

# Sport @Nunthorpe



As always, the PE department has been a busy place throughout the whole of this academic year. From our fantastic football teams across KS3 & KS4 to our amazing basketball group in Year 8, the work of the students at Nunthorpe when in a sporting environment has been consistently stellar and certainly does not disappoint. As we close the 2022-2023 academic year, we take a moment to look back over the sporting successes of the past year and, ahead to the future as we brace ourselves and prepare for what 2024 has in store for us in PE at Nunthorpe.

To begin with the most recent work within the department is for the students' who have been consistently excellent across their PE lessons this year. They are being rewarded with a sporting inspired prize in the form of a giant inflatable assault course! The obstacles, varying from cargo netting to full blown climbing walls, have been provided for use by students who have managed to achieve over 2,000 achievement points and less than five behaviour points; an incredible achievement. There are over 42 students in Year 7 alone which is a fantastic start to their time at Nunthorpe. Keep up the great work guys!

It has also been amazing to have had the opportunity to get the annual Academy 'House Sports' back up and running following changes to the Academy house system due to the COVID19 global pandemic. As such, students were able to take part in summer House Sports recently, looking at completing events such as tennis, football and rounders in order to earn points across all year groups in the hope of winning the house cup. There were a number of highlights from the different sports played, particularly given the fact that we often had to schedule play in between bouts of heavy rain and thunderstorms! We hope to be able to continue to celebrate the talents and skills of our students in our winter sports, due to take place when we return to the academy after the summer break, and shall be updating you all in due course on the results of such events. These events are a brilliant time to experiment and try competing in something new, perhaps a sport that students don't usually play or have looked into before. The PE team are constantly looking for new ways to bring different sports to the whole academy, so if you have any ideas on a sport that you would like to see being taught, please speak to a member of the team.



## Looking Ahead

Remember that the academy closes for the summer break on **Friday 21 July 2023**. We will reopen on **Tuesday 5 September 2023** for the start of our Autumn term with Monday 4 September being a PD Day for staff and therefore closed to all students in both the main academy and sixth form.

Students should remember that they need to be in the academy no later than 8:30am each morning and should enter the building by the turnstile at the front of the building. They should be dressed in Academy uniform and be ready to learn with a fully equipped pencil case, complete with pens, pencils, a rubber, ruler and scientific calculator.

On their first day back students will spend period 1 with their tutor where they will receive a brand-new planner along with their timetable for the new academic year.

Have a great, relaxed summer and we look forward to welcoming you back in September!

# That's all folks!

A year in *review*, see what we have been up to...

# Mrs Kell, Head of School



Welcome to this round up of the summer term and the 2022-23 academic year. I can honestly say I have never been more proud of the hard work, dedication, team play and resilience demonstrated by both the students and staff at the academy. Every day I witness the generosity of spirit, determination to succeed, peer support and kindness witnessed by our students both in lessons and social times. This edition clearly demonstrates the commitment to the academy and community it represents, alongside the developing skills and future potential of our next generation of leaders both locally and potentially nationally with the projects, voice and actions being promoted.

At the core of our Academy's development is our student and staff voice. This year our students have influenced significant decisions to improve academy life. The most recent will be implemented for September 2023 when we return.

## Academy day change for September

A response to student and staff voice.

When we return to the Academy, the academy day will remain the same in length but tutor time and break will change in structure. We have reduced the length of tutor time by 5 minutes but increased the length of break by 5 minutes to allow them to be placed back to back to create a split break. This will allow two year groups to have their break with increased access to toilets and canteen facilities, whilst the other three year groups are in assembly or form time, and this will then flip. This will reduce the number of students moving around the corridors at any given time to improve the flow around our corridors and better support well-being.

What this does mean is that it is absolutely essential for students to attend the academy on time (no later than 8.30am) as their first lesson will now start at 8.40am and it is essential that core learning is not missed. Details will be explained to students in their form time this week and during period 1 on the first day back in September.

Have a wonderful, safe and restful summer.

