



**Nunthorpe**  
Academy

**@Nunthorpe News**



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# A round-up of all that has been going on at Nunthorpe Academy!

## Words from the Headteacher

Welcome to our summer edition of our @Nunthorpe Magazine. We have said hello and welcome to **three new members of our senior team this term: Mrs Chapman-Jones, Deputy Headteacher Behaviour and Attitudes; Mrs Arnold, Assistant Headteacher Behaviour and Attitudes and Mrs Airstone, Assistant Headteacher, Teaching and Learning.** There has been a very deliberate and staggered review of all practices at Nunthorpe over the last term as a further response to our Ofsted in June 2024, new Areté Learning Trust Review in January 2025 and staff, student and parental voice which has been collected throughout the year.

The soft launch of our improved **Standards** agenda, supported by the **Standards Hub** and daily meet and greet have already impacted upon the presentation, attitudes for learning, focus and calmness of the academy day by removing any potential barriers and conflicts over standards and enabling students to focus on punctuality, attendance and the learning taking place. This will be enhanced in September through the improved and **simplified Behaviour Policy for September 2025** with the behaviour **principles of Ready, Respectful, Safe** and the **teaching principles of 'Five to Thrive'** expected within each lesson.

The **new and improved vision of Nunthorpe 'Thriving Together'** has been launched with all staff during briefings and training sessions; students through assemblies and parents and carers through year group presentation evenings. These have been well attended and supported demonstrating the ambition of all members of our community to 'Thrive Together'.

***At Nunthorpe Academy we recognise the importance of and value involvement and engagement in the life and development of the Academy and the local community. We believe that education is a collaborative enterprise involving, amongst others, parents/carers, staff and children. As an Academy we are therefore committed to establishing and maintaining an effective and***

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***purposeful working relationship between the Academy, home and the local community which results in all partnerships 'Thriving Together' to allow each individual to be the 'best versions of themselves they can be'.***

It is important to us that all of our students feel like they **belong** to and are **proud** of being a member of our academy and the local community. It is important that the adults, both teachers and parents/carers work together to support each of our young people as an individual to become the 'best version of themselves they can be'. We want everyone to be able to **'thrive' both socially and academically** to be able to have the best life chances possible to excel in their future choices whilst providing a **framework of high expectations**.

### **Why does belonging matter?**

Belonging is the foundation of success, it underpins everything else: **self-motivation, attendance, learning, connection** with others through friendships and supportive peer relationships to ensure a **safe, secure and respectful environment** in which to learn through respecting boundaries and routines. It is through achieving these aims together that the local community will thrive with the best possible outcomes, skills and characteristics to provide the most competitive young people to support the area.

### **Belonging to our community sits at the heart of everything we do - Everyone matters!**

Our aim is to gain an understanding of every individual within our community and to be able to celebrate everyone's successes both inside and outside of the Academy in publications such as this. **Clear and consistent communication amongst all is essential.**

To support this aim we have moved tutor time back to the beginning of the school day to develop relationships and provide a trusted adult as the first point of contact every morning for every individual. The **role of tutor as 'Champion'** for each member of their form group is a determined focus.

**Collective belonging** is about being a part of a tutor group, your year group, subject groups and team Nunthorpe. We want to welcome everyone daily with a smile and kind words to guide students and embed a **warm, kind and respectful community**

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where **consistent expectations and routines** are understood and respected by **all through the behaviour code of 'Ready, Respectful and Safe'**.

**We are stronger together, we are 'thriving together' towards the same goal!**

Together we 'can do it'

Kate Kell  
Headteacher  
July 2025

## Key dates

PD Days these are Staff Professional Development days and students are not expected in the academy
1 September 2025
1 December 2025
27 March 2026
20 July 2026
21 July 2026

Term dates (inclusive):	Holidays dates
Autumn 2 September – 19 December 2025	Half term – 27/10/2025 – 31/10/2025
	Christmas – 22/12/2025 – 02/01/2026
Spring 5 January – 3 April 2026	Half term – 23/02/2026 – 27/02/2026
	Easter – 06/04/2026 – 17/04/2026
Summer 20 April – 21 July 2026	Half term – 25/05/2026 – 29/05/2026
	Summer – 20/07/2026 – 02/09/2026

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## **Returning to the academy in September**

Tuesday 2 September 2025 - Years 7, 11 and 12 only.

Wednesday 3 September – all students.

Students are expected to enter the school gates between 8:15am and 8:25am. All students will go to their year group area and form room for an 8:30am start and be greeted by their tutor, pastoral team and link member of the senior team.

On Tuesday and Wednesday tutor time will be extended to ensure all students are provided with the tools to be successful for the year this includes:

Year group assembly focused on 'Thriving Together', expectations and the year ahead

Timetables for 2025-26

Planner for 2025-26

Class Codes

Parent Pay logons

Safeguarding expectations, including evacuation practice

Culture, kindness and community session

Lessons will start at the beginning of period 2.

No student needs to bring their PE kit for their first PE lesson of the year – they will receive a briefing from the PE team regarding expectations and their curriculum in their first session – this is to ensure there are no barriers or concerns about whether to bring PE kit on the first day.



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## Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome three new members of staff to our leadership team.

We asked them to briefly introduce themselves:

### Mrs Arnold

*Who are you and why did you want to come and work here?*

My name is Mrs Arnold and I am Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour and Attitudes at Nunthorpe. My role involves supporting students to make the best choices to ensure they are meeting our high expectations and are meeting their full potential. I am an ex-Nunthorpe student, and I am really passionate about supporting the school and local community in ensuring Nunthorpe Academy is the best it can be and the school of choice for all children in the area.

