

## Headteacher's Fortnightly Update - 16th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carers

### Dates for your diary

23rd October	Year 13 Assessment Week.
27th October	Break up for October Half Term - school finishes at 3.15pm.
6th November	Students return to school.
6th November	Year 11 Trial Exams commence.
1st December	Training Day - School closed to all students

### Dropping off students in a morning.

Please can we remind parents that if they are dropping off students in a morning, to please do this at Hambleton Leisure Centre and not via the Arbor Gates. This is a busy entrance with the arrival of numerous school buses and taxis. This request is to ensure the safety of all students.

### Water Bottles

A reminder that students should bring a water bottle to school with them every day. There are places around school where these can be refilled at break and lunch time. We have a small number of plastic cups which are for first-aid use only. Students are not permitted to leave lessons to get a cup from reception.

### Update on A2L Assemblies

All students, with the exception of Y7, have had an assembly this week regarding their most recent attitude to learning reports. As part of tutor time over the next two weeks students will be engaged in activities to reflect upon their most recent report. During lessons over the coming fortnight, students will also engage with subject teachers to discuss targets and record this in their exercise books/folders.



### Sixth Form

We had a fantastic turn out for our Sixth Form Open Evening last week. A massive thank you to all the staff, students and parents who supported and attended.



### Y12 PRP0

Following the initial assessment week that has occurred for Y12 students, all students and parents/carers have received details of the outcomes of the initial assessments and if a student is meeting subject level expectations. Should you have any concerns regarding the contents of the report, please raise your concerns directly with subject teachers or form tutors.

### Y11/13 Trial Exams

Our first series of trial exams will happen over the next few weeks:

- Y13 exams are in the week beginning Monday 23rd October. These exams are classroom-based and will take place during timetabled lessons.

- Y11 exams will be in the exam hall and start on Monday 6th November. The schedule for these exams can be accessed on the link [here](#). This has been explained to all Y11 students in their assembly on Thursday 12th October.

### Safeguarding

We have been asked by the Safer Hambleton Community hub to share [this letter](#) regarding graffiti in the local area with parents.

Please [click here](#) to view the most recent Online Safety Newsletter.

### SEND - Learning Workshops - North East & Yorkshire

As part of the Autism Central programme, Daisy Chain provides a range of online learning opportunities covering a variety of topics to help support individuals and families.

These online sessions are free and open to families living in the North East and Yorkshire. Autism Central offers families and carers of autistic people high-quality and easily accessible autism education, training, and support through peer educators, alongside a dedicated website. Peer educators are autistic people, and parents and carers of autistic people, who have been trained to support other families. Daisy Chain Project hub is delivering Autism Central in the North East & Yorkshire NHS England region. [www.autismcentral.org.uk](http://www.autismcentral.org.uk)

Please see information below for each individual session, as times, days and delivery methods are varied. You can access our training sessions if you have a young person with traits, undergoing, or diagnosed with autism, ADHD, FASD or sensory processing differences.

#### Upcoming Sessions:

- 13<sup>th</sup> October – ADHD – 10-11.30am
- 20<sup>th</sup> October – Sensory – 10am-11.30am
- 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Girls and Autism – 5-7pm
- 27<sup>th</sup> October – Communication Strategies – 10-11.30am
- 3<sup>rd</sup> November Girls and Autism - 10-11.30am
- 10<sup>th</sup> November – Visuals - 10-11.30am
- 24<sup>th</sup> November – PDA – 10-11.30am
- 1<sup>st</sup> December – Transitions – Preparing for Christmas – 10-11.30am
- 4<sup>th</sup> December – Transitions – Preparing for Christmas – 5-7pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> December – Intro to Autism – 10-11.30am
- 15<sup>th</sup> December – Parent/carers Wellbeing over Christmas – 10-11.30am
- 22<sup>nd</sup> December – ADHD – 10-11.30am

Book online: <https://www.daisychainproject.co.uk/event/learning-workshops/>

### Careers

This week we are celebrating Ada Lovelace Day, an international celebration of the achievements of women in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). It aims to increase the profile of women in STEM and, in

doing so, create new role models who will encourage more girls into STEM careers and support women already working in STEM.