Academy Day September 2023 – 2024	
Gates open 8.20am / Gates close 8.35am	
8.40 - 9.40am	Lesson 1
9.40 – 10.40am	Lesson 2
10.10 – 11.05am	Break Yr 8, 10 & 12 Tutor Yr 7, 9, 11 & 13
11.05 – 11.30am	Break Yr 7, 9, 11 & 13 Tutor Yr 8, 10 & 12
11.30 – 12.30am	Lesson 3
12.30 – 2.00pm	Lesson 4 plus split lunches as previously
2.00 – 3.00pm	Lesson 5

\* changes for September

### Parental Voice – how to have your say!

Look out for a Class Charts announcement on 'Parental Partnership'. I will be sharing a document to request feedback on how we can develop parent/carer voice and opportunities within the Academy from September 2023.

# She came, she saw, she conquered...

**Don't feed the plants!**

This year's musical was none other than, 'Little Shop of Horrors.' For those who have not heard of this production before, it's about a giant, man-eating Venus Fly Trap, which has a taste for human blood and goes by the name of Audrey II. As you can imagine, trying to create this on our very own stage at Nunthorpe, was a challenge. However, being the team that we are at the Academy, departments came together in order to pull it off. Mr Yale, as Head of drama, along with Mrs Richardson, teacher of music, handled the directing, choreography and signing within the show. Mr Yale also lent his hand to the design and painting of the set, costumes, and publicity, along with Mrs Harrison in technology, who was simply divine on a sewing machine and hand-made several dresses and set pieces for the female characters within the show. It was however our very own Mr Gibson, Head of Engineering, who took on one of the biggest challenges in our musical history; having to make a series of Audrey II puppets which had to, quite literally, grow as the performance goes on. Through a combination of robotics, wood, nails, glue, paint and a lot of time, effort and energy, Mr Gibson and Mr Ball were able to make two smaller, robotic versions of the central character within the show and a larger, man-eating version who successfully devoured several principal roles, each night of the show's run. The show was a huge success, selling out each night and entertaining audiences of all ages in the process; some of whom came back for more than one performance! The performance was also successful in raising funds for James Cook University Hospital, as money generated from the sale of refreshments in the interval went to helping improve the bereavement services within the maternity department, a cause close to the hearts of many involved in the production.

As always, no sooner had the performance wrapped up for another year, students were quick to quiz Mr Yale on what would be coming next. Of course, he wasn't able to tell anyone, but we can reveal through this issue of @Nunthorpe that the 2024 musical is going to be 'High School Musical', and due to be performed in March 2024. Watch this space! We are told that this is one of Mrs Kell's favourites and, who knows, may want a cameo in the show itself...

## Work Experience

Students in Year 10 built on their previous interview experience with local employers in December, as they were fortunate enough to secure a weeks' worth of experience at different businesses/places of work in July. They experienced several activities within their time on placement, from the general day-to-day requirements of the role(s), to improving their transferable skills in communication, organisation, and initiative. The overwhelming majority of students loved their time whilst on placement, some of whom did not want to come back! We cannot wait to see where next year's cohort end up, as it is never too early to start thinking of where you want to go. Some places will fill up quickly, especially in popular areas of work. Get those research skills fired up and start making some connections now. If you need any additional help, speak to Mrs Worton based in main reception, or Mrs Hudson who both lead on Work Experience and can offer help, advice, and support as to where to start looking.

**Important dates for Year 10 Interviews & Work Experience will be released in due course; watch this space...**



## SMSC Quality Mark



SMSC is an acronym in education for the Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural learning that we each participate in within the Academy. SMSC filters into all aspects of your studies at Nunthorpe and is way more important than you may first think. A lot of jobs, if not all of them, will require you to use them in order for you to be successful in the next step of your educational journey; from working in a team to understanding the beliefs, ideas and backgrounds of colleagues and friends. You may even recall assemblies delivered throughout the year by Mrs Kell, Mr Yale, and Miss Dixon, touching upon these vitally important aspects of education. At Nunthorpe, we understand the value of these skills and have recently been awarded a 'Gold' SMSC Quality Mark for all of our hard work within this aspect of academy life. The award, which is nationally recognised, has three 'tiers' to it; Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Gold however, is not easy to achieve, as academies must demonstrate that such skills are woven into all aspects of academic life, both in and out of the classroom, showing a depth and appreciation of what such skills can add to a student's life and future chances in the world of work. Nunthorpe was successful in its application for a Gold award, and back in January, were involved in a full day's inspection of all the aforementioned areas of SMSC. Staff and students alike, as well as members of the Governing body at Nunthorpe Academy, were questioned by the verifier who was immensely impressed with what we were able to show. This resulted in us not only achieving the highest level of verification on offer but also being recommended for 'Beacon Status', given the strength of our provision. We are immensely proud of this achievement, and hope to grow its success as we move onto bigger and better things!



