

# Northallerton News

February 2020



Welcome to the first  
edition of our 'new  
look' newsletter!



**Northallerton School  
& Sixth Form College**

Being the best we can be



Being the best we can be

# Welcome

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a good break and come back to school feeling refreshed and ready to tackle the new term. Please find within our new monthly newsletter important information, as well as updates and celebrations of some of the fantastic things our students have been doing.

Over the next few weeks, we will be continuing to work with our Year 11 and Year 13 students in their preparation for the exams in the summer term. Information will be published shortly of additional revision sessions and interventions running through the Easter period. Please keep yourself updated with information on Facebook and our website. If you have any questions

about how to support your child through this busy schedule, please contact Mr Wilkinson, Deputy Headteacher, Miss McCarten, Head of Year 11 or Mrs Redpath, Head of Sixth Form.

As we continue to raise our standards and expectations across the school, we will be making a slight change to the uniform requirements from September 2020. In particular, we will be updating skirts from straight to pleated. Therefore, please do not purchase the current style of skirt – we will be providing further information in the coming week to let you know exactly about the appropriate new style. You'll find answers to our frequently asked questions about uniform on page 22.

As always, thank you for your support.

**Vicki Rahn**  
Head of School

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ARETÉ  
LEARNING  
TRUST

Being the best we can be

*"Being the best we can be - by uniting schools, communities and families to secure success for all young people"*

## I was recently asked – “What does the trust do for the school?” A good question!

My first response is – the school is the trust, not some sort of poor relation. ALT was selected by the DfE to become the sponsor of Northallerton School from September 2019, which is a huge responsibility as we are now accountable for the school's improvement. We took the step because we believe it was the right thing to do, in line with our ethos and principles, and because we believe in the school's capacity to improve and to contribute to the trust's development.

So, six months on - what difference have we made?

As you know, we acquired a grant to enable us to develop a “fit-for-purpose” school on the old Allertonshire sites. We've worked closely with the DfE and we expect to hear about planning permission any day now; we are still on track for opening the newly refurbished school in September 2021.

We have been able to bring in additional staffing, expertise and resources to help school leaders address the areas which Ofsted highlighted as needing improvement, including careers provision, SEND, improving students' attendance, professional development, behaviour management, teaching and learning, leadership development and CPD.

We've provided professional expertise and management systems and infrastructure to support teaching, learning, financial and data management. We also provide HR services and marketing – there's so much fantastic work going on in the school – it needs advertising and celebrating!

You will have seen the “new look” brighter entrance and signage and the separate reception for visitors which have created a calmer and more appropriate environment for both students and visitors.

The school is on a journey: there are still challenges but we are heading in the right direction and can already evidence improvements in lots of areas. With confidence in the school's leaders and with the support of parents and the wider community, Northallerton School and Sixth Form College can be a flagship for the values exemplified in our stated purpose as a MAT:

- to enable schools to work together, share expertise and maximise efficiency and effectiveness across the MAT; and
- to enable all children and young people in ALT Academies to leave our schools having achieved well, strengthened by the values and aspirations of ALT and well prepared to face the next challenge in their learning, personal and social development.

*I hope to be able to bring you news of the next stage of the building project very soon!*

**Catherine Brooker, CEO**

A photograph of two young women in school uniforms. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera. The woman in the foreground is wearing a dark grey blazer over a light blue shirt and a dark tie with a green and yellow pattern. A crest is visible on her blazer pocket. The woman behind her is also in a similar uniform. The background shows a brick building with arched windows and some trees. The image has a blue overlay on the left side.

