



Nunthorpe
Academy

24 October 2024

Dear Parent(s) /Carer(s)

Pastoral Half Term Highlights for Year 7-11 for Half Term 1 2024-25

We have had a packed first half term and are delighted to share with you an overview of some of the exciting events that have happened over the last six weeks from a Pastoral perspective; we are very proud of how hard our students have worked so far this academic year. We have also added a few key reminders.

As you can see, a lot of amazing things have or are about to take place - you may wish to get comfy with a warming drink before reading! We will share our pastoral update with you each half term.

Assemblies

Over the last half term the students have experienced a wide variety of topics through our academy assemblies. Firstly, their behaviour and conduct during these important sessions has been wonderful, particularly when we have had the pleasure of external speakers and presenters. We hold our collective reflection at the end of every tutor time and assembly, where we pause for one minute to consider the thought for the day.

Mrs Kell began our series of assemblies with a 'welcome' and a theme of perception, focussing on how we are as well as how we wish to be perceived by others. This was followed with assemblies by senior leaders and the Pastoral teams, exploring respect as well as celebrating the great start to the year so far. The importance of Black History Month was shared with students, as well as specific assemblies for Year 11 on the importance of their final year at the academy and the launch of the Prom Passport.

During Well-Being Week, we had the pleasure of hosting Head Start, who spoke to students regarding the importance of mental health - signposting them to where they can get help if they need it and offering them the opportunity to participate in workshops as a Head Start Leader. In addition to this, KS4 students were given information about their upcoming work experience placements (Year 10) and future career paths including our Sixth Form Open Evening (Year 10 and 11).

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Ready, Respectful, Safe





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Finally, Year 13 Senior Student Leaders, Miss Dixon and I delivered assemblies celebrating our student leadership body, sharing details of our new Student Leadership programme. Students in Year 9 have been given the opportunity to apply for the new role of Student Leader. Applications for this can be submitted in any form or creative way including: a piece of art, a vlog, blog, written letter, presentation, dance, piece of drama, a poem, collage etc. The remit is simple: what makes you a suitable candidate for this role and what do you want to give back to our school community. Students in Year 10 are eligible to apply for the position of Prefect and students in Year 11 for the post of Senior Prefect. Students who wish to apply for these posts must do so in writing but with the same criteria. **All applications should be submitted to their Senior Pastoral Manager, Miss Dixon or I by Friday 8 November.** It will be fantastic to see so many students being given roles of authority and responsibility within the academy!



Tutor time

This half term has had a focus of resilience, and students have been contributing to different tasks and activities based around this quality. There have been sessions on resilience at the recent Olympics, Paralympics over time, students competing in card challenges that tested their patience, teamwork and resilience skills, as well as learning about Black History Month, Literacy and Numeracy activities, RE and world faiths, Mental Health and Well Being, and current world news and cultural events. Within all tutor time sessions, it has been great to see discussions around Social, Moral, Cultural and Spiritual links to society and topics, as well as students developing a deeper understanding of diversity and British Values. Next half term's focus will be respect, with students continuing to understand and appreciate those around them.



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After the holidays we will be celebrating and respecting Remembrance Day. During tutor sessions, we will be exploring how we all have links to World War One, World War Two and subsequent conflicts - it would be wonderful if you could have discussions at home before these sessions so that students realise the possible connections they have to Remembrance Day.

Curriculum enrichment opportunities

Please find below the current Extra-Curricular Activities timetable for the Autumn half term - it would be great to see as many students as possible attending these extra sessions after school - they range from Creative Writing, Football, Chess Club and Music, as well as access to the school library every night except Monday; students should contact the relevant member of staff directly if they wish to attend any of the sessions listed or if further information is required.