# Transition is the word

As soon as we hit June in the academic year, transition becomes the buzzword of the Academy. Despite many people thinking that transition only effects students on their way up to secondary school, we begin the process of waving off our students in May; as we say good luck and goodbye to our brilliant Year 13 leavers, as they move onto the next step of their educational journey. Whether it's an undergraduate course for a fantastic subject degree or a vocational apprenticeship, the destination of our leavers has been fantastic over the years since the sixth form opened way back in 2008. As per somewhat of an annual tradition, our leavers this year were treated to a leavers assembly in which they were awarded with subject specific accolades and a trip down memory lane as they were able to see photographs of themselves and their peers from KS3, 4 and 5. We wish them all the very best of luck and all will be 'on-hand' at the A-Level results day, due to take place on Thursday 17 August 2023 from 10:00am in our sixth form building.

Aside from our brilliant sixth form contingent, our fantastic Year 11 leavers also go on somewhat of a journey as they venture across to our outstanding sixth form provision for two days of transition which aims to prepare them for academic life. Here they were able to experience their selected subjects in 'taster' style sessions, to making important discoveries into what life would look like in tutor time and other pastoral opportunities in the academic year. The feedback from students' was hugely positive, many of whom reported the benefits of attending. One student stated "It was amazing, I really loved seeing the difference(s) between my GCSE studies, and how this knowledge feeds into the next level of study." Another added, "I can't wait to start in September, we just need to get GCSE results day out of the way first!". We too cannot wait to see you all again come September and are hugely impressed with your efforts across the past year. You have worked incredibly hard, we look forward to seeing you reap the rewards! GCSE results day is on Thursday 24 August 2023, beginning at 10:00am in the sixth form building.

Looking towards the next generation of Nunthorpe students, July marks the annual week-long transition event for our feeder primary school students; taking place from Monday 10 to Friday 14 July. Students' get to meet their new tutor group for September, meeting their tutors, peers and new subject teachers in the process too. This year however, students were also treated to a full afternoon of sport, provided by none other than our fantastic PE department, as well as being involved in a Government and Parliament inspired session ran by Miss Wilkinson, in which they learnt about the importance of using your vote and selecting the right political party for you and your needs. The smiles on the faces of our newest of students come September were palpable to see and enough to ensure that students were able to leave the academy with a deeper understanding on what to expect come September, only six weeks away!

## It's Party Time

A highlight of the academic year, Nunthorpe's annual prom for students in Year 11 takes place in July at Gisborough Hall. As all staff and students alike cross their fingers in the hope of warm weather and the sun to make an appearance, this year we were treated to both along with some fantastic dresses, suits and methods of transport as parents and students wait with baited breath to see who arrives in what. Mr Deen and Miss Yau, our brilliant pastoral team responsible for Year 11, pulled out all of the stops to make this year's prom one to remember. Karaoke, a photobooth and sweet Ferris wheel awaited our students, allowing them a chance to celebrate their final year together as a cohort with memories to last a lifetime.



