

Pastoral Update - Half term 2 2024-25

Dear Parents/Carers,

Here is our second installment of all things pastoral. Just like in our half term 1, we have lots of exciting news and information to share with you. As it is nearly Christmas, perhaps a mince pie or another sweet treat could be enjoyed whilst you read through this half term's student achievements and key notices for January. We would like to inform parents/carers of students in Year 10 that Mrs Jackson is now officially our Senior Pastoral Manager for this year group. Many parents/carers have already expressed how much of a positive impact she has had on the year group. We would like to thank Mr. Wilding for his service and wish him all the best.

Assemblies and Tutor Time Activities

Last week, Mrs. Darbyshire - our Trust Vice Principal - presented an assembly which focussed on supporting those who are less fortunate than ourselves. Over the last two weeks, we raised awareness and appealed for donations to support our local community. Students were asked to bring items of food to donate to our Christmas Hamper Appeal and Middlesbrough Foodbank. These included basic food items such as tins, bars of chocolate, packets of pasta, Christmas treats or Christmas gifts - we had an absolutely amazing response - thank you all so much for your generosity.



Following this appeal, we also raised awareness of child poverty by hosting our Christmas Jumper Day to raise funds for Save the Children. We invited students to participate in this event on the same day we enjoyed our Christmas lunch.



'In It to Win It' Attendance Draws

Mr. Yale and Mrs. Hodgson have recently completed assemblies based on the importance of attendance, particularly in the last week of the school term before we break up for Christmas. They outlined the need for good attendance, how it can improve your life chances, boost your morale and is something that is in your own control. 96% attendance is the target that all students are to aim for in their academic life at Nunthorpe, and so to improve this, the academy launched 'In It to Win It' draws, which took place during tutor time in the last week of the term. Students were entered into three draws for different attendance criteria. These included 100% attendance for the year to date, 96% attendance since the beginning of the year and 100% attendance for the final week. Prizes included £20 shopping vouchers and various selection boxes and treats. Everyone who was entered into the draw had therefore been 'In It to Win It' and was a huge success for all involved. We hope to introduce this again in the new year and make it a routine competition for our fantastic students.

Well-being activities

Sixth formers have seen two wonderful wellbeing weeks with activities including dodgeball, crafts, game shows and table tennis to name a few. Students have all been involved and are thoroughly enjoying their chosen activities!

In the main school students have also been involved in reading for pleasure, competing in whole year group quizzes and understanding the importance of kindness; during assemblies, the theme of kindness was linked to the well-being of others and supporting those people in our community who may need a little extra help and kindness at this time of year; as mentioned above, students contributed towards the Christmas Hamper Appeal and the local Food Bank and were amazing in their generosity. Hot Chocolate with the Head has also continued to be a really busy event with many students being nominated by their teachers for excellent effort, enthusiasm and attitude - well done!



Be here be on time and be the best you can be

Attendance

Raising attendance is a national focus for the Department for Education. As a trust, and at our school, we follow and promote all the national statutory requirements and guidance. All students should aim to have at least **96% attendance**. Maintaining positive attendance enables students to fulfill their potential academically and are statistically more likely to be happy and become involved in the wider life of the school.

Whilst we appreciate that anyone can occasionally be too poorly to attend, it is essential that students maximise time in school. Please support us in encouraging your child to attend school everyday, to be on time and to be fully prepared with everything they need for the day in their bag. We keep students updated of their attendance each Monday along with our standards checks.

If your child is absent from school, please contact school on the first day of absence and every day afterwards until they return.

We reward positive attendance weekly, students who have 100% attendance each week are in our Freddo Friday and voucher draws and receive ambition points for excellent attendance. We also host our In it to Win it Drive each half term as detailed above.

Behaviour

Since September, we have had a huge focus on promoting our core value of Respect, in particular, rewarding all our students for fulfilling our expectations and for going above and beyond. We are

delighted that the total amount of ambition points our students have achieved is a whopping 943,685! This is a fantastic achievement! 156 students have been nominated for Hot Chocolate with the head.