*What are you hoping to achieve in your first year here?*

I hope to simplify some strategies and launch a new Behaviour Policy that supports students to make the right decisions whilst also improving attendance to ensure as a school community everybody feels like they belong, and we are thriving together. I am also really excited to get to know students and work closely with families to improve each child's school experience.

*Can you tell us three interesting facts about yourself?*

I have two children - Lexi and Lila - who mean everything to me and all of my spare time is spent with them.

I love to travel, and I am always excited to book a holiday with my family. This year we are going to America.

I love reading and set myself a challenge every year of how many books I can read. Last year I achieved over 100 books!

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Mrs Airstone

*Who are you and why did you want to come and work here?*

My name is Mrs Airstone, and I'm the Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning. That means I help make sure the teaching in school and the learning that happens are the best they can be. I wanted to come and work here because I was inspired by the amazing teachers I had when I was a student myself—some of whom are still teaching here today! I wanted to give back to a school that gave me so much.

*What are you hoping to achieve in your first year here?*

In my first year, I hope to embed "Five to Thrive" in all our lessons. These are five important lesson principles based on the best research about how we learn. They include: Recall it, Connect it, Explain it, Practise it, and Review it. I hope these will become our common language for great learning. I'm also excited to meet and work with lots of new students, which is the reason I love my job so much.

*Can you tell us three interesting facts about yourself?*

I've had a season ticket for Middlesbrough FC since I was 15 years old #UTB!

I'm a parent to two lovely cocker spaniels called Lyla and Ziggy—they're named after some of my favourite songs.

I'm currently taking on the challenge of climbing all 214 Wainwright mountains, and I've completed around a quarter of them already.

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## Mrs Chapman-Jones

*Who are you and why did you want to come and work here?*

I'm Mrs Chapman-Jones. I've been a teacher for 20 years. I started as a Teacher of English at King's Manor School in Middlesbrough. I worked there for 12 years, during which time the school amalgamated with Hallgarth School and became firstly, Oakfields Community College and then Outwood Academy Acklam. I held various roles during those years and enjoyed working closely with staff and students to support everyone to have the best experience they could.

In 2016 I left to take up a post as Senior Leader Director of English at Ian Ramsey CE Academy in Stockton before moving on to become Assistant Headteacher Behaviour and Attitudes at a school in Sunderland.

However, Nunthorpe Academy has always held an important place in my family because when I was born, my mum was Deputy Headteacher at Nunthorpe School and Sixth Form. Throughout my career I have kept an eye on jobs coming up in Nunthorpe Academy, and when the role of Deputy Headteacher was advertised, the timing felt right. Following a meeting with Mrs Kell, I was convinced that this was a school that I wanted to work at, and a school where I felt I could make a positive difference. I now hold the same role she had (albeit many years later!) and I am loving working with Mrs Kell, the staff, students and parents, and supporting the journey to improvement that the school is on. We really are thriving together!

*What are you hoping to achieve in your first year here?*

My role is Behaviour and Attitudes, so I am looking to improve and support these areas. We are launching our new Behaviour Policy in September and have already introduced our Behaviour Spotlights. My vision is to foster a supportive, inclusive, and aspirational environment where all members of the school community—students, staff, and families—can grow, connect, and succeed. Behaviour and Attitudes is not just about managing conduct, but about actively promoting wellbeing, mutual respect, and collective progress.

*Can you tell us three interesting facts about yourself?*



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I'm not sure that everyone will find these interesting, but here you go:

I've written a book. My mum sadly passed away following a valiant battle with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia. While she was fighting, I wrote a blog to keep people updated; a few years ago, my dad persuaded me to publish the blog as a book. All the proceeds from sales are donated to Blood Cancer UK (formerly Leukaemia Research). The book is called 'I Stand Amazed'.

I am  $\frac{1}{4}$  Italian. My Grandma (mum's mum) was born and raised in Trieste in Italy. She moved over here having married my Granda who she met after the war. Thanks to her I have dark hair, tan easily, and have a fiery temper! Italy will always be one of my favourite countries to visit.

I love reading! In fact, I love reading so much I even based my Masters thesis on it! (Maybe not interesting to many people, but definitely a passion of mine!)

## Welcome- Y6 Transition

We would like to say how proud we are to welcome our new Year 6s. You were all amazing during transition week. We had a wonderful week of celebrations and achievements. You all showed courage and respect throughout your time at Nunthorpe Academy and I am sure you will all arrive in September determined to thrive together and be the best you can be.

We hope you all have a wonderful, safe holiday and we look forward to seeing you all again as your new chapter begins in Year 7.

Mrs Knowles & Miss Ivison

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## Farewells

Nunthorpe Academy would also like to extend best wishes to staff members who are leaving us this term, including Hermione Jackson, who has spent 29 years with us! We hope that she enjoys her retirement, with plenty of travelling and theatre visits! Throughout her various roles within Nunthorpe Academy including Philosophy & Ethics teacher, Head of Sixth Form, Head of Humanities, Lead on EPQ and Head of Religious Studies, she has supported our students to fulfill their aspirations and dreams.

