

Sport @ Nunthorpe

'They think it's all over, it is now..!'



Where to begin?

Despite it being a very tough and challenging year for all practical subjects, there has been a lot of recent developments within the PE Department at Nunthorpe Academy.

To begin, let's look all the way back in September; yes the year really has gone that fast! Back at the start of this year, the PE Department began the academic year with a BANG! Taking the form of our annual Colour Run, Miss Murray successfully organised the colour run with over 400 students taking part in the event. For those who aren't familiar, the event comprises of a series of activities and obstacles set across the entirety of the academy field. These stations range from a giant 'slip n slide' to a tyre trail, all whilst being pelted with coloured paint in powered form. Students across all year groups, ranging from years 7 to 13, made their way around the course, totaling a fantastic 5K. The enjoyment of the event was palpable, evident on the smiles, laughs and enjoyment of the students; some of which can be seen in the photos which accompany this article. What makes this even more impressive is that the event raised over £2,200 pounds for Middlesbrough and Stockton Mind, as well as contributing to the purchase of new gym equipment for the brand new, Nunthorpe Academy Fitness Suite.

Events within PE haven't stopped there, read on to see what other events have been taking place across the last few months of this brand new academic year.

Game, Set, MATCH!

Following on from the success of the Colour Run, thoughts quickly turned to trips and visits that can now go ahead given that some of the restrictions surrounding travel, face masks and bubbles have been lifted. Miss Murray is now in the process of organising the annual Wimbledon trip for the end of the academic year. In previous years, in excess of thirty students have been given the opportunity to attend the tournament, with an overnight stay in the capital. Further to this, tickets to attend a day at the event will be given to all students, watching some of the world's greatest tennis players. If anyone is interested in being a part of the trip, please go and see Miss Murray, but move quickly; spaces are limited as we work on a first come, first served basis. Remember to pack your sun cream as you sit and bask in the sun, courtside with your strawberries and cream!



Inter House Sports, Sporting Superstars

Due to the disruption caused to academy working life across the past few years, we made the decision to amend both the pastoral and house system. Prior to the disruption of COVID, each year group used to be made up of five houses which, in turn, were used in a range of inter house, sporting competitions. The sports covered ranged from that of tennis, to football and athletics. It was a real highlight of the academic year for students across all year groups; concluding in the awarding of the house cup for true sporting excellence across all years and events. Despite not having anything to specifically report to you all yet, the whole of the PE department are working hard to establish a new sport house system with the aim to get this culture up and running again. The planning and delivery of the new system will be based on our academy ethos of 'Ready, Respectful, Safe' focusing on deeply important qualities such as passion, determination and honesty. Mr Bunn, teacher of Sport, will be launching the new model in year group assemblies in the new term; watch this space for more information! Each student will be assigned a house which they will then compete for in a range of sporting events across the year. Please do get involved, support and celebrate the successes of yourself and your peers, as and when these take place across the academic year!

And finally, please keep a look out for subject specific rewards from the PE department. Every term, students across all year groups will be rewarded for their efforts, attitude and commitments to both lessons and our extracurricular provision. In the past, rewards have included a 'sporting supper event' in which pizza has been purchased for all award winners, to personal letters of thanks from individual teachers and members of staff in recognition of some true sporting excellence. We hope to see as many of you in attendance to some, if not all, of the things that we have mentioned in our Christmas round up!

Merry Christmas!
from Nunthorpe Academy



A Message from Mrs Kell, Head of School

Dear Parents/Carers, Students and Staff,

Congratulations! We have managed a full term back at the academy with face to face teaching, the opportunity to mix beyond year group bubbles, see and communicate with each other beyond our immediate seating plan, experience whole year group assemblies and celebration events, not to mention move around the academy with limited restrictions in comparison with the previous eighteen months.

In addition to this, extra-curricular activities, practical lessons, sporting fixtures, charity fundraising and external visitors promoting literacy, career opportunities, safeguarding experiences through drama and workshops, 'YOLO', risk taking behaviours and 'Lucky' the refugee experience. Award ceremonies, work experience interviews and trial examinations have all provided rich experiences that have previously been central to the Nunthorpe experience, have been able to return. Students on the whole have responded positively and a significant amount of students have taken the regular opportunity to access the new and improved catering facilities.

Student voice continues to go from strength to strength with their evaluation of the weekly experiences within the academy, promotion of developments within the new catering, feedback on subject curriculum areas through internal deep dives, consultation on the behaviour and safeguarding policies and experiences within the academy in response to the OFSTED peer on peer, relationships and sex education reports and the changes implemented within the academy to support students to feel safe, as well as know the reporting systems and structures.

In addition to the academic experiences, students have also found the time to raise awareness and funds for key charities, both locally and nationally through such events as a colour run for 'Mind', wear yellow for Young Minds 'Mental Health Awareness Day', a pyjama day for 'Children in Need' within our Post 16 provision, 'CAUSE' Christmas hampers and gifts for families across the region, clothes donations to support refugees from Afghanistan, Middlesbrough food bank and the 'Save the Children' Christmas Jumper Day. Further details of our student's activities can be found on the academy website gallery, Facebook and Twitter, so please don't forget to add us to your 'Favourites'.