Activity	Students	Teacher	Venue	Time and Day
Instrumental Music	Year 7 - 9	Mr Rose	Music Department	Every Thursday 3.00pm – 4.00pm
School Production	Year 8 - 13	Miss Forrester	Main School Hall	Every Wednesday 3.15pm – 4.30pm
Board Games	All years	Miss Bond	Maths Department	Every Thursday 3.00pm – 4.00pm (starting after Half Term)
Spanish Speaking Club	Year 7 - 8	Mr Rose	FL2	Every Tuesday 3.00pm – 4.00pm
Chess Club	All years	Mr Simpson	Library	Wednesday (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Creative Writing Workshop	Year 7 - 9	Miss Glendinning and Mr Drinkall	E2	Thursday (3.00pm – 4.00pm)
Anti-bullying Group	All years	Miss Dixon	L2	Every Tuesday 3.00pm – 4.00pm
School Council	All years	Miss Dixon	L2	Every Tuesday 3.00pm – 4.00pm
Lino Printing	By invitation	Mrs Gordon	Art	Starting Tues 22 nd October
Football Fixtures	Year 7	Mr Tooth		Every Tuesday and Wednesday
Football Fixtures	Year 8	Mr Purcifer		Every Tuesday and Wednesday
Football Fixtures	Year 9	Mr Hawkins		Every Tuesday and Wednesday
Football Fixtures	Year 10 and Year 11	Mr Bunn		Every Tuesday and Wednesday
Football Fixtures	Y7, U14, U16	Miss Murray		Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
Nunthorpe Makers - Technology	All years	Mr Clarke	T4	Every Wednesday (starting 6 Nov)

In addition to the activities above, staff are also supporting students during Year 11 intervention sessions, organised by Mr Purcifer (details below):

Rewards points

Students have made a fantastic start to the new academic year with a huge 488739 achievement points that have been awarded to our amazing students, which is 345 on average per student. 70% of our school community have received little to no behaviour points which



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demonstrates that they have been fully equipped and being the best they can be in all lessons - which is a great achievement. Well done to those students.

Year 7	113683
Year 8	103421
Year 9	97047
Year 10	91668
Year 11	77082
Year 12	3972
Year 13	2817

Uniform and standards

Our school uniform promotes equality and inclusivity by removing the differences in dress that may exist between students from different economic backgrounds. One of the main reasons why schools implement uniforms is to maintain good discipline. When everyone is wearing the same clothing, it eliminates the pressure on students to wear expensive or trendy clothing to fit in with their peers and reduces the chances of clothing-related conflicts or unnecessary absence from school from the fear of not fitting in. We are proud that our uniform promotes a sense of community, as everyone is part of the same team. It also ensures a suitable dress code is maintained which promotes a professional learning environment which is suitable for all of the activities students are required to do in lessons. To support safeguarding, our uniform also makes it easy for staff members to identify students. This is particularly important in a large school such as ours. It also reduces the risk of outsiders entering the school and posing as students, which could be a significant security risk.

Studies have also shown that school uniforms lead to improved academic performance, helping students focus on their studies without distraction. It also improves their sense of belonging and creates a more positive school environment.

The cost of our school uniform has been significantly reduced to ensure the minimum branded items need to be purchased to support the rationale for our uniform without being an overburdening cost to you, our parents/carers.

Our uniform policy can be found on our website <https://www.nunthorpe.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/uniform-and-equipment-nov2023.pdf>

Over the half term break, we politely request that you ensure your child's uniform meets our expectations in time for their return. In particular, students should remove false eyelashes or false nails. Sensible plain black school shoes must be worn at all times and if your child



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chooses to wear a skirt, the length should be worn to the knee and not be made from an elasticated material.

Additionally, all students should be fully equipped for learning with their planner and a fully equipped pencil case (Black pen, green pen, pencil, eraser, pencil sharpener, calculator, highlighters/pencil crayons).

Attendance and punctuality

Students need to be attending the academy to ensure they are not missing any learning. The Department for Education expected that children should attend school regularly - which means maintaining a 96% attendance record. There is a direct correlation between academic achievement and maintaining positive attendance. The link attached is for our attendance pamphlet which gives you helpful advice and guidance around how to maintain positive attendance and for what to do when/if your child is too poorly to attend school. 741 students are currently meeting the 96% target with 441 students with 100% attendance. Amazing and well done to those students.