We are also particularly grateful to Mrs Darbyshire for joining us from Areté Trust during the past year. Mrs Darbyshire's impact on Nunthorpe Academy has been immeasurable. Her support, direction and calming demeanor has been felt by staff, students and our wider community and we are grateful for the time that she has spent with us.

In particular, Mrs Darbyshire has supported with behaviour and attitudes, personal development and pastoral care, our sixth form, wellbeing and promoting the academy within the community, alongside teaching her dance classes!

*We asked Mrs Darbyshire, how has working at our school and sixth form felt?*

Having been a part of the Areté Learning Trust for five years, to be given the opportunity to come from Stokesley to Nunthorpe to work with our community was a truly exciting prospect. It has been a delight and an honour to have been part of Nunthorpe's school improvement journey for this academic year. Working with the dedicated professionals and caring parents/carers at Nunthorpe has been really rewarding. Working with our students every day is always the best bit! Whether that has been teaching my classes, working with student leadership and steering groups to hear about their experiences and ideas for change, introducing and sharing special moments such as the Year 11 'Guard of Honour' and Year 13 prom or individual interactions - I have loved every minute.

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*What have been the highlights?*

Gosh - I have mentioned some of them above. For me, it is the individual student successes every day. Whether that is supporting a student or a member of staff when they need it most, or an individual coming to tell me that they are proud of one of their achievements - that is what makes teaching and leading in a school the best job in the world. If I had to choose .... the Year 13's updates on incoming university offers; raising thousands of pounds for Comic and Sport Relief; Year 11's confidently coming out of their examinations; Jess, a Year 7 student who shared a presentation they wrote for International Women's Day; celebrating student successes in rewards assemblies and Governor Celebration Events; students sporting and performing arts achievements - especially watching Matilda, when the Year 10's who played Matilda and Miss Honey sang their duet - which reduced me to happy tears with their incredible performance; seeing the pride of Mr Bunn as he described the incredible success of Gabrielle in Year 9 who was crowned English School's champion - an Olympian in the making; and, personally receiving my 'Ray of Sunshine' and 'Lemonade' candles from our student leaders - that meant the world. The biggest highlight has been reading our most recent student stakeholder voice - their acknowledgement of the improvements across the school year and how proud they are to be a part of our amazing community has shown us what we can do when we pull together as a community.

*Is there anyone you would like to personally thank or mention?*

Everyone! I would like to thank our parents/carers, staff and most importantly all our wonderful students for their support. I have been overwhelmed by the comments from our stakeholders and most grateful to those students who have taken the time to pass on their well wishes and messages of good luck, through cards or in person, especially our Year 13 student leaders who have been an absolute inspiration to work with every single week! There are so many individuals I would like to thank and I don't want to miss anyone out - everyone has risen to the challenges of the year and beyond!

*Last words....*

I have no doubt that the new members of the Senior Leadership Team will support Mrs Kell and the trust on the next steps of our journey - their dedication is clear to

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see. As I have mentioned in assembly on numerous occasions - we are a community and we are stronger when we are thriving together. My message to students is that people will not always remember what you said to them or your actions, but they will remember how you made them feel. You have made me feel part of a really special community and I will watch closely as every one of you and the school moves from strength to strength.

Our loss is certainly Haughton Academy's gain, as we wish Mrs Darbyshire a fond farewell, as she takes up her well-deserved Headship.

We would also like to wish good luck to Mr Gorman, Mr Greaves, Miss Hardcastle, Mr Hawkins, Mr Leach, Mr M Pendlington, Mr Simpson and Miss Williamson.

## Year 7 Pastoral

Welcome to our end of Year 7 pastoral update.

Well, where do we start.... Maybe, how incredibly proud we are to be part of such an amazing year group!

Watching our Year 7's grow in maturity and resilience this past year has been incredible. Demonstrating our core values of ready, respectful and safe on a daily basis. Students settled into new routines quickly and we are certain they will do the same in Year 8.

Students have embraced new routines and are taking part in opportunities for development, whether this is student leadership, anti-bullying, student council, mentoring, sports, drama, enrichments or supporting transition. Well done to those students that have gone above and beyond... Thriving together!

Year 7 attendance is currently the highest in school. Fabulous! We would like to say a special well done to the 16 students in Year 7 that have maintained 100% attendance all year! As well as the 154 students who have over 94% attendance - A massive well done! Let's see if we can improve this next year.

Special recognition to the following three tutor groups whose attendance was top all year; Mrs. Masters, Mr. Drinkall and Mrs. Spencer. Congratulations and remember every day counts!

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Good luck to the rest of the tutor groups in raising attendance when we return in September!

Year 7 are also leading the way with achievement points. We set ourselves a target of 600k by the time we break up (that's 100k each half term). We are currently on 565k so far! Hopefully by the time you all read this we will have hit our target! You should all be very proud - we certainly are!

Special recognition to Miss Glendinning's tutor group obtaining 69,788 achievement points, Mr Gents achieving 63,690 and Mr Drinkall on 63,688. Miss Glendinning, Miss Grant and Mrs Masters tutor groups obtained the fewest behaviour points. Please keep up the hard work.

When we return in September as Year 8, please maintain the high standards we have seen throughout the first year. Students should be prepared and ready for learning with a fully loaded pencil case, a reading book and a planner. Students should have these out ready on a morning to show as they come through standards checks.

Finally, we would like you to reflect on Year 7 and consider the following...

What are you most proud of in Year 7?

What am I going to do differently in Year 8?