Governor's Celebration Evening

In the concluding week of term, we celebrated the fantastic achievements of our brilliant students. The annual Governor's Commendation Evening recognises a student from each subject area and presents them with a 'Rising Star Award', along with fifty achievement points. Students are nominated by their subject teachers for reasons which can vary from exceeding expectations in a recent examination, going the 'extra mile' amongst others. The whole of the evening was a pleasure to be a part of and provided all involved with a great sense of pride to be part of such a wonderful community. In terms of entertainment, the audience were treated to several performances from our annual 'Nunthorpe's Got Talent' evening; enjoying Irish dancing, an original piano score and several renditions of popular songs. We can't wait to see what talent is presented to us all next year when we are able to repeat the success of this year's event.



As mentioned in our Half Term 1 Pastoral Letter in October, we are very proud of our school uniform and the rationale for maintaining high standards. We conduct standards checks each morning and during tutor time. In addition to this, we have introduced a formal quality assurance cycle once a half term during tutor time to see if we have any common themes which we need to address or support with. May we politely remind you that from Monday 6 January 2025 that students have removed any false eyelashes or nails, that skirts and trousers meet our [uniform policy](#):

- Trousers must be dark grey. High fashion items are not permitted, e.g. jeans, denims, cords, bootlegs, hipsters, combats, pinstripes, skinny fit. No dangling or coloured belts, motifs, splits, zips (except fly).
- Skirts must be at knee length (i.e. the student should be able to kneel down and the skirt should touch the floor) and dark grey. No high fashion items e.g. stretch material, mini, ankle length, leather, suede, combat, etc. On straight skirts only one slit is permitted. No dangling or coloured belts, motifs, obvious pockets, large splits. Skirts should NEVER be worn rolled up at the waistband.
- Students should also ensure they have all of their equipment they need for the day in their bag.

As well as rewarding students throughout our weekly incentives, we reward our students through arranging excursions for students who maintain positive attendance and behaviour records. This term's trip to the Metrocentre was again a huge success, with 328 students and 26 staff enjoying a well earned shopping trip on Friday 29 November. It was lovely to see the students who get it right every day being rewarded with some social time - there was a lot of shopping but possibly even more eating and drinking!

SMSC

Arrangements for our Headstarters Programme have now been finalised and the sessions will begin on Monday 13 January on Monday afternoons. The Headstarters programme aims to promote wellbeing and build resilience amongst young people. Our students will be trained as 'Headstarters' to offer support to others within our academy community. These 'Mental Wellbeing Champions' will lead initiatives to share what they have learned. If any students would like to participate in this programme, please contact Miss. Hewison: bhewison@nunthorpe.co.uk

Enrichment

There continues to be a broad selection of after-school activities provided to our students from Lino Art and Sport, to Choir and Creative Writing - Chess Club in particular seems to be very popular - Mr. Simpson says the players are excellent with a bit of healthy competition! (current timetable below):

| 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) |
| Choir | All years | Mr Bishop | Music Department | Every Tuesday, 3.15pm - 4.00pm |

In particular, it has been wonderful to hear the ongoing rehearsals for this year's school production, *Matilda* - fantastic effort from everyone, and the show is bound to be amazing!

In addition to Extra-Curricular clubs and activities, KS4 continue to have the opportunity to attend targeted intervention sessions after school - please make sure you check the timetable as these change each half term - for any specific details, please contact Mr. Purcifer (spurcifer@nunthorpe.co.uk).

Following on from the fantastic trips so far this year, including Year 11s going to see a production of *An Inspector Calls* and a very enjoyable excursion to the Metro Centre, next term will see two visits to London for Business students and Drama students who will be seeing performances of *Wicked* and *The Play that Goes Wrong*, as they prepare for their written examination due to be sat in May of next year. In MFL, students will take in the sights of Madrid and external events taking place for Medical Careers Day and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Student Leadership Matters

Appointment of our extended student leader programme

We are delighted that we have appointed our first cohort of new student leaders in the Academy. Students applied for these positions in a variety of creative ways, from Powerpoint presentations to artwork and even cakes! We have had our initial meeting with the new student leaders and they are excited to get started with their first charity and community projects, as well as looking ahead to supporting the Year 6 transition. Applications for the second wave are open now, including Student Leaders in Years 7-9, Prefects in Years 10 and 11 and Senior Student Leaders in our sixth form.

