

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER



SCHOOL READY; WORK READY; LIFE READY



Dear Families,

Welcome to our September newsletter!

What a brilliant start our students have made to the 2026/27 academic year. Our new Year 7 students have impressed us with their excellent behaviour and enthusiasm as they settle into secondary school life. Year 8 and Year 9 are throwing themselves into the enrichment offer after school, and Year 10 and Year 11 students have made a strong beginning to their GCSE courses; their maturity, focus, and engagement in lessons has been inspiring to see.

It was a real pleasure to welcome so many families to our annual Parent Information Evenings, where we shared key details about the year ahead. For anyone who

couldn't attend, a paper copy of the booklet is available for students to collect on your behalf from student reception.

We're very excited for the year ahead, which is already shaping up to be a successful one for all year groups!

Swanage

Our incredible dance students once again travelled to the Swanage on the south coast for the annual Folk Festival. Students performed in front of huge crowds in a series of outside locations throughout the weekend drawing huge crowds and receiving some wonderful feedback in the form of over 70 emails from the general public praising their incredible talent and wonderful manners and

behaviour around the festival and the town!

Outside of the dancing, students found time to enjoy a glow in the dark beach party, some paddling in the sea, plenty of ice creams and a cosy campfire with marshmallows.

We are so proud of how our students represented the college and cannot wait to return next year!





Durham Cathedral and Castle

We were delighted to take 110 Year 11 History students to Durham Castle and Durham Cathedral this term, a visit that brought the Norman period vividly to life.

Durham Castle is normally home to university students, so we were very grateful to the university for granting us special permission to explore it. Our students also had the privilege of being the first school group to experience a brand-new audio-visual light show telling the story of the Castle's Norman history. It was

a memorable and immersive way to see how the Normans asserted their power.

The trip strengthens students' understanding of Norman England, which makes up a quarter of the AQA History GCSE. Walking in the footsteps of the Prince Bishops and standing in the shadow of the Cathedral gave them a real sense of the period.

Thank you to all the students for their excellent behaviour and curiosity, and to the staff who supported the day. The Cathedral staff were keen to point out that they look forward to our visit every year because our students are so well behaved.

European Day of Languages

European Languages Week – 21st–25th September
We have celebrated European Languages Week from 21st–25th September, with a range of fun and engaging activities for students throughout the week.

Activities have included a Giant Colouring-In of a European city scene, our annual European Capital City treasure hunt and Staff Fact File challenges, as well as A Level French and Spanish tasters and a language-themed form vs form quiz.

Our annual build, bake, paint, draw and pretty much everything in between “Flag and Monument Competition” has also ran from the start of the school year, with

judging taking place on 25th September.

It has been a fantastic opportunity for students to celebrate the languages, cultures, and diversity of Europe, while having plenty of fun along the way!



Sporting News

We have had an exciting start to our sporting fixtures, with our students representing the school across a range of sports.

We encourage pupils, parents and staff to get behind our teams and show their support wherever possible.

Good luck to everyone taking part—we look forward to celebrating plenty of positive performances and achievements together!

Upcoming octocber fixtures:

- Netball Tournaments
- Cross Country Competitions
- English Schools Football Association (ESFA) fixtures
- Barnsley School Football League fixtures.

Please check the school's usual communication channels

for any updates to fixtures, timings or arrangements.

Year 8 Boys' ESFA Football

South Axholme Academy 5 -2 HCC

Our Year 8 boys played their first ESFA football fixture.

While the result wasn't quite what we were hoping for, the team put in a fantastic performance and showed great teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the match.

There were plenty of positive

moments to take from the game, and the boys can be proud of the effort they put in. A great first experience of a football fixture, and we look forward to seeing them build on this performance in their upcoming fixtures.

Year 10 Girls' Football

HCC 1 - 3 Trinity

The girls played a fantastic opening match of the season with lots of positive performances but were unlucky to concede two late goals.



South Yorkshire Music Hub Conference

On Wednesday 2nd September some of our Year 10 music students were chosen by Barnsley Music Service to represent student musicians from Barnsley at the South Yorkshire Music Hub Conference. The conference was attended by music teachers across South Yorkshire and the South Yorkshire Deputy Mayor. The day opened with two fantastic classical piano pieces from Sana, then two metal songs from the band Virtue, one of

which was an original song! This represented the wide range of musical talent at Horizon brilliantly. Students then spoke on a student panel, sharing with teachers at the event what they think makes a good instrumental/ vocal teacher as part of the CPD offer for staff on the day. Students spoke really well and lots of music teachers made comments about their musical talents and the insights they shared!



Legally Blonde Auditions

September is an exciting time for the Performing Arts Department as we hold our auditions for the forthcoming school show. The production this December 2026 will be "Legally Blonde Junior: The Musical" and tickets will go on sale shortly, so please watch this space. We were thrilled with the turn-out on audition night. Over one hundred of our talented Horizon students from across all year groups came

to show us their outstanding abilities in acting, singing and dancing. The high standard made it exceptionally hard for us to choose from so many possibilities and the Performing Arts team stayed late into the evening to make the difficult final decisions. We got there in the end and are thrilled with our final cast line-up! We now look forward to getting started on rehearsals right away. Congratulations to all students who made the cast. You are truly wonderful and we are going to have an amazing show!



Enrichment

Our enrichment schedule has started with a bang! Each year group has over 30 different clubs to choose from. It has been fantastic to see our students engage with activities covering arts & culture, civic engagement, sports and activity, outdoor & adventure and wider life skills.

Sports Leaders

A Fantastic start to the year! Our Year 9 Sports Leaders have hit the ground running. Having successfully completed their training, they have already supported several events, inspiring young people to be physically active. They are wonderful role models, demonstrating high standards of behaviour, attitude and commitment. The feedback from primary staff has praised their enthusiasm, organisation and ability to adapt games to

meet the needs of different groups. We are incredibly proud of the positive impact the sports leaders are making across our school community.



Coalfields Project Trip

Students from Dance, Music, Art, Photography and Oracy departments are enjoying a 6 week residency with Gary Clarke Company working on their Coalfields project.

As a starting point for their work students travelled to the NUM in Barnsley to look at mining artefacts and documents and to listen to first hand accounts of miners.

Students then visited the National Coal Mining Museum in Wakefield to explore the theme further.

Students will now complete sessions in their subjects to create material for a sharing on 15th October at Horizon Theatre.



Key dates in October

Black History Month

6th October

Y11 Parents Evening

16th October

Y8 Restart a Heart

w/c 19th October

Y7 PGL trips throughout the week

23rd October

Barcelona trip departs

23rd October

INSET day and half term commences

College re-opens to all students on Monday 2nd November



**OCTOBER
CORE VALUE
of the month is
INDEPENDENCE**

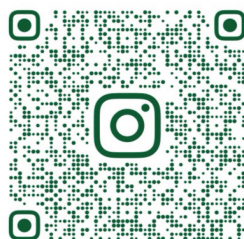


INDEPENDENCE

We take responsibility for our success.
We take control of our future.



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