I don't know about you, but Year 7 feels like it has flown by..... We hope you and your families have a lovely summer, remember to stay safe and look out for each other!

We will look forward to welcoming you all back in September as Year 8 and are excited to hear about your summer.

Mrs Carter & Mrs Forster

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## Year 8 Pastoral

This year, students have demonstrated remarkable growth and achievement across all areas of the curriculum.

Academically, many have excelled in their lessons, showing a deeper understanding of complex concepts and improved critical thinking skills.

Participation within lessons has been a positive boost, with students actively engaging in healthy competition to achieve greater outcomes.

A colossal effort by all members of the Year 8 community - together we have managed to accumulate an astonishing 509,848 Achievement Points. Amazing work, and a massive well done.

Looking ahead to the next Academic year, and setting ourselves a challenge - I think we could match, if not achieve more Achievement Points.... Challenge Set!!

Well done to all of our students in Year 8, bring on Year 9, there is so much to look forward to as we Thrive Together!

Have a wonderful summer (remember Mr Deen and Miss Yau love to collect fridge magnets from wherever you travel..... 😊)

We go again!

Mrs Deen & Miss Yau

## Year 9 Pastoral

Wow, what a year! I can't believe that we are at the end of Key Stage 3, time has flown. As we head into the Summer break, I wanted to reflect on our time this year, to celebrate all our achievements and successes....



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Schools out for summer,  
And what a year it has been,  
We have a champion runner,  
And a cracking cricket team!

Team Orange are always ready,  
Showing the rest how it's done,  
Looking after each other,  
That's why we're number one!

The list of achievements is endless,  
But one thing Year 9 know,  
To be the best you can be,  
You have to give it a go!

We've had Lego robot winners,  
Fabulous Wednesday roast dinners,  
Trophies for the footy girls in Spain,  
And tricky assessments that taxed the brain!

Matilda was magical,  
A theatrical delight,  
And Nunthorpe's got talent,  
Oh, what a night!

Year 9 have been amazing,  
Showing resilience and grit,  
Now GCSEs are in sight,  
We are not scared one bit!

But first of all, go and have fun,  
With family and friends and let's hope for sun,  
Be ready, respectful, and safe each day,  
And look out for each other along the way!

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Have the most amazing summer Year 9, I am so proud of all that you have achieved!

Mrs Plant & Mr Harrison

## Year 10 Pastoral

Following a packed last half term we have finally reached the end of Year 10. We have many extremely talented students in our year group including Alfie who has played for Durham Cricket club this term. Poppy who has been representing Great Britain in gymnastics and competing in Italy. Gracie achieving highly in boxing, competing at international level to name a few.

You all showed great maturity during the mock examinations. Students enjoyed a taster day at Nunthorpe Sixth form and again represented the year group well. Standards have remained high throughout the year with uniform and students being equipped and ready for the school day.

We have had weekly celebrations for the tutor group with the highest attendance, as well as weekly pastoral and individual attendance rewards. Students enjoyed breakfast with pastoral and we ended the year celebrating with the majority of the year group invited to Bingo and Pizza.

We hope you have a lovely and restful holiday ready to take on your final journey in Year 11 with Mrs Jackson and Mrs Dawson.

Mrs Jackson & Mrs Dawson

## Year 11 Pastoral

We have been incredibly proud of all our Year 11 students, who have risen to the challenges with dedication and resilience. We know that the results this year will demonstrate your motivation and hard work and we look forward to seeing you on results day on Thursday 21 August from 9:00am-10:30am. Please see separate communication for details of the day.

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Whilst we know the vast majority of you will be joining us to continue your journey at Nunthorpe Sixth Form, we know that some of you will be moving onto pastures new.

We hope you enjoyed Nunthorpe's first ever 'Guard of Honour', along with the other leaver's celebrations, including our amazing prom at Gisborough Hall, you all looked stunning!

Enjoy a well-earned summer and every best wish for the future.

Mrs Knowles, Miss Ivison, Mr Purcifer, Mrs Darbyshire and all of the team at Nunthorpe

## Sixth-form

### *Year 13 Prom*

On Wednesday 25 June our amazing Year 13 students had their prom at the Treebridge hotel. This was the first event of its kind! What an amazing event which was enjoyed by all. The night started with welcome photos with staff and friendship groups. Students then enjoyed a lovely buffet which included pizzas, parmos, wraps, skewers and homemade chips. We then ended the night with some staff and student led speeches followed by some dancing. The Year 13 prom was the first of its kind, an amazing evening which will hopefully now continue for years to come.



### *Year 12 Wellbeing/Sports Day/Sport relief week*

Year 12 have had a really busy few weeks of late, we have had the Year 12 Sports day week which included 'serious events' (Track and Field events), followed by the fun events the following day (egg and spoon, 3 legged race, wheelbarrow and tug of war). The key highlights over the 2 days had to be the tutor relay race on day one, this saw all 4 tutor groups cross the line at virtually the same time. Mrs Hodgson's tutor narrowly got their heads in front after a dubious baton transfer from D. Roe.

Year 12 Students then supported the whole school fundraiser which incorporated walking, jogging or running to raise money for Sport Relief. As an academy, we have currently raised £867 with the total hopefully rising further in the coming weeks.

Year 12 student voice recently asked the Sixth Form leadership team if they could do more sports on Fridays for wellbeing. With this in mind we integrated Rounders/Benchball Fridays. This has been a huge success with students getting extremely competitive.