## Team Alliance

The work from Team Alliance has continued to go from strength to strength throughout this academic year. Building on the Hart Gables Award that they received for the Academy, based on providing a safer learning environment for LGBT students and staff, Miss Murray and the group have turned their focus to raising much needed funds for local LGBT charities and service providers. Capitalising on the unseasonably warm weather recently, ice-cream(s), ice-pop(s) and lollies were served to staff and students during break time. Together, they raised £170 pounds and were responsible for cooling down the entire Academy, some fantastic achievements! Further to this, Team Alliance were stellar in their support of Pride month, which takes place in June of each year. Together they were able to provide the entire Academy with a plethora of resources which help in supporting different aspects of LGBT life, not to mention getting different departments across the academy on board in delivering specific lessons which aim to explore the importance and power of the LGBT community. If you would like to be a part of Team Alliance, speak to any member of the current group or Miss Murray, who will be more than happy to help. Well done and keep up the great work.



## Field Trip

If you opted to study geography at GCSE, you must have an infinity with nature. This was the case for Mrs Whitehead's class recently, who ventured out of the classroom during some questionable weather conditions in order to conduct some field work methods in preparation for their trip(s) out to Danby Moor and Redcar to conduct their Human and Physical Field work investigations as part of their fieldwork; due to take place in July before breaking up for the summer. Students were engaged in pedestrian counts, footfall studies, Environmental Quality Surveys, field work sketches and bin/litter counts at different locations around school! Some fantastic work, we hope that you have just as much success on your official visits, outside of the Academy grounds.



## The BIG Project

Six of our Year 9 students, Hamza, James, Mia, Evelyn, Ryan and Leo, took part in the 'Big, Big Project' this year. They have been working alongside a business mentor, to research and present an idea to answer the question on how to make Teesside 'Net Zero'. Putting in many hours of hard work outside of school over the past few months, the group were able to work collaboratively in order to develop their ideas. They have worked amazingly well as a team, capably dealing with the stress of presenting information on Microsoft Teams to a panel of judges, before answering some very difficult questions at the end! Mr Greaves was extremely impressed with all the students' efforts and hopes to be able to offer the programme to another group of enthusiastic students soon. Team Nunthorpe made it to the semi-final and were invited to watch the final. They also received a well-deserved silver 'Industrial Cadets' award for their participation in the project.



# A brush with greatness

In Year 7, the Art Department complete an illustration project based on the work of Jon Burgerman. For those of you who do not know, Jon Burgerman is a famous British illustrator whose art has been exhibited all over the world from art fairs, galleries to museums to even the White House. His works are held in the permanent collections of institutions including the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, and OÖ-Kultur Museum in Linz, Austria. As a department, we follow Jon Burgerman on Twitter, and often post pictures of our student's work, that he has inspired; so much so that he always 'likes' our posts and often 'comments'. He recently messaged us and asked if we would like some merchandise to give out as prizes to students who excelled in this project. Of course, we said YES! To our amazement, we received a huge selection of goods last week, from laptop cases, hard backed sketchbooks and journals, valued at £2,250! We were so excited to be able to present these items to students in recognition of their talent.

# Historically Speaking

In Year 7, students have been studying the Tudors and the friction between Roman Catholicism and Protestantism during the Reformation. There has been lots of discussion on the importance of tolerance, understanding as well as mutual respect, a key part of our code of conduct for all staff and students here at Nunthorpe Academy. Following on from this, we have looked at the build up to the English Civil War and the conflict between the power of the King and Parliament and how this was an important step to modern democracy in the UK. Year 8 have been studying the Transatlantic Slave trade and Women's Suffrage movement in the 19th Century. These topics have helped them develop an understanding of the moral stance that campaigners took in both movements and the different strategies that were used to convince people at the time to change their mind. Both movements used peaceful methods and more violent methods to gain publicity and support- this opened discussion as to which were the most effective and whether it is acceptable to break the law if it helps end something immoral. Year 9 have started the American West topic and have been studying how the American Government and settlers treated the Native Americans. There has been lots of discussion on the morality of the treatment of the Native Americans in the settlement and development of the West for example how during the "Trail of Tears" approximately 60,000 people were forced to give up their land in the east and migrate over 1,000 miles to new land in the west. Year 10 have been studying Medicine through Time and look to have smashed their mocks on The American West and Anglo-Saxons/Normans topics. Keep up this momentum into Year 11!