Punctuality to the academy is also important and is an essential life skill. The first curriculum lesson starts at 8.30am. Students need to be onsite with the gates closing at 8.25am. This allows time for the student to get to their lesson on time to be greeted by their teacher. It is pleasing to see that the vast majority of our students arrive at school well within the expected time.

Middlesbrough Football Club

This academic year we have engaged support from Middlesbrough Football Club, who are delivering interventions to groups of students. These interventions are on health and wellbeing, risky behaviour and personal safety, achieving a social action project award, careers and employability skills and premier league leadership programme. Students have been selected to be involved for a 10 week programme.

Throughout this half term students have also had the opportunity to win game tickets and stadium visits. Well done to those who have been awarded tickets, keep up the good work!

Year 11 LIFE lessons

Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council's Substance Misuse Prevention team visited school over a two week period to work with our Year 11 students in LIFE lessons around making positive choices in their lives. The team were delighted with the way in which our Year 11 students engaged and responded. Miss Wilcockson, Substance Misuse Prevention Coordinator said: *'After being in Nunthorpe for two weeks, all we can say is how great every student was. All were really respectful and got involved in our sessions. Nunthorpe, we hope*



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you're as proud of your students as we are and we can't wait to come back and see years 7,8 and 9.' We look forward to welcoming the team back soon.



Headstart

Karen, Julie and John from Headstart joined us in Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 assemblies to introduce us to their Headstart programme. Many of our students knew the team from primary school opportunities. They discussed the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, which will see students training in mental health and developing and leading initiatives within the academy, culminating in a Summer Workshop, joining students from other schools at Teesside University or the Riverside Stadium. Students were asked to complete a short interest form to be returned to Miss Hewison (bhewison@nunthorpe.co.uk) for further information.





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Student Leadership

It's been a very busy but very exciting time for our student leaders! School Council has continued to grow; over 50 different students have attended meetings this half term. They have been involved in helping to shape the new student leadership structure outlined below, and, together with our anti-bullying group, have helped to review, adapt and add to our anti-bullying policy and procedures.

Christmas Hamper Campaign and Middlesbrough Food Bank collection

School Council are currently in the process of planning our contributions to the CAUSE Christmas Hamper Campaign, where we will be asking for your help to put together hampers for 12 local families who would otherwise struggle to provide Christmas for their children. We will be asking for donations of food (tins/ packets/ jars etc), Christmas dinner and treats (tinned veg and potatoes/ instant mash, gravy, stuffing, desserts, chocolate), gifts for children aged 1-16 and adults. Once we have finalised the lists of required items, we will share this via Class Charts and in form time with students. In addition to this, we will also be collecting for Middlesbrough Food Bank in the two weeks leading up to Christmas.

Anti-bullying Policy and Update

Throughout this half term, the anti-bullying group and School Council have been working hard to edit and update our anti-bullying policy, including contributing to the development of a new flowchart which outlines clearly what will happen when any allegations of bullying are received. Students will join Miss Dixon and I at the next governor meeting next half term to present our new policy for ratification. The next project for the anti-bullying group will be planning activities and creating an assembly for anti-bullying week in November. We will also be looking for opportunities for more students to be trained as anti-bullying ambassadors and working increasingly closely with our sixth form Peer Mentors to ensure the appropriate support is offered to anyone who needs it.

New Student Leadership Structure

As mentioned above, all year groups have been hearing in assemblies last week from Mrs Darbyshire, Miss Dixon and the Year 13 Senior Student Leaders about the new student leadership structure. In addition to the opportunities outlined above, students in Year 7 have been given the opportunity to become a Sports Leader and students in Year 12 and 13 will start our new buddying system next half term.