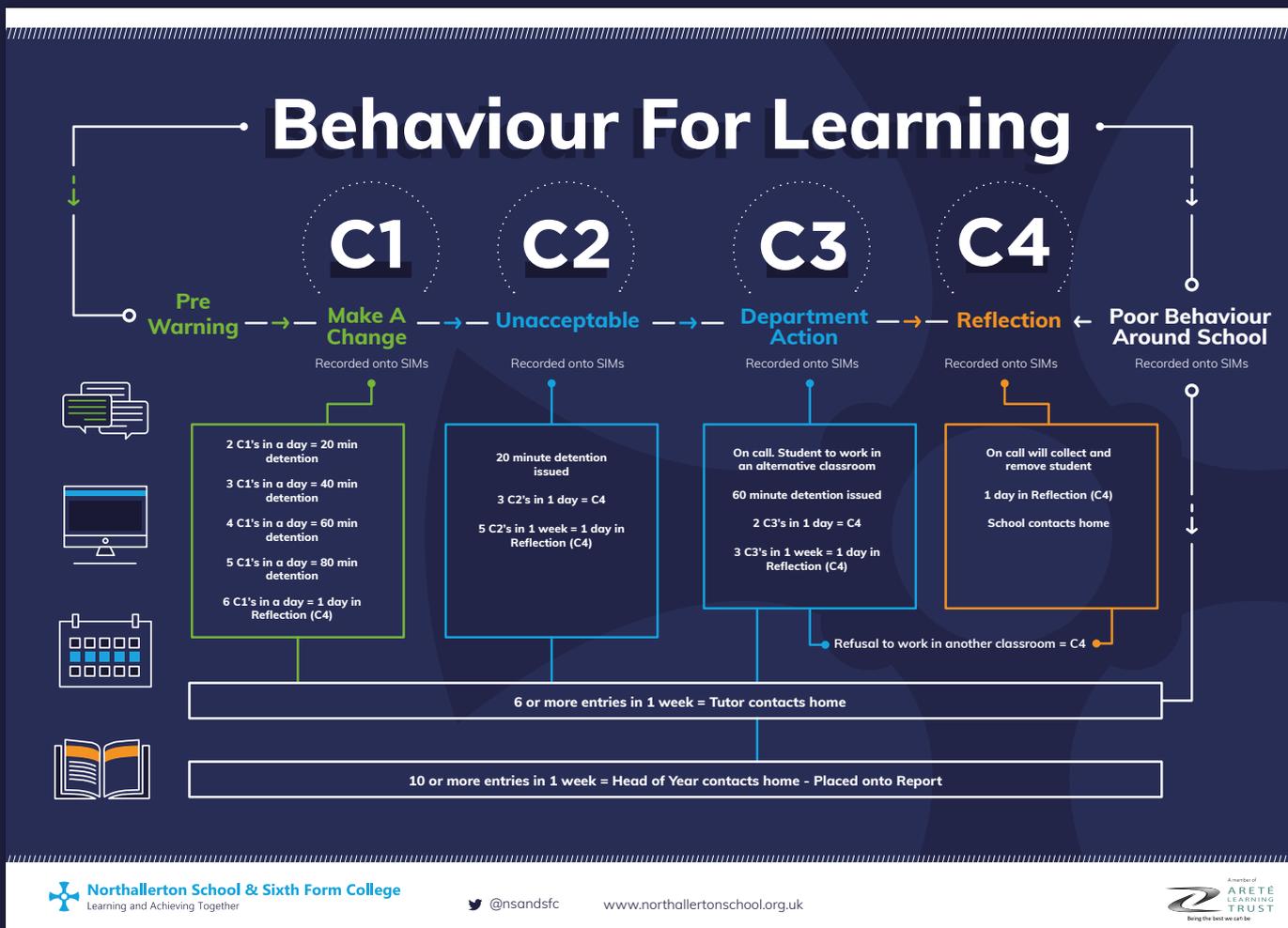
# Spotlight

A closer look at our new behaviour  
and rewards initiatives.

# Behaviour for Learning

Our new behaviour policy has recently been introduced to ensure that our students are able to fulfil their learning potential. We're really proud of how quickly our students have adapted to the change; they're already receiving lots of praise and recognition! We are of the strong belief that disruptive behaviour in the classroom affects our students' ability to concentrate and absorb information, which is why it's so important for us to create a positive environment. Every member of the Northallerton family knows and understands our values, these are built on a foundation of respect for all and a readiness to learn. We want the best for our students and our new policy supports the way in which members of the school can work together in an environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

Our motto 'Being the best we can be' is all about working hard, respecting each other and supporting the learning of all. We've created different examples of the ways in which students can be safe, ready and respectful. Students will see these examples on posters around the school, which will allow them to know what we expect and understand how they make a real difference to school life. Examples range from always following instructions to moving around the school safely. The posters will act as a reminder of the ways in which our students can be the best that they can be.



*The new behaviour system is really helping us. We have less disruptions and people are more motivated to learn.*

Eliza, Year 7 student



# Rewards & Recognition

We're really proud of the way in which our students have responded to the new policies, especially our Rewards initiative. They've shown maturity and a real willingness to represent the school's values. During the current term, we'll be asking students how they feel about the behaviour and rewards policy and taking on board their vital feedback (this will be featured in our next newsletter). We know how important it is to praise our students, and there's always a lot of praising to be done! Our 'Star' rewards are awarded regularly throughout the school day and students are responding really positively, even competing to see who can achieve the most in a day. Receiving a postcard direct from their teachers is a really personal way to give out praise and just say thank you to those who are being safe, ready and respectful. From our classroom teachers to our Headteacher, students can receive recognition from everyone.