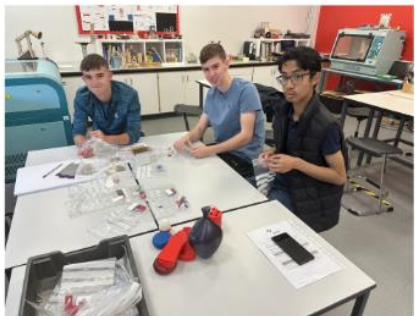
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We look forward to promoting the Year 12 students into Year 13 with our rewards event on our last day of term, with our annual Pizza event also taking place.



Year 11 Induction day was a great success. Year 11s came in for a second experience at sixth form. They picked their chosen subjects that they are looking to opt for in September. They experienced a practical lesson in Science whereby students dissected a kidney, discussed a real trial situation in Law and used Lego in Business to have a realistic understanding of production methods.





Year 12 UCAS event saw 54 parents and students attend an information evening hosted by Sixth form leadership and Teesside University. Guidance was delivered on the UCAS process and apprenticeships. Teesside University provided up to date information on the new Personal statement that students must now produce and send off as part of their UCAS applications. They also delivered guidance on student finance to support parents during their son/daughters' transition and journey through university. All the information delivered was shared with Year 12 parents.

Miss Harrington & Mr Tooth

## Art

Year 7 have been taking inspiration from British artist Jon Burgerman. He creates playful and humorous paintings and objects that cloak a collective anxiety about the turbulent world we live in.



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Students have created imagery using soft friendly shapes and bold colours interplayed to create compositions that display an aesthetic joy but belie conflicting emotions beneath the surface. These relate to a generational mental health crisis, exasperated by climate anxiety, the narrowing of political choice and financial insecurity. Despite the fraught intentions, the light and colourful nature of the works offer a positive wider outlook and that there is always the chance for hope and joy!

We have selected a winner from each class who have been awarded an art journal donated by the artist after being impressed by students' work he saw on our socials.

Our school's recent GCSE Art Exhibition was a resounding success, showcasing the exceptional creativity, skill, and dedication of our Year 11 students. The event featured a diverse range of work—from intricate drawings and paintings to innovative mixed media —demonstrating both technical excellence and thoughtful exploration of personal themes. Parents, staff, and peers were deeply impressed by the maturity and originality on display, with many visitors praising the high standard of the artwork. The exhibition not only celebrated the students' hard work but also highlighted the vibrant role of the arts in our school community.





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## Business Studies

On Thursday 12 June our Year 10 Business students completed a Young Enterprise day with Sofia Windfarms. They worked in teams and had a fantastic day completing various tasks and activities. Students had the chance to develop their communication, leadership and teamwork skills whilst doing tasks on budgeting and marketing. Students then competed against each other and presented their ideas to the rest of the groups. Then the winning teams were selected for different categories.





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## Computing

We have recently successfully applied to be a Cyber First School and have been granted a Bronze award. This partnership will allow us to get Ambassadors from the Cyber Security world to come into school and is a really exciting opportunity for our students.

Over the next couple of weeks we will be getting our Lego Robotics club up and running. Details will follow.

## Drama



The Drama Department has been a hive of excitement and activities across this academic year. Beginning in February, students were lucky enough to experience the sights and sounds of London as they attended a four day residential, as part of their GCSE course. Taking

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in both 'The Play That Goes Wrong' as well as the musical, 'Wicked' students were also able to experience a backstage tour of London's largest theatre, The National Theatre, looking at what goes on behind the scenes to create magic on stage. They also took the load off in Madame Tussauds, rubbing shoulders with some of the best (and worst) people of modern and ancient times, across the museum. The highlight, or nightmare, of the trip for most was however a trip around the London Dungeons. Journeying through

Component Two in GCSE Drama, with our Year 13 doing the same but at A Level for a visiting examiner. This year also saw our academy production of Matilda. Featuring a cast of well over 50 students across years eight to thirteen, audiences were blown away with the talent on offer from some of our students. A special shout out to Marshall, one of our Y13 drama students, who took part in his last academy production this year; playing the infamous Agatha Trunchbull. His performance was stand-out and will certainly be missed as he moves into a degree in drama, at Arden in September.

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## English

It's always a pleasure to talk about one of the most exciting and overlooked places in our community—Nunthorpe Academy Library. Whether you're a lifelong reader or just beginning to discover the joy of books, the library is a treasure trove waiting to be explored. And it's right here on our doorstep.

Think about it: when was the last time you lost yourself in a story? Walked through different worlds, lived a hundred lives, or saw the world through someone else's eyes—all without leaving your seat? That's the magic of reading. And that magic lives in the library.

At Nunthorpe Academy, we know the power of learning. But learning doesn't stop at the classroom door. A visit to Nunthorpe Academy Library can spark your curiosity, stretch your imagination, and inspire ideas that last a lifetime. Whether it's a bestselling novel, a thought-provoking biography, or a graphic novel that grabs your attention—there's something for everyone.

Every time you walk into the library, you walk into possibility. You might discover a book that changes the way you think. You might find a quiet space to reflect, to create, or just to breathe. And it's not just about reading—Nunthorpe Academy Library is a community hub. Book clubs, reading challenges, events, chess and friendly faces all make it a place to belong. It's easy to think of reading as just a school task, but it's so much more. Reading builds empathy, strengthens your vocabulary, sharpens your thinking, and yes—it can be genuinely fun.