Children in Need and Coat Exchange

On Friday 15 November, Student Leaders will be running a range of activities for students to participate in which will raise funds for this worthwhile cause. Watch Class Charts for the update coming soon. As part of this day, we will also be asking for donations of pre-loved coats:



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With the inclement weather fast approaching, we have noticed that some students are arriving at the academy without a coat. If anyone is willing to donate coats that your child has outgrown or are not worn anymore, it would be much appreciated if these could be donated for other students to use.

If your child would like to receive a coat at any time, please could you contact the Pastoral team, and they will endeavour to supply your child with a coat.

A note from our Senior Pastoral Managers

Year 7

We are delighted with the way our Year 7 students have settled into Nunthorpe Academy. The first half term has seen lots of exciting and positive news to share.

Year 7 are leading the way with achievement points across the academy. We have achieved over 100,000 points since starting in September. Over 38,000 are for being equipped and working well and over 26,000 for excellent effort. Current attendance for Year 7 is almost 95%. Attendance matters, therefore please continue to encourage students to attend the academy everyday to be recognised as a Year 7 HERO and rewarded. These are fantastic achievements and we are very proud of Year 7.

We have representation from Year 7 within the Student Council, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and Peer Mentors. We have also just launched our student leadership initiative and are looking for representation from Year 7, this will be taking place over the coming weeks. We were also proud to see so many Year 7 students wearing something yellow on World Mental Health Day 2024. Following an assembly from Head Start, some of our Year 7 students have volunteered to be involved in the Head Start programme which is an introduction to mental health, wellbeing and resilience. These students will engage in an accredited pathway of education towards their bronze award over the coming year.

Many of our Year 7 students have engaged with acts of kindness, resilience and helping others, demonstrating ready, respectful and safe on a daily basis. Each week our top 10 students from Year 7 are rewarded with prizes, lunch queue jumpers, extra achievement points or recognition for their ongoing contribution to outstanding behaviour, attitude and learning. Year 7 students have also been recognised and rewarded with 'hot chocolate' with the Head of school.

We had almost 90 students attend the football trials and our PE department had to do a further trial to select the squads for this year. We are proud to announce Year 7 now has an A and B



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team representing Nunthorpe Academy. We hope to share some sporting achievements over the coming year.

In partnership with our Music Department, we are hosting auditions for the Nunthorpe Academy Talent Show on Wednesday 23rd October. The Auditions are open to singers, dancers, musicians, magicians, gymnasts, comedians etc.. The talent show will take place next half term and there are prizes to be won. We are hoping to have representation from year 7 students, showcasing some amazing talents.

The vast majority of Year 7 students are equipped every day, having a reading book, fully loaded pencil case, calculator and planner. We would however like to encourage our students to vary the books they read, utilising the school library with recommendations from friends and family. Some of our Year 7 students are still showing the same reading book from the beginning of term. Please can we ask for support in encouraging year 7 students to pick up a book and to read daily.

Some Year 7 students are still finding their feet when it comes to our expectations, especially around social time behaviour, punctuality and some behaviour within lessons. Additionally, please can you continue to encourage students to complete homework as set out on Class Charts - we will continue to insist on our high expectations of all students and continue to monitor this.

We are exceptionally proud of what Year 7 has achieved in the first half term and we look forward to another amazing half term!

Should you need any support please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor via email in the first instance. Alternatively please contact Mrs Carter - Senior pastoral manager or Miss Forster - Assistant pastoral manager, via email - all staff email addresses are available on the Nunthorpe Academy website.

Year 8

A warm welcome back from what seems a distant Summer Holiday.

Year 8 finished the Academic year on very high attendance and an equally impressive number of Achievement Points.

With a key change to our tutor base area, our Year 8's have taken to the change like a duck to water, and have picked up the routines quickly and in a mature manner. Well Done Year 8. Standards of uniform are excellent across the year group, and all students are Ready, Respectful & Safe!