*The new behaviour system has really benefited my learning as we get lots of praise, which improves my confidence.*

Archie, Year 7 Student

Northallerton Star Cards

## Friendship

Northallerton Star Cards

## Excellence

Northallerton Star Cards

## Respect

Northallerton Star Cards

## Head of School

A photograph of two young students in school uniforms. The student in the foreground is a girl with long, wavy brown hair, smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a dark grey blazer over a light blue collared shirt and a dark tie with green and yellow diagonal stripes. A small crest is visible on her blazer. Behind her, slightly out of focus, is a boy with short brown hair, also smiling. He is wearing a similar dark grey blazer, light blue shirt, and striped tie. The background shows a brick building and trees with autumn foliage under a soft, overcast sky. A blue vertical bar is on the left side of the page, and a white horizontal bar is at the top.

# Round-up

A collection of exciting events and student achievements that have been taking place over the past few months.



# Students Experience University Life

This year, a group of eight year 12 students are taking part in the Scholars' Programme. The Scholars' programme was established by a charitable organisation that seeks to increase access to highly selective universities by placing PhD students in schools to deliver university-style teaching to high-performing students. On 14th January, the eight Year 12 students visited Durham University to have a glimpse of what life is like at a highly selective university.

This year, students will be taught by a PhD tutor whose specialism and research focuses on energy systems, nutrition and athletic performance. Over the course of six weeks, our eight Year 12 students will be learning about the importance of energy, with a specific focus on the role of glycogen stores in exercise. Students will also be evaluating nutritional strategies for athletes, whilst broadening their core understanding of physiology, biology and chemistry.

All students will be expected to write a 2,500-word essay on this topic, and this will be graded at university standard, each piece of work will receive a graded classification, i.e. 1st, 2:1, 2:2, 3rd. After the students have submitted their work, they will be invited to a graduation ceremony where they will receive certificates to acknowledge their efforts.

## Theme Celebrations

Over the last couple of weeks, we have had celebrations for the second themes in Years 7 and 8. Our year 8 students have been displaying and talking about their work for the theme, 'Inspiration'. Year 7 students have been working in groups on the 'Global Citizens' theme, presenting their research on a global problem and their chosen solutions.

Celebrations are a huge part of our work in encouraging the students to have 'agency', to take responsibility for their learning and to celebrate it. Thank you to all the parents, brothers and sisters, grandparents and friends who attended these events.

Last week, we kicked off our new Year 8 theme 'Enterprise and Innovation'. Governor and local businessman Nick Stafford came in to launch the theme and tell us about his experiences. Congratulations to Alex Blackham for grasping the opportunity that came his way!

## Farewell Mr Stewart

After working closely with our students and families, Mr Stewart, our Assistant Headteacher for Attitudes and Behaviour, is leaving Northallerton School to take up an exciting opportunity working with a charity. Here's what he had to say:

*'It is not that often that a once in a lifetime opportunity comes your way. In late autumn, one came my way.*

*As a result, I have made the very difficult decision to leave education and pursue this unique opportunity to work for a charity.*

*The charity works with young people from America, who come to England and work in schools and other community-based projects. It will also give me the chance to do some travelling myself.*

*The decision to leave education, and especially Northallerton, was not easy. I really do enjoy working here and had this opportunity not come along, I would not even be thinking about leaving. In my short time here, I have got to know and work with a very dedicated staff body, a great number of fantastic students and parents who are unbelievably supportive of the school.*

*I wish everybody all the very best for the future and will certainly be staying in touch!*

*Thanks.'*

**We wish Mr Stewart the best of luck in his new endeavour.**

# Year 11: Heading Towards the Exam Season

With the summer examinations getting closer and closer, our Y11 revision and exam preparation programme is helping to support students during, what can potentially be, a very stressful period for them.

## After School Sessions

During the spring half-term break, we have a range of revision sessions on offer in school - including Engineering, Food, Art, DT, IT, Spanish and Maths. In the second week of the Easter holidays (w.b. 13th April), the school will be open again with a full programme of revision activities which will be shared with parents over the coming weeks. The final holiday revision period will be in the summer half-term, which is often a great opportunity to tackle those subjects that have multiple papers (e.g. Maths) as the half-term sits in the middle of the exam series.

## Lecture-Style Learning

Our daily revision programme continues and offers revision in the vast majority of subjects. We have recently begun a series of revision lectures which take place on a Monday morning during Year 11 assembly. The lectures are an opportunity to review key content from the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. The English and Maths teams are using other tutor periods throughout the week to deliver targeted revision from the recent spring mock exam series.

## Walking-Talking-Mocks

The main body of exams begins on Monday 11th May and runs until Friday 12th June. During this period, Year 11 students will be expected to be in school as normal – **there will be no study leave**. During these four weeks (five weeks including the half-term holiday) there will be an extensive programme of revision and walking-talking-mock exam sessions on offer to students, which will work alongside the exam calendar. Walking-talking-mocks are basically a mock exam in which the students watch and are, in essence, an experienced teacher completing the exam paper from a previous exam series. The teacher uses a visualiser and talks openly to students about their thought processes and ideas as they tackle the past paper. Experience shows that if these are done close to the actual exam, they can have a great impact on students' performance in the real exam. For afternoon exams, we will timetable a whole-morning subject revision session so that students enter the exam room with the content fresh in their heads.