School Council and Anti-bullying group

The new student-friendly version of the anti-bullying policy was presented by some of our anti-bullying ambassadors at a governors' meeting in December. We were delighted that this was then subsequently ratified by the governors. The aim of this ongoing piece of work was to make the policy more student-friendly and to make very clear what would happen at each stage of an ongoing friendship, conflict or bullying issue. This was also presented to students in special assemblies for anti-bullying week in November; the students from Years 7 to 11 who planned and delivered these assemblies were so articulate, confident and organised that the assemblies went without a hitch and delivered strong messages on the theme of "Choose Respect".

December has seen our focus shift to our charity appeals, starting with the CAUSE Christmas hamper campaign, raising money for Children in Need and donations for Middlesbrough Foodbank. We are delighted to have achieved our target of 12 Christmas hampers for local families and we are very grateful to everyone who supported our appeal.

A message from our Senior Pastoral Managers

Year 7

Welcome to our Christmas pastoral update. What a term it has been, we are so proud of the way our Year 7 students have settled in at Nunthorpe Academy.

Watching our Year 7 students grow in confidence over the first term has been a delight; students have been discovering and building new friendships and settling into a new routine.

Year 7 are currently leading the way with attendance and are achieving 94% as a year team since September. Special recognition to Ms. Masters and Mr. Drinkall's tutor groups who are achieving 97% so far! Closely followed by Mrs. Robinson and Miss Glendinning's tutor groups on 96%. Currently 63 Year 7 students are on 100% attendance and 148 students are on 96% or above. Congratulations! Good luck to the rest of the tutor groups in raising attendance when we return in January!

Year 7 behaviour is good, racing ahead in the lead with over 196,000 achievement points awarded so far! Hopefully by the time you read this we will have achieved our Year 7 target of over 200k achievements. You should all be very proud - we certainly are!

Special recognition to Mrs Wilson and Miss Murray's tutor groups with the highest achievement points and Miss Glendinning, Miss Murray and Miss Grant with the fewest behaviour points. Please keep up the hard work.

Our focus in January as a year group is ensuring that homework is handed in on time and improving punctuality on a morning and to lessons. Please consider how you can support this; students should be accessing Google classroom and Class Charts for the most up to date information.

Class Charts engagement from Year 7 is outstanding - please remember this is our main form of communication and support from home is greatly appreciated. Should you have any queries,

please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher and tutor. Email addresses are available on our school website.

When we return in January, please maintain the high standards we have been seeing throughout the first term. Students should be prepared and ready for learning with a fully loaded pencil case, a reading book and a planner. Students should be in full school uniform, with the top shirt button fastened, tie and black shoes. No makeup or jewellery allowed. (apart from a small pair of circular studs). Students should then continue to role-model, ready, respectful and safe.

We have had lots to celebrate within year 7 this half term. Ranging from; hot chocolate with the head, participating in Nunthorpe's Got Talent, sporting achievements such as cross country and football, representation from anti-bullying ambassadors in assembly, participating in student council, Metro Centre trip, contributing to the hamper campaign and students taking part in performances. What a talented year group we have! Continue being amazing!

Finally, we would like you to reflect on your first term and consider the following...

- Are you happy with your first term at Nunthorpe Academy?
- What would you do differently if you could do it all over again?
- What are your resolutions going to be in relation to school when we return in January?

We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas, and a happy new year. Stay safe and we will look forward to welcoming you all back in January.

Mrs. Carter & Miss Forster

Year 8

Over this last Half Term, we have seen our Year 8 students settle well, with a delightful blend of curiosity and creativity for learning. With eagerness to explore deeper within the curriculum. I personally had the pleasure of joining our Year 8 classes in Food Technology, and it was certainly all hands to the chopping boards and spatulas.

All form groups are competing to achieve the maximum amount of Achievement Points, creating a good, fair and competitive environment. Long may this continue.