# A trip to the capital

In February, our sixth form Law and Business students took part in a London residential. Travelling down from Darlington station on a Friday and arriving shortly after, they enjoyed a fun and packed two days in the capital, allowing our students to develop their knowledge across both subject areas, as well as their SMSC skills as they took in the sights and sounds of the city. Miss Wilkinson who led the trip alongside Mr Yale, had a busy schedule to follow, enjoying a trip to the theatre to see, 'Witness for the Prosecution', paid a visit to Madame Tussauds, dared to venture inside the London Dungeon's and toured Westminster Palace and the Houses of Parliament. All 21 students were an absolute pleasure to take and all the venues complimented the students on their behaviour and willingness to get involved. Miss Wilkinson is already looking forward to planning the next trip, so watch this space for more information. Next time, she is hoping to be able to take our students to watch a real debate in parliament...



# A Message from Student Council

As we approach the end of the academic year, we are taking a moment to look back over the work and successes of the Academy Council. The group of students are a lively group across Years 7-11, working together to improve life at Nunthorpe Academy for all our students. So far this year, they have completed eight CAUSE Christmas hampers for families in need across Teesside; created a Nunthorpe Academy Food Bank and contributed to the second-hand uniform bank. They have also helped to shape new additions to the rewards policy, including the Metro Centre reward trip at Christmas; regularly interviewed potential new members of staff; contributed to whole Academy events such as Welcome to Nunthorpe; raised over £300 for Billy's Room and discussed any issues that are sent to them from other students or staff. Most recently, they planned and successfully delivered a series of lessons which were then delivered to every Year 6 student through classes during transition week, as well as being proactive in trying to organise activities for 'Thank a Teacher Day' on 21st June. Anyone can join School Council - this is a no application or election process; we welcome members from all year groups who would like to contribute to Academy Life. We look forward to welcoming new students into the group when we return after the summer break. Speak to a member of the current council to find out more, or to Miss Dixon who is the staff lead.

The Anti-Bullying group meets every two weeks and is made up of students from all five-year groups who care about the mental health and wellbeing of students in our Academy, and are particularly passionate about creating an environment where bullying has no place. They are currently developing plans for a "Safe Space"; this will be available to students at breaks and lunchtimes if they do not feel like they want to be in the busy school environment. The Safe Space will be staffed by student volunteers and there will be space for reading,

playing games, colouring, listening to music or just chatting in a comfortable atmosphere. In the long-term, our trained anti-bullying ambassadors will also be available in the Safe Space so that students have someone they can talk to if they are worried about friendships or potential bullying. They would love to hear from anyone willing to donate age-appropriate books, games, jigsaws, colouring books/ colours or any beanbags or floor cushions.

## How to save a life

Our Year 7 students have recently been working hard on learning lifesaving skills through our first aid lessons. Having already considered how we can keep ourselves safe when we are out and about (around roads, water and railway tracks), we have recently been focusing on practical first aid in a range of different situations, from burns and scalds to head injuries. The unit finished with a lesson of practical CPR training, using one of the Bee Gees most infamous songs, "Stayin' Alive" to learn the correct rhythm for chest compressions. Although everything we cover in LIFE lessons is important, there's literally nothing more crucial than being able to stay calm and do the right thing when someone needs lifesaving treatment. Year 7 rose to the challenge brilliantly - but we hope that all learning stays in the classroom and that none of them are ever in a situation to need to use those skills!



## Progress in Pastoral

Our pastoral curriculum at Nunthorpe Academy is designed to give students a positive, meaningful start to their day, along with the opportunity to reflect on their own progress, their ambitions and next steps, their motivation and resilience and how to prepare for life beyond the school day. A key part of this is our assembly programme, covering all kinds of inspirational and important content, delivered by our staff, students, or visitors to the Academy. Some of our assemblies are specific to one year group or key stage - for example, Year 11 had several assemblies recently based around study skills, revision, career goals and stress management. Recently, students in all year groups benefitted from an incredibly moving and uplifting assembly from Stuart Myers, who talked about being born with no arms and how he has had to adapt to the world around him, without ever allowing his disability to be an excuse for not achieving his goals. There was a real buzz afterwards as students reflected on what this meant for them and their attitude to the everyday challenges we all face.