Ada Lovelace (1815-1852) was the first coder, and an eminent mathematician. Last week, 20 students in Years 10 and 11 visited Labman in Seamer, near Stokesley for a factory tour. Labman is a 'creative environment where friendly, enthusiastic engineers produce world-leading custom laboratory automation and products'. The tour was very entertaining, we raced robots, tried out a tequila machine where the various ingredients were squirted into the participant's mouth (no alcohol, obviously), took part in an engineering competition and met the managing director.

Here are some reactions from the students: "I liked the machine that squirted lemon, mint and sugar into your mouth. The dogs were cute too!" Ima; "I enjoyed all of it! Thank you for taking us!" Yasmen; "I really like the sound of the apprenticeships, what a cool place to work!" Kate.



Elliana and her winning entry for the engineering competition.



Seren trying her hand at controlling a robotic arm.



Kate experiencing the tequila (no alcohol!) machine

### Reading and Literacy

There is a lot going on in the land of reading and literacy at NSSFC currently! All Y7 students have taken an NGRT test to give us a really accurate reading age as well as detailed analysis of strengths and developmental areas. Any students who we identify from this data to be in need of additional support will be started on tailored programmes very shortly.

One such scheme that has already started involves a charity called Inspiring Choices. They have provided a pair of graduates from York St. John University to work on improving the literacy and reading skills of 8 of our Y7 students.

All Y7 and Y8 students have now taken their Accelerated Reader STAR test to give us their ZPD score which indicates the level of difficulty of the books they should be reading. All of these students should now be reading a book on the AR system (either from school or from home). When the book is finished then students take a simple

quiz; those who do the most quizzing and reading over the term will be getting prizes!

There are a number of extra-curricular activities up and running including our KS3 and KS4/5 Book Clubs as well as our school newspaper. We are also now launching an opportunity for post-16 students to work with Y7s and Y8s in AR lessons to help with reading. This is a fantastic opportunity to add something completely different to a CV or university application.

Our most recent words of the week are *compassion* and *abundance* and our fortnightly literacy focus is on the first 10 of our 'Frightful Fifty' commonly misspelled words; they are:

Accommodation, Achieve, Across, Aggressive, Appearance, Argument, Basically, Beginning, Believe and Business.

## Extra Curricular

This is our extra-curricular offer for this term - [Northallerton Extra Curricular Activities Term 1 2023/24 \(Sept...](#)

### School Production



Things are now starting to take shape in our school production of *The Wiz*. Over the last 2 weeks, Mr Stimson and Miss Edwards have held the singing and acting auditions for the principal roles in the show. As always, we were really impressed by the breadth of talent from all our wonderful company, across all year groups. Faced with dozens of talented singers and actors, the difficult job of casting the main roles was made even harder. After hours (and I mean hours!) of difficult deliberation, we announced the principal roles on Monday night, with Chloe stepping into the silver slippers of Dorothy, Holly as Scarecrow, Hazel as Tinman, Megan as Lion and Abbie as the eponymous Wiz. Whilst we were not able to cast multiple Dorothys, Scarecrows, Tinmen and Lions we were incredibly impressed by everyone who took part and know that, with countless roles still to allocate as we go along, this is going to be another fantastic Northallerton School Production!

### Drama Trip

On Tuesday 10 October, the Drama department ran its first theatre trip of the year. Mr Stimson took the Year 10 and 11 GCSE Drama students to York Theatre Royal to watch Frantic Assembly's 'Metamorphosis'. This new adaptation of the Franz Kafka novella used Frantic's innovative physical theatre style and creative production design to present this story on stage. The students were incredibly impressed and inspired by the show and presented themselves impeccably at the theatre, making them fantastic ambassadors for the school.



### Football

On Monday 2nd October our Y8 boys football team were sadly knocked out of the county cup by The Vale of York School 5-1. However, the score line does not do our performance justice, in what was a very even game. There were lots of chances at both ends throughout the game, but unfortunately for Northallerton we were unable to put the finishing touches to some great play. The Vale of York were more efficient with their finishing and managed to convert a number of their chances.

A very encouraging first game of the year and we hope for a better result against SFX in a couple of weeks in the Area Cup. The squad were Harry, Zach, Ethan, Archie, Zach, Seb, Rylan, Josh, Alfie, Fin, Charlie, Macaulay, Jacob and Aidan.