So here's my challenge to you: make time to visit Nunthorpe Academy Library. Pick up a book—any book—and give it a chance. You might just find your next great adventure waiting between the pages. Let's celebrate this incredible space that fuels minds, fosters creativity, and brings people together—one exciting page at a time.



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# Geography

## **Year 10 GCSE Geography Fieldwork**

This year GCSE Geography students spent the day in Redcar to carry out two different enquiries in the morning and afternoon. Due to the tides we spent the morning in the town investigating the different stages of regeneration that have been going on and getting public opinion on whether it has been successful. In the afternoon we spent time on the beach investigating whether the groynes were effective and attempted to work out the direction of longshore drift – unfortunately for us the wind had different ideas and did not give us the answers we wanted! But the good weather and a refreshing lemon top made up for it...



Our Year 12 Geographers completed their fieldwork at a wonderful partner school, Stokesley. The day was bright and sunny and allowed for great exploration of the Holderness coast with students visiting well known case study sites such as Mablethorpe, Hornsea, Flamborough, Easington and Spurn head. At each site students conducted a number of different fieldwork methods including sand dune biodiversity, beach profiles and environmental impact assessments, to help them answer the question 'How and why do coastal landscapes along the Holderness coast change?' In the evening students ventured into Hull to the hotel followed by bowling and Nandos.

Friday saw an early start for breakfast then into Hull City centre for some human fieldwork. After a detailed walking tour of the main regeneration sites students worked in small groups to conduct interviews, litter surveys, graffiti assessments and pedestrian count to help them answer the question of 'How successful are the Government intervention strategies used at Hull?' Students got stuck into each activity and worked well with the Stokesley teams throughout the residential. A big

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thank you to Stokesley for inviting us to join this amazing trip. Students will use their experiences to help them in conducting their own research enquiry questions for their NEA which is worth 30% of their final grade.



Thursday 10 July saw 27 of our students from across Years 7, 8 and 9 set off to Darlington to participate in a Net Zero Workshop morning. Upon arriving at Teesside University's Atom centre we went straight to the first session on the role of carbon and where carbon is emitted from. Students then undertook 2 small activities - the first working out how much carbon was produced in everyday items such as a Big Mac and then a team tower building contest.

Following on from this we went to our second workshop where students learnt about the current carbon capture and storage project that is being undertaken in our local area. Students were able to participate in a small scientific experiment showing how the carbon could be collected and then had a go at project managing; looking at the actual construction element of the project. Students showed a great attitude towards their learning, with many volunteering answers and several standing up to share their understanding with their peers and other schools. A big thank you to Mrs

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Blacklock for organising this trip and a huge thank you to the students for their exemplary behaviour and attitude towards learning.





HOW DO YOU HELP MAKE THE  
**WORLD**  
A BETTER PLACE?

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## Government & Politics

### *Sixth Form Students Debate Democracy and Populism in Engaging Politics Lesson*

Sixth form students took centre stage in a lively A-Level Politics debate this week, tackling major political themes including the state of democracy, the rise of new political parties, and the growing influence of populism in both the UK and the USA.

As part of their curriculum, students were given the opportunity to research and present arguments on how democratic systems are evolving, what challenges they face, and how political movements on both sides of the Atlantic are reshaping traditional party politics. From the emergence of outsider parties to the appeal of populist leaders, the debate reflected the complexity and urgency of current political discourse.

The classroom was transformed into a debating chamber, with students working in teams to develop and defend their viewpoints. Topics included whether populism strengthens or undermines democracy, and how effectively established political institutions respond to public dissatisfaction.

“Our aim was to encourage critical thinking, respectful disagreement, and a deeper understanding of contemporary politics,” said Mr Devlin who led the session. “The students really rose to the occasion—they were articulate, passionate, and demonstrated real insight.”

The debate also gave students the chance to hone valuable skills such as public speaking, evaluation, and teamwork. “It was great to be able to voice our opinions and engage in proper political discussion,” said one Year 12 student. “It definitely made me think more deeply about how politics works in real life.”

With students expressing enthusiasm for future debates, the session highlighted how active learning can bring politics to life—and prepare young people to become informed and engaged citizens.

Luke Myers MP also visited Year 12 and Year 13 students and talked all things Politics. He introduced them to his pathway into Politics as well as taking questions on



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concerns students had in relation to their local community, funding, potholes and many other issues that they raised.

Here at sixth form, we provide students with guidance from professionals in differing industries and we very much appreciate Luke's time with us.



## History

It's been a busy term for the History Department. Year 7s have been investigating the Gunpowder Plot (1605), whilst Year 8s have been analysing the long and short term causes of World War I. Year 9 have started their GCSE studies by examining the early days of the American "Wild West" and Year 10s are coming to the end of their Medicine Through Time studies by investigating medical developments in the modern era. Meanwhile Year 12 are drawing their studies of the USSR (1917-1991) to a close, whilst starting a new topic of The British Experience of Warfare (c1790-1918).

Of course, Year 11 and Year 13 both sat their exams, and we wish all of our students well.

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## Law

### *A-Level Students Take the Stand in Mock Murder Trial*

Sixth form students stepped into the shoes of barristers, judges, and witnesses as they took part in a gripping mock murder trial, bringing the courtroom to life as part of their A-Level studies. The trial, adapted from the University of Southern California's renowned Moot Court program to suit the English legal system, offered students the chance to explore real-world legal principles through an engaging, hands-on experience. This is the second time the school has hosted a mock trial, and it proved just as popular and impactful as the first.

