

SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025



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TOP NEWS

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S H A R E D

SERVICE	HEALTH & HAPPINESS	AMBITION	RESILIENCE	EQUITY	DIGNITY
'The action of helping or doing work for someone'	'A state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing' 'Pleasure, contentment and joy'	'A strong desire to do or achieve something'	'The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness'	'The quality of being fair and impartial to everyone'	'The state or quality of being worthy of honour or respect'

01

GOVERNORS MESSAGE

Dear Lightcliffe Parents, Carers, Students and Staff,

I'm writing on behalf of the governors of Lightcliffe Academy to thank you for your ongoing support for the life and work of the academy over the past term, and to wish you well for Christmas and the holiday period.

I'm also writing to let you know that I am stepping down as Chair of Governors after eight years. Connaire Magee, who joined the governing body earlier this year, will be taking over the Chair role in January. I am sure you will be hearing from him in the New Year.

You will be aware that Lightcliffe Academy has had a difficult journey over recent years, but it's clear that the last two years in particular have seen great progress, not least the 'Good' Ofsted judgements last autumn. The curriculum, quality of teaching, student progress, behaviour and attendance have all significantly improved, and students can enjoy and participate in a wider range of activities within and beyond the school.

There has been significant investment in the buildings and learning environment, and hopefully the very positive response of prospective parents at the Open Evening will lead to increased numbers of children opting to come to Lightcliffe, particularly from the local community around the academy.

I would like to thank Jo Hackett, her senior leadership team and the staff body as a whole for their unstinting commitment to the success of the academy and its young people, and to Paul Cooper and the Abbey MAT trust team for their significant contribution. I would also like to thank my fellow governors for their 'behind the scenes' work in both supporting and challenging school leaders to ensure that positive student outcomes and wellbeing are at the heart of their planning and decision-making.

I have really enjoyed my time at Lightcliffe and being part of a vibrant and distinctive school community. It has been a privilege to have been Chair of Governors and I wish Lightcliffe Academy every success and good luck for the future.

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and The New Year.

Mr P Laurence
Chair of Governors

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

After 10 wonderful years at Lightcliffe Academy, the time has come for me to say goodbye to our parents and students. It has been a genuine privilege to serve the school community as Head of PE, KS3 Achievement Director and Assistant Principal, and to work alongside such dedicated staff, supportive families and most importantly, remarkable young people.

I am incredibly proud of all that we have achieved together during my Lightcliffe Academy tenure, particularly in recent times with our 'Good in areas' judgement from Ofsted which was thoroughly deserved.

Some fantastic memories and friendships have been forged over 10 years which I will be eternally grateful for.

I am also extremely grateful for the Abbey MAT, support and kindness shown to me throughout my time here. Lightcliffe Academy will always hold a special place in my heart, and I leave with great confidence in its continued success. Thank you for the memories, the laughter and the shared commitment to helping every student thrive.

Mr J Worsnop
Assistant Principal for Care & Conduct

Year Group Updates

Year 7

As we come to the end of the Autumn term, we would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support. Year 7 students have made an excellent start to secondary school and have settled into routines extremely well. The transition to secondary education is a significant milestone, and we are very pleased with the resilience, enthusiasm, and maturity students have shown during their first term.

Throughout the term, students have engaged positively with learning across the curriculum and have approached new subjects and expectations with confidence. Staff have been particularly impressed with students effort, organisation, and willingness to participate in lessons and in particular when they took part in 'Zoo Lab'. Continued support at home with homework routines, reading, and daily organisation has played an important role in this success.

Behaviour across the year group has been consistently positive, with many students earning positive points for their effort, attitude, and conduct. Year 7 students have shown kindness and respect towards each other and staff, contributing to a calm and purposeful learning environment. We are proud of how well they represent the year group within the wider school community.

Students have also enjoyed a range of festive activities and assemblies as we approach the Christmas break, helping to create a strong sense of community. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Well done to Jasmine B for 100% attendance!

I would like to wish all Year 7 students and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to working with you again in the new term.

Miss Almas - Year 7 Leader

Year Group Updates

Year 8

It has been lovely to see the Year 8's settle this term. We've had a very positive start to Year 8 and end to the year, with an extremely positive approach to learning. The Year 8's have got into the swing of things, settled into all of their lessons and made some new friendships. We have had lots of new starters, who have all been welcomed by myself and students and settled very well also. I am very proud of the Year 8's for showing resilience, confidence and maturity with a positive finish to the year.

I look forward to the attendance and behavior rewards trip to finish the term, well done to those picked to go on the trip. A big well done to all students who are currently still on 100% attendance and those on zero negatives, it doesn't go unnoticed. What an amazing achievement, keep it up!

Miss Halliday - Year 8 Leader

Year 9

As we reach the end of term and the end of the year I would like to reflect on a busy, challenging and successful term. We have seen some excellent effort in and out of lessons and on the sports pitches. I am very proud of you all for all the hard work you have put in this year.