## Supportive Mentoring Programme

There are many other revision and exam preparation activities taking place for Year 11 and Year 13 students over the coming weeks and months. As staff, we are determined to do all we can so that our students feel confident and prepared for the summer exam series. We also recognise that students can easily feel overwhelmed with revision and exams, so we are running a mentoring programme whereby students can have a regular weekly meeting with a member of staff to help make sense of the work to be done; they can also offer some reassurance and guidance, and sometimes some healthy encouragement. If you feel that your son / daughter would benefit from our mentoring programme, then please contact Mr Smart.

## A Date for the Diary

After 12th June, Year 11 students will not be expected to be in school. However, parents and carers should be aware that the exam boards have set Wednesday 24th June as a contingency day for any exams to take place that have been missed. Usually this day is not needed, but if something was to happen (e.g. an error with an exam paper that had to be re-written) then the exam boards could use this day to timetable additional exams. Therefore, if Year 11 parents are thinking about booking holidays then it is best not to do so until after 24th June.

If parents and carers have any concerns as we approach the summer exams, please do not hesitate to contact myself at the school and I will do my best to help.

**Mr A Wilkinson, Deputy Headteacher**



# Sporting Stars Round-up

These sporting successes are just from recent weeks; our students are committed to school sport but also within their chosen sport outside of school, which is encouraging to see. The participation levels for extracurricular activities is consistent in many sports and it is nice to see all students getting involved.

We try to provide a wide variety of activities for the students to gain new experiences. Extracurricular sporting activities, such as climbing, are very popular with many students. Our badminton club has high numbers each week and our football option is an obviously popular choice with our students. Table tennis has been added this term in order to increase students' performance in their GCSE PE assessments.

## Gymnasts are a credit to the school

We had a very successful day at the Hambleton and Richmondshire Area Gymnastics competition. We ended the day coming away with eight gold, six silver and five bronze medals and two overall section winner awards. The following girls were a credit to the school: Hannah Liddle Bell, Ella Mitchinson, Aaliyah Hastings, Ayla Porter, Abbie Hodgkinson, Natalia Summerson Jaggs, Ellie Coulson, Becksy Wilkin, Holly Morton, Lily Carney, Holly Walker and Charlotte Bainbridge.

## Unstoppable Free Kicks & Wonderful Interplay

Our U19 football team had a fantastic second half against Queen Ethelburgas. After the players had stopped marvelling at the beautiful surroundings and facilities, they showed QE how to play attacking football with some wonderful interplay built by James Boucher and Louix Davidson-Pratt in midfield. 'Man of the Match', Harry Thompson, provided two assists, firstly off the back of Louis Flintoff and then for Billy Griffiths to race through and dink the keeper. Louix-Davidson Pratt then hit an unstoppable free kick into the top corner from a full 30 yards away, before Joe Blackham provided the final goal. The defence did their bit, encouraged by the vocal Phill Mitchinson, with some tough tackles and fearless blocks, including a wipe-out save from Josh Grocott. A fantastic effort in the second half from the team.

## Primary school leaders

It was an exciting day for our Year 8 students, 15 of whom helped to run the Hambleton Area Primary Schools Sports Hall Athletics Finals in the Leisure Centre on the 13th February.

## Cross-Country Championships

We had a number of students attend the next round of the Hambleton and Richmondshire Area Cross-Country Championships. Those selected for the area team worked incredibly hard in each round.

## Netball tournaments produce winners

The girls played well in their first U13 tournament at Richmond School. We played nine games and won one, drew one and lost seven. The scores were incredibly close on a few occasions. They all played in the spirit of the game and gelled well as a team. Well done girls!

Both Poppy Stokes and Lorna Kirby played in their area competition for Hambleton and Richmondshire U16 netball. Their team came third overall, which was impressive, and they both enjoyed the experience. Poppy has been selected before for the area squad.

## Commendable defeat

Our Year 8 football team produced a strong effort in the recent County Cup; however, they lost in the quarter final to a very strong St Aidan's School who have reached the last 16 of the National Cup.

## Personal best times achieved

Northallerton School successfully secured an eight-year winning streak at the HRSSA Swimming Competition. The gala was held at Catterick Leisure Centre on Wednesday 5th February. Congratulations to all the swimmers involved; there were many new personal best times set and a strong team spirit throughout. A big shout out to the students who also assisted in organising and officiating on the day of the competition.

A special mention to the Year 9 and Year 10 boys' team who won their respective age group by a huge margin at the meet, and also supported the Year 11 and Year 12 team in winning their age group.