For the New Year, Year 8 will continue to climb the Attendance Ladder, and keep those Achievement Points flooding in.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Mr Deen

Year 9

Year 9 have really stepped up to the mark in a spectacular way this first term. We have seen great dedication and growing maturity in abundance.

As we approach the next term they will begin the next step in their journey and will start to explore their GCSE options. Booklets will be shared during the first week back and parents/carers will be invited into the academy for our Year 9 Options Evening on Monday 13 January. This is an exciting time and one where our amazing young people will be able to ask questions and do their research to decide which pathway they will choose in order to meet their potential. Also, may we remind you that it is Parental Review Evening on Tuesday 7 January - please make sure you have made your appointments so as to discuss progress in all subjects.

Behaviour has seen a real improvement and it is clear to see that Year 9 are living and breathing our school ethos of "Ready, Respectful, Safe". We have been able to have mature conversations when facing challenges and see relationships improve and flourish as we work as a team to be the

best we can all be. The Year 9 jigsaw pieces are definitely all coming together to create a wonderful example to the rest of the academy.

We have seen a massive 177,559 achievement points since September - at the time of writing this we need each student to gain 17 positive points in the remaining 5 days of term in order to smash through that 200k mark!! Let's go Year 9!

Attendance is so important, it is clear to see the impact missed learning has when students return to their lessons after absence. Whilst we know that sometimes this is unavoidable, it is important that we make every day count. As a year group we are sitting at 90.39% for the year group which is significantly below where we need to be. Remember, every single day counts. Mrs. Plant's message to her own children goes "If you are walking and talking, you are going to school!"

We had a great contribution from Year 9 at our talent show and Adam, Joel and Jenson made us proud with their performance skills on their respective musical instruments!

As we head into our Christmas and New Year break, I want to wish all of our students and their families a very peaceful and restful festive period with time to reflect on what is important to us at this special time of year.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a truly happy start to 2025.

See you all on Monday 6 January 2025.

Mrs. Plant

Year 10

We have now completed our first term in KS4 working hard towards our GCSEs. Year 10 has shown great maturity and resilience. Mrs. Thompson's GCSE Art students have been working hard on portraits of our SLT team which are absolutely fantastic with a number of them proudly displayed outside Mrs Kell's office. I have visited Mr. Hawkins Design Technology class who have been busy making tables I would say good enough to eat your Christmas lunch from.

Attendance is key to achieving great grades and so congratulations to Mr Butcher's form who are in the lead with 96% a close second is Mrs. Craggs' form with 95% and coming in third Mrs. Whitehead's form with 91% - well done to you all.

I wish you all a restful break and look forward to welcoming you all back in January. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs. Jackson

Year 11

We have had an excellent start to Year 11. You are showing dedication and determination in your studies and intervention classes.

Well done on completing your first set of Trial Exams. The feedback from staff regarding your behaviour and conduct was excellent. Showing maturity and respect throughout.

Our Prom committee is doing some amazing work behind the scenes to ensure you have an amazing night of celebrations.

We were so proud of Year 11 on Christmas jumper day. We saw some amazing jumpers and the Christmas spirit was in full flow at break time as well as raising some amazing money for charity.

A massive congratulations to all of our Year 11 students for taking part in the Talent Show, with a special mention to Faith and Henry in winning 3rd Place.

We would also like to congratulate all of our Year 11s that received rewards and recognition at our Governor's Celebration Evening.

Our Sixth Form is excited to welcome Year 11s to receive a Sixth Form experience day on Wednesday 8 January. [Letters](#) have been sent home to parents. This will be a non uniform day where they will experience lessons and tutorial time as if they were a student in the Sixth Form so that they receive guidance on subjects that they may choose for September intake.

As we move forward into 2025 our main aim is to "stay focussed on our end goal." We are here to support and guide you in every step.

Wishing you a wonderful and safe Christmas - have plenty of rest, ready for the big finale to your GCSEs.

Mrs. Knowles

Year 12

Year 12 have had a wonderful start to sixth form life. After a full term students are still maintaining 97% attendance with Mr. Yales tutor group maintaining 99%.