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Both Miss Yau and I have set the challenge of Achievement Points targets to beat last year, which creates a positive learning environment for all - we want to be the BEST version of ourselves!

Year 9

It has been a great start to the new academic year from Year 9 - Mrs Plant and Mr Harrison have been so impressed with the attitude to learning and how well you have conducted yourselves over the past few weeks.

Standards of uniform are exceptional and you are standing out for all the right reasons each day wearing your uniforms with pride! Remember, orange ties can be ordered via parent pay if required.

We have had students getting involved in our student council, safe space and anti-bullying ambassadors programme. We also welcomed Head Start Middlesbrough into our assembly last week and many students showed a great interest in getting involved to support their peers with their mental health!

On the subject of mental health, Year 9 were superstars when it came to wearing something yellow to show their support to world mental health day! We had crochet hats, socks, t-shirts, scrunchies, and ribbons. Not forgetting Mr H who looked just the part in his yellow jumper! We are still working on improving punctuality to lessons and meeting our expectations with regards to behaviour on the corridors, please check your child's planner to make sure they have a printed timetable, if they have not, please contact the pastoral office to advise and we will make sure your child has a printed timetable in their planner.

In partnership with our Music Department, we are hosting auditions for the Nunthorpe Academy Talent Show on Wednesday 23 October. The Auditions are open to singers, dancers, musicians, magicians, gymnasts, comedians etc. The talent show will take place next half term and there are prizes to be won. It would be fab to see some of our talented Year 9 students in the show!

We are so proud of team Year 9 - as always, we continue to look after each other and make sure that we are striving each day to be simply the best version of ourselves.

Year 10

I would like to say a huge welcome and thank you to the Year 10s who have made a great start back to the school year and especially the welcome they have given to Mrs Jackson in her role as the new APM for Year 10.



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It has been a half term of change for all of Year 10 students as they embark on the beginning of their KS4 journey at Nunthorpe. It has been lovely seeing the students take on this challenge with such enthusiasm and passion that will serve them well over the next two years with us.

As pastoral team myself and Mrs Jackson love seeing our students give their all to the school community by getting involved in extracurricular activities and a great example of this is having three of our Year 10's being cast in the school's annual show put on by the Drama department and we can't wait to watch them in Matilda next year.

It's not just amateur dramatics that Year 10 excel in are lucky to have some gifted sport people in the year group some of which have represented the country in both Football and Kickboxing and we love finding out about their experiences and celebrating their success as they go on through this journey.

As a year group team, myself and Mrs Jackson are so proud of all the students who come to school on a daily basis and give it their best. All we ask is that the students grab every opportunity that school offers, have a great half term.

Year 11

Congratulations to Year 11 we have had a fantastic start to the year. It is lovely to see all of the hard work and determination as we enter our final year in Nunthorpe Academy. It has been amazing to see so many students attend our intervention lessons, taking full advantage of the support offered by staff.

Our standards are strong this year and we are proud to see how smart we are as a year group walking around the academy.

We have had excellent feedback from your careers interviews and well done to so many of you that have already applied for college, with a large proportion of you applying for our sixth form.

At the end of this year we have some fantastic celebrations with Prom and our Leavers Assembly. It would be lovely to have some pictures to display of extra curricular activities, baby pictures etc. If you are willing please email Mrs Knowles or Miss Ivison.

We appreciate this is going to be a challenging year for you all. Please come and speak to us if you need any support. We are proud of each and every one of you. You will reap the rewards of your hard work come results day.



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Sixth Form Open Evening

We are looking forward to welcoming students, parents and carers to our Nunthorpe Sixth Form Open Evening on Monday 4 November from 4:00pm - 6:30pm.

Teaching staff will be available to share subject information from 4:00pm - 5:30pm, there are two introductory talks at 4:15 and 5:15pm. Members of the Sixth Form team and our Senior Leadership Team will also be on hand to answer any queries or questions until 6:30pm.