Full event results can be seen on [uk.teamunify.com/team/moors/page/results](http://uk.teamunify.com/team/moors/page/results)

# Making the Internet a Safer Place

Safer Internet Day 2020 was celebrated around the world on the 11th February. The theme of the day was 'Safer Internet Day: Together for a Better Internet.' During registration time, students considered how young people explore, express and manage their online identity. They also looked at ways to make the internet a better place.

## How can you help?

**Have a conversation** - It is really important to chat with your children on an ongoing basis about staying safe online.

### Not sure where to begin?

These conversation starter suggestions can help:

- Ask your child to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.
- Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?
- Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.
- Encourage them to help someone! Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.
- Think about how you each use the internet. What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you can enjoy as a family?

# Key messages to share with your child:

However and wherever you have a conversation with your child, here are some top tips you can share to support them in staying safe online (taken from [childnet.com](http://childnet.com)).

## **“You can always come to me if you need help.”**

This is the most important thing to let your child know, and a way to give them confidence to speak to you when they need support.



## **“Think before you post.”**

Help your child to be aware that their online actions can have consequences for themselves and others. **Be mindful of your digital footprint** - it could come back to bite you!

## **“Remember not everything is true online.”**

Help your child to be a critical thinker to find accurate information.

## **“What would you do if this happened...?”**

Give your child strategies to deal with upsetting experiences online.



## **“Remember to ask if it’s okay.”**

Asking for and receiving permission from others online is important before sharing images, adding people into group chats, etc.

## **“Keep your personal information safe, and other people’s too.”**

This includes full names, contact details and real-time locations.



## **“Remember that not everyone is who they say they are online.”**

Remind your child to always tell an adult if anyone they only know online makes them feel uncomfortable or asks to meet up or share personal information or images. Be 'share aware' - once you share something online, you've got no control over what anyone else does with it. It's illegal to take, share or view sexual images of under-18s.



## **“Be respectful to others online.”**

Remind them if it's not okay offline... then it shouldn't be said online.

## **“The things other people post online might not always show what their life is really like.”**

Reassure your child that nobody's life is as perfect as it may seem online, and judging yourself against others' online lives isn't a fair comparison.

## **“Recognise how going online makes you feel and take a break when you need to.”**

Your child may need support in doing this, such as timers and reminders.

## Useful links

For more information and useful resources visit:

[www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)

[www.kidsmart.org.uk](http://www.kidsmart.org.uk)

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)



# Sixth Form News

Engaging taster days and  
invaluable work experience  
opportunities.



## Recent Exams

Year 12 and 13 students sat their Cambridge Technical exams during the first week of January and our students will be eagerly awaiting their results, which will be available on 11th March. We wish them the best of luck and hope all our students receive the results they deserve.

Year 13 students sat their trial exam during the second and third week of January and all of the results are now in. With only three months left, this is the pivotal time now for all our Year 13s to focus on their work, ensure they get work in on time and ensure they are here 100% of the time for both tutor time and lesson time. We strongly advise all of our students spend at least five or six hours of quality revision time per week during the school day. 100% effort is needed between now and the exam season to ensure success on A-Level results day.



## Year 12 Work Experience

Year 12 work experience week is taking place the week commencing 6th July. Congratulations to all those Year 12s who have organised their work experience placement and returned their consent form to the sixth form office. Our sixth form tutors are working closely with all to ensure that students are being proactive and looking for relevant work experience opportunities. We encourage parents and carers to help in this process where they can.

The deadline for all consent forms to be returned to the sixth form office is 4th April, this is to allow us to appropriately vet placements.

If any parents have businesses and are willing to take on Year 12 students for a weeks' worth of work experience, if you could kindly email [Redpath.k@northallertonschool.org.uk](mailto:Redpath.k@northallertonschool.org.uk) (Head of Sixth Form), we would be hugely grateful.



*Northallerton Sixth Form is always trying to improve and making things better for their students through the quality and style of teaching.*

Sophie, Deputy Head Girl

## Year 11 Taster Day

Recently, our Year 11 taster day took place. Year 11 spent the day off timetable and embarked on a series of different post-16 routes either at Northallerton Sixth Form College, Middlesbrough College and Askham Bryan. We had a genuinely brilliant day working with internal students and welcoming external students.



## Health and Social Care

The Health and Social Care department welcomed children from a local nursery to the college as part of the students' controlled assessment. Our students delivered a series of sessions and activities for the nursery children and it was a fantastic opportunity to build links with the local community.



## Sixth Form Interviews

Sixth Form interviews will be taking place during the first week back after half term. Thank you to all those Year 11 students that have applied. All Year 11 students that have applied should have received a letter to confirm the date and time of your interview. We look forward to meeting you all.