Northallerton girls can feel very proud with an amazing achievement as they were crowned area champions on Wednesday. The competition is for Y11 girls but our team was mainly made up of Y 9 girls with two from Y10 and only two from Y11. The defence was solid throughout with Imogen, Layla, Bethany and Abbie dominating the other teams attacks with their physicality. Poppy was outstanding in goal showing bravery and commitment, even saving one shot with her face! Lilly and Megan never stopped running on the wings and caused lots of havoc for opposing defences to deal with and Megan scored the first goal of the tournament. Mia and Lucy were sublime in midfield and attack and scored some beautiful goals, each assisting each other. Mia ended up top scorer which included her scoring the winner in the final. All in all, a great afternoon was enjoyed by the girls and they fully deserved their winners' medals.



The Y11 boys football team travelled to Bedale High School last week, aiming to retain their Area 7's title, which they won last year.

Northallerton won their first group match against Bedale School 1-0 and backed that up with a well earned 1-1 draw against SFX, ensuring they progressed into the next round as group winners.

Northallerton got back to winning ways, by beating Stokesley School 1-0 to set up a winner-takes-all match against Easingwold School in the final game of the tournament. Northallerton edged this close affair, with Lyle Hardisty slotting away the winning goal from the penalty spot, to see Northallerton crowned as Hambleton and Richmondshire Area 7's Champions for the second year in a row.

The squad were Lucas, Robert, Will, Joe, Ben, Alfie, Lyle, Alex, Josh, Will (captain) and Reece.

The same team were in action again on Tuesday against Archbishop Holgate's School. Northallerton began the game strongly with two quick goals from Reece and Will in the first 10 minutes. Archbishop Holgate's School came back into the game and drew level just a couple of moments before the half time break.

The second half was a very scrappy affair, with Northallerton looking like they had some momentum going into the final few minutes however, with two minutes to go, the opposition scored from a set piece, sending them through to the next round of the county cup.

It was a disappointing end to an incredible run, which has seen this team win every game they have played since Year 7, winning the Area 7's three times, the Area Cup and the County Cup! This is an unbelievable achievement and I am really proud of everyone who has represented the team throughout their time at the school.

### **Swim Meet**

Monday 9th October was a successful day for sport at NSSFC! The school swimmers took the plunge at the HRSS Area School Championships against another 7 schools from across the district.

As a result of great teamwork, high levels of technical accuracy and athletes supporting each other in the events being selected to swim... the team secured a first place finish!

All times are online for swimmers to access <https://results.nasc.co.uk/asmeet23/>



Huge thanks to the officials from RDASC and NASC who assisted, and the NSSFC students who operated all the timing gear to enable the competition to run smoothly!

1. NSSFC	253
2. Stokesley School	244
3. Thirsk School	242
4. Richmond School	211
5. Bedale School	171
6. SFX	154
7. Wensleydale	72
8. Risedale	44

### Cross Country

On Wednesday our U18, U15 and U13 cross country teams went to Preston Park to compete in the County round of the English Schools Cross Country Cup. In what was a highly competitive meet, with 60+ runners in each event, all our students performed fantastically well. In the junior boys (Y7 & 8), Jake produced a fantastic run to finish 5th, with Jack also running superbly to finish 12th. Dougal finished in the top 30 and Steven and Ollie also ran very well, both running up a year group. In the junior girls, an amazing performance by Georgia saw her finish in 4th place, with Emilia and Chloe both finishing in the top 40. Our Inter girls (Y9 & 10) also ran very well, with Esme, Ruby, Bea and Seren putting in great performances on what was an incredibly competitive field. The Inter boys put in solid performances across the team. The Inter boys saw Cameron finish inside the top 15, with Josh and Corley in the top 40, and Reece and Henry in the top 50. The senior boys were in the final race and produced Northallerton's top performance and have qualified for the North East of England finals, after a super run from Noah finishing 3rd and Ollie 10th and backed up by Magnus and Jim in the top 20. Josh also produced a personal best finishing just outside the top 30.

A very good start to our cross country season, which will see Northallerton School host the next 2 events, the Hambleton and Richmondshire Area Championships in November and then the Area trials.

### Boxing Success



We continue to be thoroughly impressed by the dedication and successes of Y10 Hanna, who represented the Tyne Tees region last week in a competition against a select team from Ireland. Hanna fought the Irish number 1, winning comfortably and next fights in Scotland at the end of the month. Congratulations Hanna for all the hard work and dedication to achieve this!

With kind regards



Mrs V Rahn  
Headteacher