Have a happy, safe break and I look forward to seeing you all next year for a fresh start.

Enjoy the celebrations and take care of yourselves.

Well done, enjoy the holiday.

Miss Grogan - Year 9 Leader

Year Group Updates

Year 10

As we fast approach the end of the first term for Year 10, it has been lovely to watch all the students settle into their new option subjects so maturely. As I walk around the Academy during lesson time, it is lovely to see the brilliant chefs, artists, historians and musicians as well as enthusiasm for the other subjects we have on offer.

I have been extremely proud of our Form Captains in collating all the generous donations from you all and to enable us to share these with the local community. A huge well done to Jakey A, Elizabeth H and Lillie W-S who worked tirelessly to collect everything from all the different forms in school.

Huge congratulations to Vimbai M on having the highest achievement points in the year group.

We launched our Attendance Competition at the beginning of this month and look forward to handing out the gifts in our celebration assembly next week. We also have our Zero Hero cinema trip next week which is always a lovely time to celebrate with those students who get things right everyday in school.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely Christmas and New Year and look forward to sharing further updates with you all in 2026.

Mrs Rothery - Year 10 Leader

Year Group Updates

Year 11

As we reach the end of the Christmas term, I want to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy, demanding and ultimately rewarding few months for our year 11 students. This term has asked a lot of our students - academically, emotionally, and personally - and they should all feel proud of what they have achieved.

Over the past few weeks, our students have completed their mock examinations, and we could not be more impressed with the maturity and determination they have shown.

Across the term we have seen excellent levels of commitment - from students staying behind for revision, attending intervention sessions, or simply giving their best every day in lesson. These habits matter. They build confidence and resilience, and the foundations for success.

A special thank you to parents and carers for your ongoing support. Your encouragement at home plays a huge role in helping students stay focused and motivated.

When we return in January 2026 we enter one of the most important phases in Year 11. Revision schedules, intervention sessions, and focused preparation for final exams will be central. We will support students every step of the way - but consistency, attendance, and a positive mindset will be key.

I want to say a heartfelt well done to every student in the year group. Their efforts this term have not gone unnoticed. They have shown resilience, determination and a growing maturity that makes me incredibly proud to be their Head of Year.

Mrs Richardson - Year 11 Leader

ACHIEVEMENT DIRECTORS

KS3

It has been impressive to see the positive attitudes of our KS3 students this half term and especially the way our Year 7s have matured in such a short period of time. The high uptake at KS3 for extra curricular clubs has been so encouraging to see and the enthusiasm and commitment from so many of our students from the school show club and debate club, to all of the PE clubs - staying back after school and lunch times; building new friendships and alliances.

Next half term we will all be very much looking forward to the school show 'Little Shop of Horrors' being performed, where we will get to see our students' hard work pay off.

Ms Storah - KS3 Achievement Director

KS4

This half term, our Year 11 students have demonstrated outstanding dedication to their studies, with many attending a wide range of after-school intervention sessions to strengthen their knowledge and skills across all subjects. Their attitude during the mock exam period has been exemplary, showing maturity, resilience and a real determination to achieve their best. Staff have been incredibly impressed with the focus and effort students have shown both in lessons and during revision opportunities, and we are confident this hard work will put them in a strong position for the months ahead. Meanwhile, Year 10 are now well underway with their GCSE courses, adapting well to the increased expectations and embracing the challenges of Key Stage 4. They have shown great enthusiasm for their subjects, and we look forward to supporting both year groups as they continue to build on this excellent start to the year.

As we approach the end of term, I would like to wish all students, families, and staff a restful and enjoyable break. I hope everyone takes the opportunity to recharge and spend quality time with loved ones over the festive period. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, I look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for a successful start to the new term.

Miss Kanue - KS4 Achievement Director

KS3 EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

We have had a great take up of the Extra Curricular clubs at KS3 and it would be great to see this grow further. The after school and lunch time clubs provide an opportunity not only to develop new skills but also builds new friendships and social skills. The start of the new year next term would be a very good time to start something new! Any students unsure about joining a club can always speak to their Form Tutor, Head of Year or myself for a bit of support and encouragement!

Monday

Art Club
3-4pm
F1.01

**Boys and Girls
Football Training**
3-4pm
Astro Turf

**English
Homework Club**
3-4pm
A2.04

Tuesday

Debate Club
12.25-12.55pm
B1.02

Wednesday

**Little Shop of
Horrors
Rehersals**
3-5pm
Drama Studio

**Boys and Girls
Fitness Training**
3-4pm
Fitness Suite

Girls Netball
3-4pm
Sports Hall

Thursday

Rugby
3-4pm
Field

Dance
3-4pm
Gym

Singing Club
12.25-12.55pm
A1.14

Little Shop of Horrors Rehersals
3-5pm
Drama Studio

LITERACY AND ORACY

Oracy

A variety of students attended the Great Oracy Exhibition in Birmingham and were fantastic in representing the school and showcasing their oracy skills with a number of delegates at the conference. In addition, students have had the opportunity to engage in bullseye tasks in lessons where they are working on their tier 3 subject specific words to improve their vocabulary. Next half term we will be focusing on the Harkness, this helps students to learn to discuss and debate.