Year 12 students have made an extremely positive start and are eagerly getting involved with sixth form events including our ambassadors group. They have been supporting Year 11 marketplace events, starting a newspaper, organising end of term activities and fundraising including raising awareness and funds towards men's mental health and Children In Need. They also supported subject staff during our Sixth Form Open Evening. Other aspects where they are enriching themselves further include supporting Year 7 students by buddying and supporting their literacy skills every Tuesday.

Since September, Year 12 have also been organising their own work experience placements which will be taking place in February. Students have already secured placements in law firms, The James Cook University Hospital and primary schools to name a few.

Year 13

Year 13 has embraced the first term with lots of progress made. We have been completing personal statements and UCAS applications and have already sent off 33 applications with many students completing interviews already. Students are setting themselves up for a range of universities including Oxford, Russell group universities and Durham university to name a few. We have had a range of external providers coming in to provide information, advice and guidance to Year 13 students from a range of universities, apprenticeships and workplaces as well as alumni students to inform of their experiences.

Mentoring has started to take place with Year 13 students identified for support. Students have worked well with the sixth form leadership team and are eager to dedicate themselves to making further progress.

Year 13 are often seen staying back after college in order to be independent and revise. Both as a team and individually, they are working on their subjects prior to their mock exams. Year 13 [mock exams](#) are starting in January. Students are to return on Monday 6 January, Tuesday 7 January and then are taking a one day study leave day on Wednesday 8 January. [Letters](#) have been sent to parents/carers.

Year 12 and Year 13 have enjoyed an end of term award ceremony for their progress since September. Subject staff nominated students for a number of reasons including attitude to learning, progress and attainment. They all received a certificate and a chocolate bar. All award winners were put in a 'spin the wheel' and an overall winner received an Amazon voucher.



Literacy

Wow, what a term it has been in the world of literacy at Nunthorpe Academy! For Wellbeing Week, students in the Sixth Form brought in their own reading books. I opted for a book called, 'Talking with Serial Killers', which is not only incredibly interesting, but is indirectly supplying me with knowledge and context to help me with my EPQ. If I had to specify my favourite part about literacy time in wellbeing week, it would be how afterwards, we are able to discuss with our peers what we have learned, and solidify our own knowledge by repeating it to a friend. I believe the importance of books goes far beyond education; to read, and to be able to enjoy reading not only unlocks a simple pleasure, but builds skills which are important in day to day life. Although a large part of me is bereft that this term is coming to an end, it is safe to say I am feeling refreshed, and even more full of knowledge than ever, to delve back into the joys of literacy in all aspects relating directly to my subjects. (Hannah Spears, Student Vice President of the Sixth Form).

Key dates for the diary:

Monday 6th January - return to school for all staff and students
Tuesday 7th January - Y9 Parental Review Evening
Wednesday 8th January - Y9 Parental Review Evening (Catch Up)
W/C Monday 6th January - Y13 Trial Examinations
Wednesday 8th January - Y11, Sixth Form Experience Day
Monday 13th January - Y9 Options Evening
Monday 13th January - Careers Evening - open to all students from all years
W/C Monday 3rd February - Y12 Work Experience Week
Tuesday 4th February - Y12/13 Parental Review Evening
Wednesday 5th February - Y12/13 Parental Review Evening (Catch Up)
Thursday 6th February - MFL Visit to Madrid
Wednesday 12th February - 'The Invisible Man' Y7 Production
W/C Monday 17th February - Y11 Trial Examinations
Wednesday 19th February - GCE/GCSE Drama Visit to London
Friday 21st February - PD Day, Academy closed to students

We would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and hope that all of our community get the opportunity to spend some quality time together with their family and friends. School opens in the new year on Monday 6 January 2024. Breakfast Club opens at 8am, students should come to the main reception if they wish to join us each morning. Students are welcomed by our senior leadership, pastoral and site teams through the main gates from 8:15-8:25am.

Thank you for your ongoing support and to our students for their fantastic achievement so far this year.

Yours sincerely
Jane Darbyshire
Trust Vice Principal