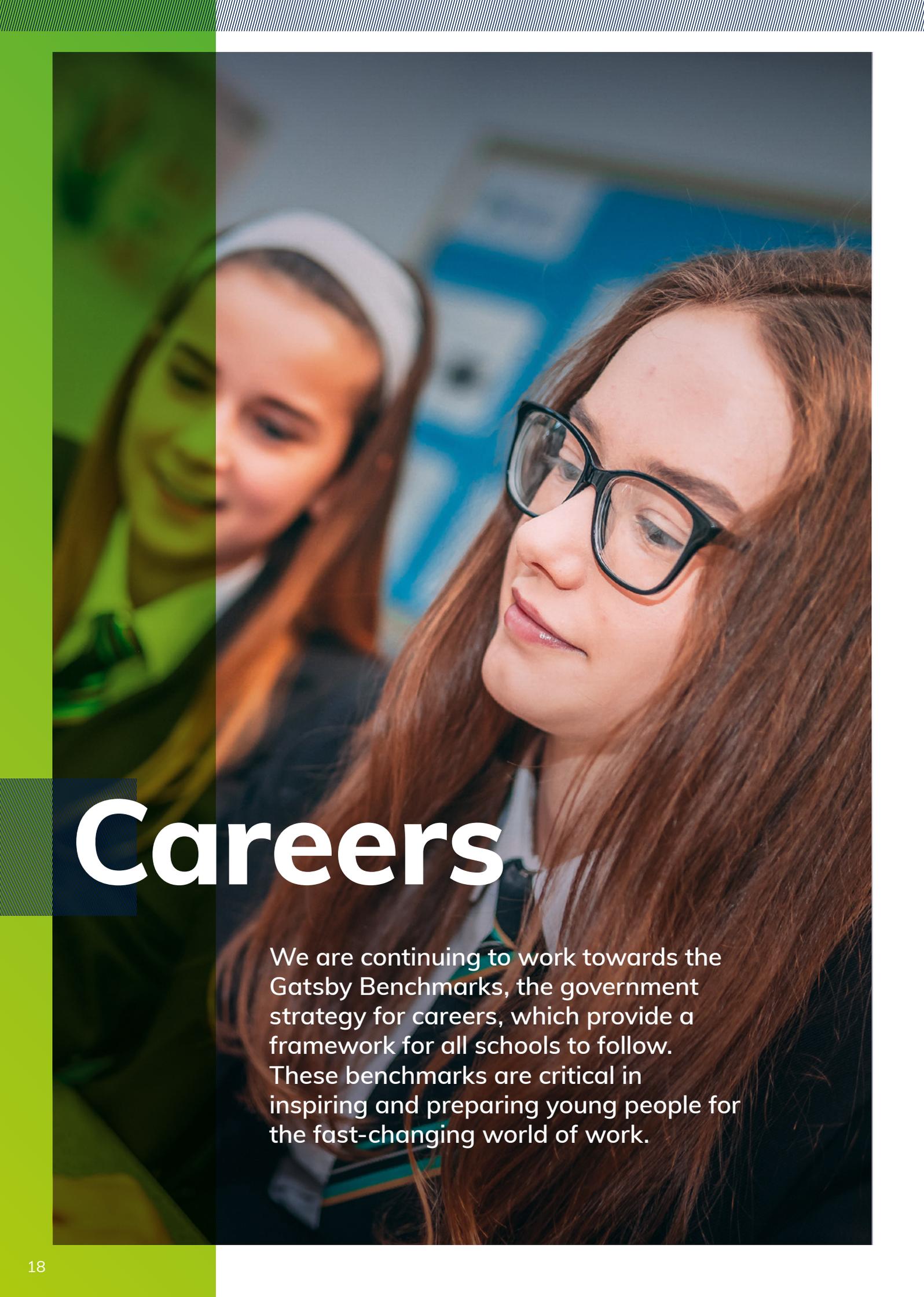
## Year 12 Senior Maths Challenge

The Year 12 students have recently taken part in a Senior Maths Challenge and the results are below:

Louis Flintoff – Silver  
Sam McVeigh – Bronze  
Taylor Grayson – Bronze  
Annie Smithson – Bronze  
Josh Grocott – Bronze

Well done to all those students involved.





# Careers

We are continuing to work towards the Gatsby Benchmarks, the government strategy for careers, which provide a framework for all schools to follow. These benchmarks are critical in inspiring and preparing young people for the fast-changing world of work.

## Post-16 Focus

The past few months have seen a major focus on support for Year 11 students in making their post-16 choices. This has included the launch of new Fast Tomato careers software.

**Fast Tomato** gives immediate results on completion of a short interests-based questionnaire and provides aspirational career and subject suggestions matched to the individual. Students have access to over 600 career descriptions including videos, case studies and useful links.



