

# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL READY; WORK READY; LIFE READY



**Dear Families,**

This January, Horizon has been full of energy as students across all year groups have immersed themselves in a wide range of Personal Development opportunities. Our Year 8 students are looking forward to their upcoming Work Shadow Day, while Year 10 are busy finalising their work experience placements. Year 11 have begun attending Post16 college interviews, and students from every year group have enthusiastically returned to our afterschool enrichment programme.

In this edition, we're excited to share highlights from around the College, along with key dates to look ahead to in February. We hope you enjoy reading about the fantastic experiences and achievements taking place within our school community

## DANCE

Our incredible Y10 BTEC students represented Barnsley at the South Yorkshire Crossing Borders platform held at Rotherham Civic earlier this month. They performed two of their choreography pieces that they have created this year - 'Suzume' which is our entry for Fresh 2026, and also a piece that was choreographed as part of the INSPIRE project with Northern School of Contemporary Dance. The students, as always, performed with such professionalism and energy and were incredibly well received by the packed-out audience.

Our Streetkingz dance group, with members from Y7 to Y11, were selected to be part of the NO LIMITS platform

in Leeds at the Northern Ballet Riley Theatre. The NO LIMITS platform is designed specifically for male-identifying groups. Students enjoyed a full timetable of activities, including workshops led by professional male artists. They also took part in tech runs held in the beautiful Riley Theatre. In addition, students attended a careers Q&A session with a panel of male working dancers, who shared a wealth of experiences and insights.

The boys performed their new piece "Egyptian Swag" which was choreographed largely by themselves. We are very proud of the boys for being such positive role models and advocates for dance.



## STEM Club explores Space

Our weekly STEM Club has launched its new theme for the term: Space. Pupils have already been busy creating their own telescopes, building mini planetariums, and experimenting with spectrometers. They've also been learning about the work of Galileo and discovering how sunlight can be split into

different colours.

Due to the high demand for places on the trip, we recently ran our second visit to the National Space Centre in Leicester. Pupils enjoyed a guided tour of the universe inside the Sir Patrick Moore Planetarium and had the opportunity to programme their own Mars Rovers.

Looking ahead, NASA's Artemis II mission is scheduled

to launch next month. To celebrate this exciting event, pupils can find displays around school showing the mission's flight path and profiles of the astronauts taking part.



## ‘Guess Who’ careers event

Year 7 students have been taking part in an exciting careers activity during form time, where they guessed the occupation of a visiting employer through a fun question-and-answer session. The employer joined the class via a live Microsoft Teams meeting, and students worked together to ask thoughtful questions and use

clues to work out their job role. This interactive session helped students develop their communication skills, curiosity and awareness of the wide range of careers available, while also giving them valuable experience of speaking with professionals online.



## Holocaust Remembrance

This year, the College marked Holocaust Memorial Day with a thought-provoking assembly delivered to all five-year groups. Linked to the 2026 theme, "Bridging Generations," the assembly highlighted the call to action at the heart of this year's remembrance: a reminder that the responsibility of memory does not end with survivors, but continues through their children, their grandchildren, and all of us. Students reflected on the importance of listening to the stories of the past, learning

from them, and carrying those lessons forward to help build a bridge between memory and action, between history and hope for the future. Through moments of reflection and powerful examples of courage and resilience, students were encouraged to consider their role in promoting kindness, challenging prejudice, and helping to create a more compassionate school community.



## Sports Leaders

The Sports Leaders have continued to develop their leadership skills through delivering high quality sessions within the wider community. Feedback from community clubs and partner schools has been extremely positive, and the students should be very proud of the professionalism and enthusiasm they demonstrate.

Several Sports Leaders supported the HCAT Primary Cross-Country event, where primary staff praised their conduct, organisation, and level of support. We also supported a Primary Dance CPD session, where Dance Leaders assisted with delivery and impressed staff with their high standards.

In addition, our partnership with Greenacre School has enabled SEND pupils to

engage in inclusive multi-sports sessions led by our Sports Leaders. These sessions have had a positive impact on confidence, engagement, and the development of social skills, benefiting all students involved.



## National Justice Museum visit

Year 8 students recently enjoyed an engaging and thought-provoking visit to the National Justice Museum in Nottingham, where they explored the history of law, crime and punishment in a real courtroom and former prison setting. Through interactive

workshops and role-play activities, students took on the roles of judges, lawyers and jurors, helping them to develop their understanding of the justice system while building confidence, teamwork and critical thinking skills. The visit linked closely to their curriculum learning and was a valuable opportunity to bring lessons to life beyond the classroom.



**FEBRUARY  
CORE VALUE  
of the month is  
RESILIENCE**



## Key dates in February

**W/c 2nd February**

- National Storytelling Week

**W/c 9th February**

- National Apprenticeship Week

- Mother Tongue Week

- Safer Internet Week

- Y11 Mock Speaking Exams

**Friday 13th February**

- INSET day – school closed to students

**Monday 16th - Friday 20th February**

- Half Term break

**w/c 23rd February**

- Y11 Mock exams commence

- Y9 Options process opens

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