Our student application form can be found as a pop up on our academy website.

[STUDENT APPLICATION FORM](#) OR

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZrpPjHmGhkGzSWAI0ZIE4L3U-5U1PDKGASRBOY2I0RM6-Q/viewform>

Students are encouraged to sign up so the sixth form team has their contact information in order to send information in regard to forthcoming events and taster sessions.

Well-Being Week

On Friday 11 October, all students and staff had the opportunity to wear yellow in order to celebrate World Mental Health Day. This was such a positive experience, and it was great to see so many people participating in this very important cause - students also took part in a whole academy competition to create a poster to promote the occasion - well done to the winners below!

In addition, students discussed how to deal with any potential anxiety and stress over coming back to school after the summer, or how to deal with the pressures of exam season; these sessions were delivered by the Well Being in Mind team and were a great contribution to our Well-Being week.





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Literacy

This half-term in Years 7-9 (Key Stage 3), we've focused on igniting a love for reading through an exciting selection of literature. Students have been exploring the world of science fiction and have been focusing on texts such as 'Jurassic Park', 'Planet of the Apes' and 'The War of the Worlds'. These diverse texts have been designed to engage all students, encouraging even the most reluctant readers to develop a stronger connection to reading.

In Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4), we've been focussing on core curriculum literacy skills. This term, we've worked on building students' subject-specific vocabulary and strengthening their comprehension of more complex material. By focusing on literacy in these key areas, students have been developing the skills to communicate their knowledge more clearly, both in their current lessons and in preparation for their GCSEs.

Furthermore, as part of our commitment to fostering a love for reading, all Year 7 students have been gifted a free book through the Book Buzz programme. This fantastic initiative, run by the Book Trust, allows students to choose from a diverse selection of engaging titles. It's a wonderful way to encourage independent reading, and the excitement from students as they selected their books was truly heart warming. We hope these books inspire a lifelong passion for reading!



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Toilet Breaks

One of the main areas of the school that we have to manage effectively is the toilets. As our building is old, we ensure that our toilets are clean and safe, our extended site team supporting us with this through the checking and cleaning of facilities between social times; from the weeks either side of the half term, we will be closely monitoring the use of toilets during learning time and employing a queuing system supported by a gate to keep our facilities in tip top condition.

Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Following our recent Ofsted, we noted that only a very small proportion of parents and carers completed feedback. In order for us to get a wider and clearer picture, may we request that you take the time to complete this survey; we were really pleased with the thoughtfulness and maturity in student responses, and we would love to hear yours too.

Please find the link for the questionnaire below:



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https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSexPned-ZCzn8XSDsZp3_bjAwm6QBrfzDaDEmxf_MHU8ueR1Q/viewform?usp=sf_link

Many thanks for taking the time to give us this feedback.

Upcoming dates to note:

- Sixth Form Open Evening - Monday 4 November
- Year 11 Parent Information Evening - Wednesday 6 November
- Remembrance Ceremony and activities - 5 November 2024 - 11 November 2024
- Deadline for Student Leader, Prefect and Senior Prefect Applications - 9 November 2024
- Children in Need student leader activities - Friday 15 November
- Anti-bullying Week will include the launch of our update policy and activities across W/C 18 November 2024
- Y11 Mock Examinations - W/C 18th November 2024 for two academic weeks
- The Invisible Man - YOLO performance and workshops for Year 9 around risky behaviours - Friday 15 November
- Metro Centre Rewards Visit - 29 November
- PD Day - Friday 6 December
- Nunthorpe's Got Talent - Tuesday 10 December
- Catch up flu vaccines - Wednesday 11 December
- Deadline for applications - Friday 13 December
- Governor's Celebration, Student Awards Event - Monday 16 December

Watch our social media for more updates throughout the term and thank you for your continued support in ensuring we work together to enable your child to fulfil their potential.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Darbyshire
Trust Vice Principal - Areté Learning Trust
Nunthorpe School and Sixth Form