The Council is also about creating positive relationships for people within our local community. For example, the School Council holds various events during the year - such as the D-Day Celebration when they went to a local care home and met people who lived at the time of D-Day. As Miss Dixon, who organises the School Council, says: "They are the face of the school and try to support events and charities in our area." Any student from Year 7 to Year 13 can join the School Council. There is no need to apply - you just need to turn up and see what it is all about. However, the Council asks for students to come to most meetings and to take part in most events.

## Buddying - Not Bullying

Miss Dixon started the Anti-Bullying Group in 2019. She wanted to make people aware of how bullying made people feel and the damage it can cause. Miss Dixon really wants the students in our school to feel safe. The aim of the group is to create a positive, warm culture where bullying has no place to thrive. Miss Dixon says: "We make students aware that there are different types of bullying. We have displays in school, anti bullying assemblies and discussions in lessons regarding bullying and the damage it can cause." Miss Dixon and the team are passionate about every student feeling safe and welcome in our school. Last year, Miss Dixon and 10 students went on an anti-bullying training course run by the Diana Foundation. The students had a brilliant time whilst gaining lots of knowledge.

## Interested?

Both of these fantastic projects are run by Miss Dixon in L2. The School Council meeting takes place every Tuesday of Week 1 from 3:00 – 4:00pm.

Please speak to Miss Dixon to learn more about the Anti-Bullying Ambassador programme. **(GG and LC)**



# After School Club!

Have you ever thought about going to an after-school club? After-school clubs are helpful for students who want to try something different, meet new people and learn new things. There are lots of clubs on offer at Nunthorpe, so go to a club that you like and help others to get the most from the club too. One of the most popular clubs is Miss Bond's 'Board Games Club'. It takes place every Thursday in M3 until 4:00pm. We were curious about this club, so we asked Miss Bond some questions to get to learn more.

## What gave you the idea of doing this club?

"I love playing board games and I wanted to share that experience with other people. It's also a great way to meet people in the school who perhaps you wouldn't normally talk to."

## How many students do you get every week?

"Around 5 – 10 students. It depends on what's happening in the school. When exams are on, it's quieter. I'm hoping to attract more people to play. Everyone is welcome."

## What is the most popular game you get asked to play?

"One of the favourites is Carcassonne. It's set in the French countryside and involves laying picture tiles to build towns and roads and then claiming them as your own. The person with the most points at the end wins."

## What are the benefits of your club?

"You can meet new people, have a laugh and test your thinking. Hopefully, it will encourage more people to take up board gaming at home too."

Thank you for those great answers, Miss Bond. If you have any questions about her club, please email her. Check out your tutor noticeboard to learn more about other clubs too.

**(OB and LB)**

# Yellow everywhere!

On Friday 11th October, staff and students at Nunthorpe Academy came together to raise awareness for Mental Health by wearing yellow. This simple yet powerful gesture highlighted our commitment to supporting and promoting mental health awareness within our community. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and contributed to this important cause.