Warmest Wishes,

Kate Kell, Head of School



Children in Need

It has been a longstanding tradition at Nunthorpe Sixth Form to celebrate the BBC charity of Children in Need in whichever way possible. Given the effects that COVID19 had on the entire world, not to mention the limitations it placed upon staff and students alike in all aspects of education, the sixth formers were understandably excited in being able to celebrate it properly; raising a lot of money for a great cause. Across the term, the Student Council drew up plans to celebrate the charity by way of a pyjama day, an event which has proven to be greatly popular over the last ten years or so; certainly since the inception of our sixth form! Despite this being a rather simple concept, the students in Years 12 and 13 did not disappoint and raised an outstanding £316.87. We can't wait to see what is the next fundraising activity for next year's event.

Take a look across some of the other articles within this issue of @Nunthorpe to see some of the other events that our fantastic staff and students have participated in across the past term. We hope to continue to be able to partake in such events into the New Year and beyond!



SMSC, Fundamental British Values & Diversity

There has been a number of fantastic assemblies delivered by staff this term, however Mr Yale has already done two and it's only December! Across the first assembly of his, Mr Yale looked at the importance of SMSC; a generic term to many, however he went on to explain what each of the different aspects of the acronym meant, not to mention got all staff and students involved across Years 7 to 9. Additionally, the follow up task to such a session was, for Year 7 and 8, was to get their creative skills flowing and create a tutor group totem pole which represented not only the different strands of SMSC, but a collective form identity and set of important values; each in line with the academy ethos of 'Ready, Respectful, Safe'. It was an extremely tough competition, however Mr Yale along with the help of Mrs Kell, were able to conclude that the overall winners in Year 7 was that of Miss Lewis' tutor group and Mrs Cook for Year 8. Each received a substantial number of achievement points, sweets and a certificate. These totem poles will be going on display in key locations around the academy; keep an eye open for where they end up!

In addition to this, students in Years 7 to 11 received an additional assembly on 'Britishness' and the five Fundamental British Values which are promoted within the academy. In true audience participation fashion, Mr Yale had the entire year groups getting up, getting involved and once again; getting creative in their responses to the material covered and the work set. By the end of the session, students left having a deeper understanding of the term, 'Britishness' as well as what it means to contribute to their collective identity within the academy, local area and indeed, world. Such skills, knowledge and understanding is deeply important to our students, particularly those who wish to succeed in the real world beyond the walls of Nunthorpe Academy. We all collectively agree, if the work and participation levels from these assemblies are anything to go by, then we have some truly amazing success stories to come.

A Trip of a Lifetime...

Each day, students at Nunthorpe take leaps of faith into a plethora of different areas in school life. Whether this be something in an academic field of study such as science, or within a sporting event on the playing fields, we aim to celebrate everyone's successes regardless of how big or small they seem to be. Back in November, several members of our Year 10 community were lucky enough to attend an exclusive five day course entitled, "Mission Discovery" which was designed and led by NASA Astronauts and expert educators. The rigorous selection process to even get onto the course comprised of students submitting a plan for an experiment that would then be carried out by real-life astronauts on board the International Space Station; some seriously cool stuff! Out of all the teams who were entered into the event, Team Nunthorpe came an amazing second place! Well done guys, we hope to see your successes continue to shine in the future! In other news, November was a really busy month, as in Sport, one of our fantastic sixth form students made the Team GB Tumbling team. I Bennison, who is currently in Year 12, is a prime example of just how far hard-work, drive and determination can get you. He was recently taken off to Baku to compete on behalf of his country in this intensely demanding physical sporting event. We are all so proud of you! If you have any success stories that you haven't told your teachers about, please let us know, we would love to feature you in a future edition of our academy magazine!



Wellbeing Week

Across each term on the academy calendar, staff and students partake in a number of activities which encourage positive mental health and a sense of personal and professional wellbeing. Activities this year have already included, but not been limited to, chats on healthy relationships, mindfulness colouring in, wellbeing walks across the academy site and an intense, inter form and year group dodgeball tournament for students in Years 12 and 13. Aside from this, staff have been fortunate to have been treated to a number of baked goods by way of the different pastoral teams within the academy; each taking it in turn to cook up some tasty treats for their colleagues. Watch out Bake Off, Nunthorpe is coming for you!

Steve Skidmore, Author Visit

Our 'Reading Patron' here at Nunthorpe Academy is none other than Steve Skidmore. An exceptionally funny, witty and brilliant author, it was a real treat to be able to finally invite him back into the academy after the past two years of COVID restrictions have meant all visitors have been limited. It was back in November that the youngest of students in Nunthorpe were treated to a session with Steve, the highlight being when two Year 7 boys were invited onto the stage and took on the role of female warrior princesses! We can't wait to have him back, his visits really are a highlight of the academic year!