The case centred around a fictional murder scenario, with students taking on the roles of prosecution, defence, witnesses, and members of the jury. They prepared arguments, examined evidence, and underwent cross-examinations—all while adhering to courtroom procedures used in the UK legal system.





“It’s one thing to study the law in a classroom, but it’s another to actually apply it in a courtroom setting,” said Mr Devlin, who coordinated the activity. “The students showed incredible dedication, critical thinking, and teamwork.” Students described the experience as both challenging and enjoyable. “It gave me a real insight into how complex and fascinating legal work can be,” said one Year 12 participant. “I never thought I’d enjoy standing up and arguing a case, but it was amazing.”

The mock trial is part of a broader effort to make legal education more accessible and dynamic, and it has already inspired several students to consider careers in law. With growing interest and positive feedback, the school hopes to continue offering this opportunity in future years.

#### *Year 13 Law Students Boost Confidence with Intensive Contract Law Programme*

Year 13 Law students have successfully completed a seven-week intensive intervention programme focused on contract law, one of the most challenging areas of the A-Level curriculum.

The programme, designed to consolidate previous learning and support revision, provided students with a structured and focused opportunity to revisit key concepts, test their understanding, and clarify any misconceptions. Covering topics such as offer and acceptance, consideration, and breach of contract, the sessions aimed to strengthen both subject knowledge and exam technique.

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Led by Mr Devlin, the intervention sessions combined interactive teaching, group discussion, and case study analysis to deepen students' understanding of complex legal principles. The targeted support was especially welcomed by students preparing for their final exams.

"Contract law can be difficult to master, so this programme was really helpful," said one student. "It gave us the chance to go back over tricky areas and make sure we truly understood them."

Teachers reported a noticeable boost in student confidence by the end of the programme. "The aim was to give students the time and space to address gaps in understanding," said Mr Devlin. "We saw real progress—not just in their knowledge, but in their ability to apply legal reasoning with confidence."

The success of the intervention has encouraged plans to extend similar support to other areas of the course in future. With exams approaching, students are feeling more prepared and better equipped to tackle one of the most rigorous elements of A-Level Law.

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## Life

Year 10 have had a lovely week out of school completing Work Experience. Jack Knight in the picture below was having a fantastic time at Leaders.



Not all students were placed outside the academy, some had just as much fun inside the academy with our lovely catering staff.





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## Mathematics

### *Pi Day*

International Pi Day took place on March 14 (3.14). After learning some fun facts about the history of Pi and how it relates to real life, tutor groups in Years 7 to 9 took part in designing Pi related posters which will be displayed in the Math's department. There were some lovely posters produced. Well done to all who took part.



Mr Gent has been busy setting up an online Maths summer club for the students to engage with over the break. All students have been invited to take part to help improve their Math's skills and give them a head start for September. It's completely voluntary, but we would love to see students taking part. If you have any questions, email Mr Gent ([cgent@nunthorpe.co.uk](mailto:cgent@nunthorpe.co.uk)).

- Eedi Summer Club is the most fun way to learn maths
- Eedi Summer Club makes preparing for next year's maths easy and fun
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- UK-based teachers support students in real-time in our interactive lessons.
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    - Review efficiently, learn quickly, so you can spend more time offline.
    - Tailor-made reporting of your child
  - Get weekly reports on how your child is doing, how they're improving, and what the recommended course of action is.
    - We're here to talk to you if you have any questions.
  - Have fun while learning maths Build your learning Streak by answering questions. Unlock fun achievements. Pick your Team and compete for the grand prize at the end of the summer.

<https://eedi.com/summer-club>

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## Modern Foreign Languages



In February, year 10 and 11 Spanish students went to the beautiful city of Madrid, where they visited lots of places including the Bernabéu stadium, the bull ring and the Retiro park amongst others and took part in a flamenco lesson, as well as a Spanish lesson at a language school. A great time was had by all and the students were amazing, practising their Spanish as often as they could and even trying some of the local food!

In April, thirty students from Years 10 to 13 enjoyed an unforgettable trip to Cologne, Germany. The group visited the Lindt Chocolate Museum, where they learned about the history and production of chocolate—and even got to sample some sweet treats. At the Sport & Olympic Museum, students explored the evolution of international sports and the Olympic Games through engaging exhibits and activities. A definite highlight of the trip was a visit to the Kölner Dom (Cologne Cathedral), one of Germany's most iconic landmarks. Students were impressed by its towering Gothic architecture and rich history, and many took the opportunity to climb the steps for a breathtaking view over the city.

A German language lesson in the language school gave everyone the chance to practise speaking and listening skills in an authentic setting.

Of course, no trip to Germany would be complete without trying some local cuisine. Students sampled traditional dishes such as Currywurst and authentic Döner Kebabs, which were a big hit!

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The trip was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn and immerse themselves in German culture, and all of the staff were impressed by students' willingness to practise their spoken German in real-world situations. Everyone returned with great memories—and maybe a bit of chocolate too!



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## Music

From Irish dancing and guitar shredding, to stunning vocal performances and a Rubik's Cube extraordinaire, the Nunthorpe Academy Talent show was a great success! Performing on stage requires tremendous courage, and our students performed with confidence and professionalism.

Mrs Kell, Mr Armstrong and Mr Devlin comprised the panel of judges, who ultimately made the decision about the winner. Rhys Pemberton, Year 10 came first with his singing as his powerful rendition moved some of the audience to tears.