## Big Bang Fair

A group of KS3 students will be attending the Big Bang Fair – the Young Scientists & Engineers Fair. The event is the largest celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) for young people in the UK.

## NCS Visit

Recently, NCS came in to meet Year 11 students to talk about the wealth of opportunities that are available through their programme. NCS is a voluntary personal and social development programme for 16–17 year-olds across the UK. The programme gives students a once in a lifetime opportunity to expand their independence, experience new things and gain an insight into university life. The opportunity takes place in the summer and brings students from all over the country together.

For more info, visit:

[www.wearencs.com](http://www.wearencs.com)



# Coming Soon

## Unifrog

Later in the year, we will see the launch of Unifrog, an online careers platform. Unifrog is a one-stop-shop for all students, regardless of their interests or academic ability. It helps with careers planning for further education, higher education and apprenticeships.

In March, student ambassadors from a multitude of degree subjects will be visiting classes throughout the school day to talk about their experience of university and why they chose the subject they are currently studying. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to ask those burning questions and to help them make decisions about their future.

## Uni Connect and UCAS

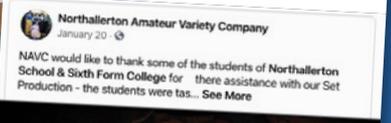
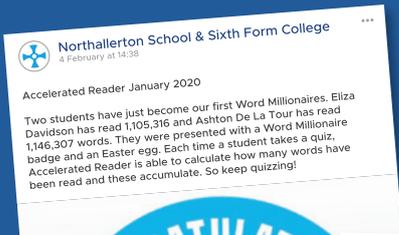
Uni Connect is sponsoring a visit to the UCAS Convention at Leeds Beckett University in June 2020 to ensure that all Year 12 students are able to meet higher education and degree apprenticeship providers.

## My First Choices

Our students in Key Stage 3 will be lucky enough to use the new 'My First Choices' software, which provides careers inspiration for 12–14 year-olds. It helps students to understand the factors that can influence decision-making and helps them look at the importance of selecting the right subjects.



# Keep up-to-date through social media!





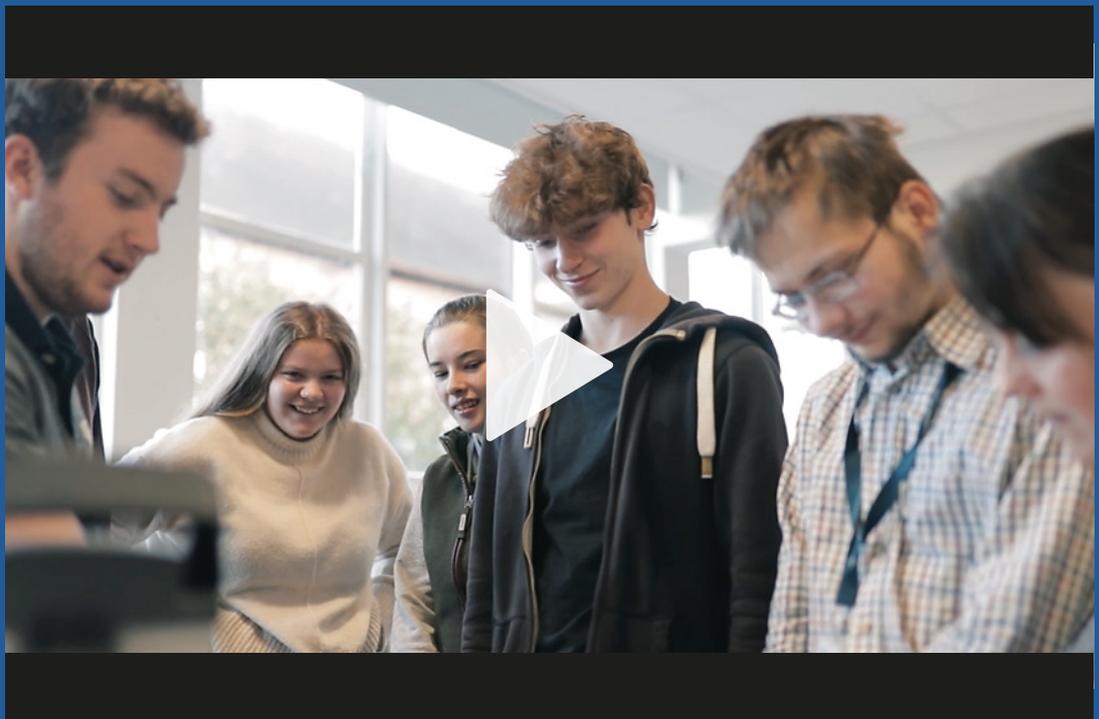
## A Day in the Life

Follow our Year 7 students as they show you around the school and tell you all about their favourite subjects and what they love about Northallerton School. A wide range of subjects are discussed, as well as the support that they receive from staff and older student.



