

SCHOOL READY; WORK READY; LIFE READY



Dear Families,

Welcome to our April newsletter! This month we're excited to share with you some of the 'out of classroom' experiences that our students have had the opportunity to engage in during the Easter break and the month of April.

Happy reading!

BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Our annual Battle of the Bands was bigger and better than ever this year, delivering an unforgettable evening of live music and creativity. The event welcomed six schools from across the area, with an impressive 13 bands taking to the stage to showcase their talent. The atmosphere was electric as audiences enjoyed a wide range of musical styles, truly celebrating the incredible young musicianship across Barnsley.

We are especially proud of our own students, who performed exceptionally well and achieved an outstanding clean sweep of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place - a phenomenal achievement that reflects their dedication, talent and hard work.

A huge congratulations goes to every student who performed, as well as those who helped behind the scenes to make the event such a success. Your commitment, teamwork and enthusiasm made the night one to remember. Well done to all involved!





Geneva & CERN

During the Easter break, 20 enthusiastic Year 9 and Year 10 students took part in a truly unforgettable experience as they travelled on the school's first-ever trip to CERN in Geneva. The adventure began with a flight from Manchester, followed by an exciting first ride on a double-decker train! While in Geneva, students explored the city's famous sights, visited the Museum of the History of Science, and enjoyed a fascinating guided tour of the United Nations.

A highlight of the trip was a full day at CERN, the world's largest particle physics laboratory. This included a guided tour that

even took students across the border into France by coach, where they visited the control centre and other key areas of the site. The day concluded with time in the exhibition centre and a hands-on physics workshop led by CERN scientists. On their final evening, students soaked up the atmosphere of Geneva's old town before unwinding with some friendly competition, playing giant chess and draughts in the park - a perfect end to an inspiring and memorable trip.

Skiing in Italy

During the first week of the Easter holidays, 40 Year 8 students enjoyed an exciting skiing adventure in the stunning resort of Folgarida, nestled in the Italian Dolomites. For many students, this was their first experience of being in the mountains, and for some, their very first trip abroad. Despite most of the group being complete beginners, confidence quickly grew as they were taught to ski each day in small groups by instructors from the Italian Ski School.

The trip was not just about skiing; students fully embraced Italian culture, enjoying lunches in mountainside restaurants and relaxing together in the evenings with quizzes, karaoke and a disco. The entire group -

students and staff alike - had an amazing time, developing new skills, building confidence and representing the college brilliantly throughout the trip. Arrivederci!



Macmillan Dance-a-thon

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting charitable causes, a lively group of lower school students recently took on the challenge of a Dance-a-thon in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Donning their dancing shoes - and some fantastic fancy dress - students danced non-stop for over three hours after the school had ended. The theatre was filled with music, energy and laughter as pupils showed incredible enthusiasm, stamina and teamwork, all while raising money for an important cause. A brilliant effort from everyone involved!



Barcelona

A group of 40 of our brilliant GCSE Spanish students jetted off to Barcelona this March to put their Spanish speaking skills into practice and learn more about Catalan history and culture! Our trip began with visits to the Arc de Triomf and Parc de la Ciutadella, followed by a relaxed evening meal at the famous Hard Rock Café in Plaça de Catalunya.

During the trip, students visited the breathtaking Sagrada Família and explored the colourful mosaics and stunning views of Parc Güell. They also enjoyed time shopping along Las Ramblas, using their Spanish in real-life situations.

Another highlight was a visit to Camp Nou and the FC Barcelona Museum, while a tapas history workshop at

Poble Espanyol gave students the chance to learn about one of Spain's most famous traditions.

We also travelled to the stunning mountain region of Montserrat, where students hiked up to the St Michael's Cross viewpoint before practicing their negotiation skills in Spanish at the local farmers' markets. A final favourite activity was an outdoor Gaudí-themed escape room run by Casa Batlló.

Throughout the trip, our students were a credit to the school. Their enthusiasm, excellent behaviour and willingness to embrace every opportunity made it an unforgettable experience for all involved.

Teachers

In April our BTEC Drama students, along with members of the after-school Spotlight Theatre Company, had a fabulous evening at Barnsley Civic Theatre watching a production of “TEACHERS.” This is a comedy written by the famous local author, John Godber.

We were blown away by the talent of the three actors who continually changed

roles to portray every one of the characters in the piece. The story follows the lives of both the students and the teachers at an under-privileged secondary school and what happens when a new Drama teacher tries to get the students involved in the Performing Arts.

The evening was a lovely end to the first week back after Easter and we can't wait to run more trips like this to our local theatre soon.



Community Litter Pick

In celebration of Keep Britain Tidy and Earth Day, our dedicated Eco Ambassadors took positive action to help improve the local environment by organising a community litter pick. Demonstrating teamwork, responsibility and pride in their surroundings, the five students worked together to collect an impressive 12 bags of litter from around the local area.

Their efforts have made a real and visible difference, helping to keep the community clean, safe and welcoming for everyone. The Eco Ambassadors are excellent role models, showing how small actions can have a big impact when it comes to protecting our planet. A huge well done to all involved for their commitment to making a difference.

FRESH 2026

Our Year 10 BTEC Dance students were given an exciting and inspiring opportunity to attend FRESH 2026, held at the prestigious Leeds Playhouse. The day offered students a valuable insight into performing in a professional theatre environment and was packed with enriching experiences from start to finish. Throughout the day, students took part in a range of workshops, technical rehearsals and

whole-cast finale rehearsals, allowing them to develop their performance skills while gaining a deeper understanding of lighting, staging and backstage processes. After settling into the changing rooms, the excitement built as students prepared to step onto the stage and showcase their hard work.

Our students performed their piece “Suzume”, inspired by a Japanese animation and featuring an eye-catching illuminated door prop. The performance was truly

magical, captivating the audience and bringing the choreography to life in a professional setting. Both students and audience members thoroughly enjoyed the experience, which proved to be a memorable and confidence-boosting highlight of their dance journey.



Sports Leaders

The Sports Leaders have continued to make a positive impact within our community, actively supporting enrichment activities across local primary schools. This has included leading dance sessions at Holy Rood and delivering playground leadership training for Year 5 pupils at Shawlands Primary School, helping to develop confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills.

We were also delighted to welcome Year 4 pupils from Burton Road, Summer Lane, St Mary's, Joseph Locke, Holy Rood, Worsbrough Common,

and Shawlands to Horizon for a fun filled afternoon of Star Orienteering. Over 200 children took part in the event, navigating a course carefully designed and set up by our Sports Leaders around the school field.

Throughout the afternoon, the Sports Leaders demonstrated excellent organisation, enthusiasm, and encouragement, ensuring all participants felt supported and enjoyed the experience. It was a fantastic event that highlighted the important role our Sports Leaders play in inspiring younger people to be physically active.



Key dates in MAY

GCSE Exams continue

w/c 4th May

Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday Monday

– College closed to all students and staff

Tuesday 5th May

– Year 10 Parents Evening

w/c 11th May

Mental Health Week

Y9 Duke of Edinburgh expeditions taking place

w/c 18th May

Monday 18th May

– Y10 History visit to Thackray Medical Museum

Wednesday 20th May

– National Numeracy Day

Thursday 21st May

– Y7 visit to Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Thursday 21st May

– Y10 Drama Spotlight Performance (ticket only event)

w/c 25th May

College closed for Half Term week

College re-opens to all students on Monday 1st June

MAY
CORE VALUE
of the month is
ASPIRATION



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