We would like to congratulate all student contestants for taking part and hope to see you again next year!





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## Philosophy & Ethics (R.E.)

### *Students Bring Hinduism to Life in A-Level Philosophy and Ethics Class*

A-Level Philosophy and Ethics students at Nunthorpe Sixth Form had a unique and immersive experience last month as they constructed a Hindu shrine as part of their religious studies curriculum.

The activity was designed to deepen students' understanding of Hindu worship and the role of faith in everyday life. Working together, they recreated a traditional shrine using authentic artifacts such as murtis (images of deities), incense, a bell, and offerings of fruit and flowers. The students also participated in a simplified version of a Hindu puja ceremony, taking time to reflect on its spiritual meaning.

As part of the lesson, students presented on the significance of each item used in worship and discussed how faith plays a central role in Hindu practice. "It was a really hands-on way to learn about a religion that many of us weren't very familiar with," said one Year 12 student. "It helped us see beyond textbook learning and understand the deeper meaning behind the rituals."

Their teacher, Mr Devlin, praised the students for their enthusiasm and thoughtful engagement. "It was wonderful to see the students take ownership of their learning. This kind of experiential lesson allows them to connect with religious traditions in a respectful and meaningful way."

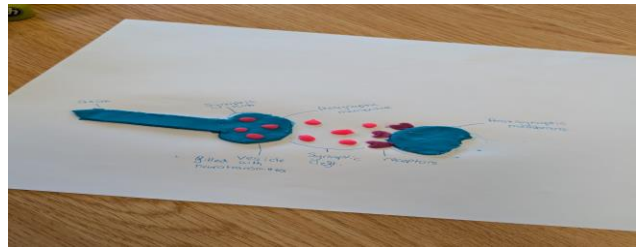
The session was described as both enjoyable and eye-opening by many of the students, sparking lively discussions about the importance of religious literacy and cultural understanding.



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## Psychology

In Psychology we have been demonstrating our biopsychology knowledge in practice. Students have been making neurons from Play-Doh and adding labels. Student's then demonstrated the process of synaptic transmission, using Play-Doh.



This half-term we have also been labelling cauliflower brains and learning about various case studies including Phineas Gage and Gabby Giffords.

## Science

On Monday 14 July, fifteen Year 8 students from Nunthorpe Academy joined 3 other schools from the Trust in the annual Cross Trust Challenge. Hosted by Richmond School, the event is set up in conjunction with the Ogden Trust whose key mission is "to promote the teaching and learning of physics". The challenge was designed to inspire the next generation of engineers. Based around the topic of forces, it inspired students to learn more about the topic in a fun and engaging way. They worked together in a team to compete to build a pipe bridge using K'nex resources. A great array of teamworking, communication and problem-solving skills were on display as the teams competed to build the best bridge. After a 45 minute tutorial from a chartered mechanical engineer on the main principals behind bridge design, the s

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## Modern Foreign Languages

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students were set free to design and build their own bridge to given specifications.

Congratulations to the Stokesley team who won best overall bridge and well done to our Nunthorpe teams who also produced very worthy bridges capable of carrying the standard pipe load used for judging.





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## Sport

### *Year 7 Basketball Finalists*

The Year 7 team reached the finals of the North East Jr NBA Championships and competed against the best teams that made it through the knockout rounds. The team have improved significantly and enjoyed the challenge of playing other schools, they were then rewarded with a place in the finals. They played brilliantly and finished 4<sup>th</sup> best team in the North East of England. We are incredibly proud of all the players and look forward to the challenge of the event next year.



### *House Sports*

Congratulations to Team Aspire for winning the overall House Sports Championships this year. We had 3 rounds of events this year and after accumulating all the scores we had a very close competition with Team Aspire coming out on top. Events included dodgeball, basketball, football, rounders, table tennis and softball.



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### *Gabrielle Pinder - Athletics*

Gabrielle has gone from strength to strength this year winning several national titles, however on Saturday 12 July she ran in the English Schools 1500m against the best 12 runners in the country. She performed a tactical masterclass to win the national title with an incredible finish to the race and being crowned English Schools 1500m Champion. We have never had an athlete from Cleveland winning a clean sweep of national titles in the same season, what a superstar and we wish her good luck for her preparation for next season and beyond.



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## Technology (Hard)

As part of our Remembrance Day activities within the academy, the technology dept encouraged all our students from Year7 to Year11 to make their own poppies using pop bottle lids. This not only allowed us to teach about the importance of remembrance, but also to teach about manufacture and teamwork.

As well as this, we are still seeking good quality household goods such as stereos, phones, dyson hoovers, laptops etc to be included in our design museums. Our design museums allow us to use these products to teach students how things are made as well as how technologies have changed over time.

## Student Leadership



Our student leadership groups (Student Leaders, School Council and Anti-bullying Ambassadors) have all been presented with their new badges to acknowledge the broad contributions these students make to the continued development of our Academy. We hope they all wear these badges with pride and celebrate their remarkable achievements in our academy and local communities.

Our anti-bullying group has been working hard on the Community Badge of the Diana Foundation Award and hope to be recognised with this amazing accolade shortly.



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Further details on application are available from Miss Harrington:

[fharrington@nunthorpe.co.uk](mailto:fharrington@nunthorpe.co.uk)

We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing our Year 11 and Year 13 students to share in your celebrations on the results days!