## Our Sixth Form

An in-depth look into life at our Sixth Form. Hear from students and staff as they discuss what they love about Northallerton Sixth Form. From the support offered to the community feel, our students tell you all about their day-to-day experiences.



**To see our exciting new films, visit our Facebook page!**

# FAQ

## Frequently asked questions regarding skirts:

### *I've just bought a new skirt, am I expected to buy a new-style skirt?*

Yes. All students wishing to wear a skirt will be expected to wear the new school skirt from September 2020.

### *What is the cost of the new skirt?*

£15.50 junior, £18.25 senior.

### *What are the reasons for changing the style?*

We have chosen the new style of skirt based on quality, style and feedback from parents and students.

### *Does my child have to wear a skirt?*

No. There are trousers also available to buy.

### *Length of skirt*

Skirts should be knee length – 20" or 22" is available to purchase online but 18" is available for smaller students with the prior approval from the school or at a sizing event/bought in person at the shop.

### *Is there any financial support for families regarding the purchase of the new-style skirt?*

Yes, there is a social fund to support pupils on free school meals and pupil premium students. Please contact your child's head of year for further information.

In discussion with a group of parents, we affirmed that the investment in your child's school uniform continues to be very good value for money.

# Frequently asked questions regarding uniform in general:

## **Does the school make any money from sales of school uniform?**

No, all money from the sale of uniform goes directly to the supplier/manufacturer.

## **What does the Department for Education guidance say in relation to school uniform?**

The Department for Education (DfE) guidance clearly states that 'it is for the governing body of a school to decide whether there should be a school uniform policy and if so what that should be'. The DfE recommends that value for money is considered. The cost of badged trousers and skirts at the current supplier is competitive when compared to similar products purchased as part of a statutory uniform in other schools.

## **Are you allowed to have a single supplier for uniform?**

Yes, the DfE guidance states that this is acceptable and recommends that schools regularly review that the supplier is providing value for money comparatively. Northallerton School is committed to reviewing the supplier and/or costs regularly.

## **Why has the school chosen a supplier in York?**

School Shop trades mostly online, which is the way many people prefer to shop; with free returns, students can try items on at home and return what they don't want/need. School Shop also provides a sizing event in school during the summer term and we, as a school, support parents with receiving orders into school if it is more convenient for them. School Shop were also the most competitively priced for the most expensive item on the uniform list, the blazer.

## **What if I have difficulty affording school uniform?**

Any child receiving free school meals can receive automatic support with the initial cost of uniform starting in Year 7. We may also be able help other families in need of financial assistance; please get in touch and just let us know your circumstances.

## **What if I am unhappy with the fit of the uniform?**

The uniform comes in a range of sizes – boys have a choice of two fitting types (slim and classic fit) and girls have two fittings in the trousers (slim and classic).

There are additional styles available for both boys and girls. Please contact the uniform supplier for more information. Hundreds of students already wear the uniform every day comfortably and with pride.

## **Why do you even have badged trousers and skirts?**

Uniform means uniform; having a clearly defined item means guidance is not open to interpretation. As a result, teachers and support staff do not waste time chasing infringements and can concentrate on teaching. Furthermore, there is no pressure on young people to conform to a certain style.

## **Why can't I simply have my own badge sewn on a pair of trousers I have bought from the high street?**

This would undermine the principles outlined above that led to the introduction of the uniform in the first place.

## **Can my child be disciplined for not being in the correct uniform?**

Yes. DfE guidance states that 'teachers can discipline pupils for breaching the school's rules on appearance or uniform. This should be carried out in accordance with the school's published behaviour policy. A head teacher, or a person authorised by the head teacher, may ask a student to go home briefly to remedy a breach of the school's rules on appearance or uniform. When making this decision, schools need to consider the child's age and vulnerability, the ease and time it will take, and the availability of the child's parents. This is not an exclusion but an authorised absence. However, if the pupil continues to breach uniform rules in such a way as to be sent home to avoid school, or takes longer than is strictly necessary to effect the change, the pupil's absence may be counted as an unauthorised absence.

In either case, the pupil's parents must be notified and the absence should be recorded. If a school is considering excluding a pupil in response to breaches of uniform policy then this must be in line with the legal requirements for exclusion.' Northallerton School does not wish to sanction pupils and risk them missing valuable education; therefore, we expect all parents and children to comply with our uniform policies to avoid this eventuality.

# Key Dates

5<sup>th</sup> March Year 12 Progress Evening

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17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March School production of 'Annie'

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26<sup>th</sup> March Parents' Forum

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2<sup>nd</sup> April Year 10 Progress Evening

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11<sup>th</sup> May Parents' Forum

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11<sup>th</sup> June Aim Higher Event

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**Northallerton School  
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