Reading

Students across the school have continued to read a variety of books in form time during Faster Read Friday to improve our reading fluency. In addition, students have had the opportunity to attend a reading club in the Library each week where different teachers have read the beginning parts of their favourite books, this has been a great way to discuss different interests around reading. At Halloween we also had our spooky reading session of scary stories, look out for future clubs coming.

Ms Ashworth - Assistant Principal for Curriculum Implementation

CATERING

Free School Meals

- Save up to £450 per child per year by taking up the Free School Meals offer.
- Some families are entitled to Free School Meals. Once registered, your child's dinner card would be topped up automatically each day.
- Totally private, totally automated.
- Even if you do not wish to use the Free School Meal Service, being registered allows the school to access more funding per student.

[Free School Meals | Bradford Council](#)

[Free School Meals - Calderdale](#)

[Lightcliffe Academy catering](#)

Upcoming Events



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Safeguarding Update – Keeping Our Students Safe This Christmas

As we approach the end of term and look forward to the Christmas break, it is important to remember that safeguarding remains at the heart of everything we do at school. This time of year can bring excitement and joy, but it can also present additional pressures and challenges for some young people and their families.

Staying Connected and Supported

The holiday period often means changes to routines and less daily contact with teachers and support staff. Please remind your child that if they ever feel worried, unsafe, or in need of support, they can speak to a trusted adult in school before the term ends. Our pastoral, safeguarding, and wellbeing teams are always available to listen and help.

Online Safety Over the Holidays

With more free time, many students will spend increased hours online. We encourage parents and carers to:

- Stay engaged with what their children are doing online
- Set up privacy and safety controls
- Discuss the importance of not sharing personal information
- Report any concerns about online behaviour using in-app tools or at CEOP

Support and advice can also be found on the NSPCC and Internet Matters websites.

Looking After Mental Health

Although Christmas can be a positive time, it can also bring stress, loneliness, or anxiety. Please continue to check in with your child and encourage them to reach out if they are struggling. Useful support lines include:

- Kooth – online counselling and wellbeing resources
- YoungMinds Textline – text YM to 85258
- Childline – 0800 1111

These services remain open throughout the holidays.



SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Community Support and Practical Help

We understand that the festive period can create financial pressures. If your family requires additional support with food, uniform, or wellbeing resources, please contact the school before the end of term. All enquiries are handled sensitively and confidentially. Local community organisations and food banks are also available to offer assistance throughout the break.

Safeguarding Concerns

If you are worried about the safety of a young person during the holidays, please contact:

- Children's Social Care
- Police (non-emergency) – 101
- Emergency services – 999

Our safeguarding email will continue to be monitored periodically during the break for urgent concerns.

ATTENDANCE

As part of the Department for Education's working together to improve school attendance guidance we have been working closely with the Local Authority and other agencies to help support our young people and their families to help improve school attendance.

Attendance Matters – Staying Strong Through Winter and Returning Ready in January

As we head into the festive season, we want to take a moment to remind families of the continued importance of good attendance. Winter often brings more coughs, colds, and seasonal illnesses, and we appreciate that this can make the run-up to Christmas particularly challenging for some students. However, every day in school truly does make a difference. Even short periods of absence can impact learning, confidence, and progress – especially at this crucial point in the year when students are building strong foundations for the new term.

Why Attendance Is So Important

- Learning builds day by day – Missing lessons means missing key explanations, discussions, and practice.
- Routine supports wellbeing – Being in school helps students stay connected, supported, and engaged.
- Small absences add up – A day here and there quickly becomes significant lost learning time over the year.

ATTENDANCE

As part of the Department for Education's working together to improve school attendance guidance we have been working closely with the Local Authority and other agencies to help support our young people and their families to help improve school attendance.

We fully understand that genuine illness happens. If your child is unwell enough to stay at home, please continue to keep us informed and ensure they return as soon as they are fit to do so. For minor ailments, tiredness, or winter cold symptoms, attending school where possible helps maintain routine and prevents students from falling behind.

Supporting Your Child Through Winter

To help keep students healthy and ready to learn, we recommend:

- Plenty of sleep and healthy meals
- Regular handwashing and good hygiene
- Wearing appropriate clothing for cold or wet weather
- Letting us know early if attendance issues are beginning to build
-

Our pastoral and attendance teams are always happy to offer support where needed.

Looking Ahead to January

A successful start to the new term begins with strong attendance from day one. We encourage all students to return in January ready, refreshed, and fit so they can make the most of the opportunities ahead and continue their learning with confidence.

Mr Drury - Vice Principal for Pastoral and Inclusion

ATTENDANCE

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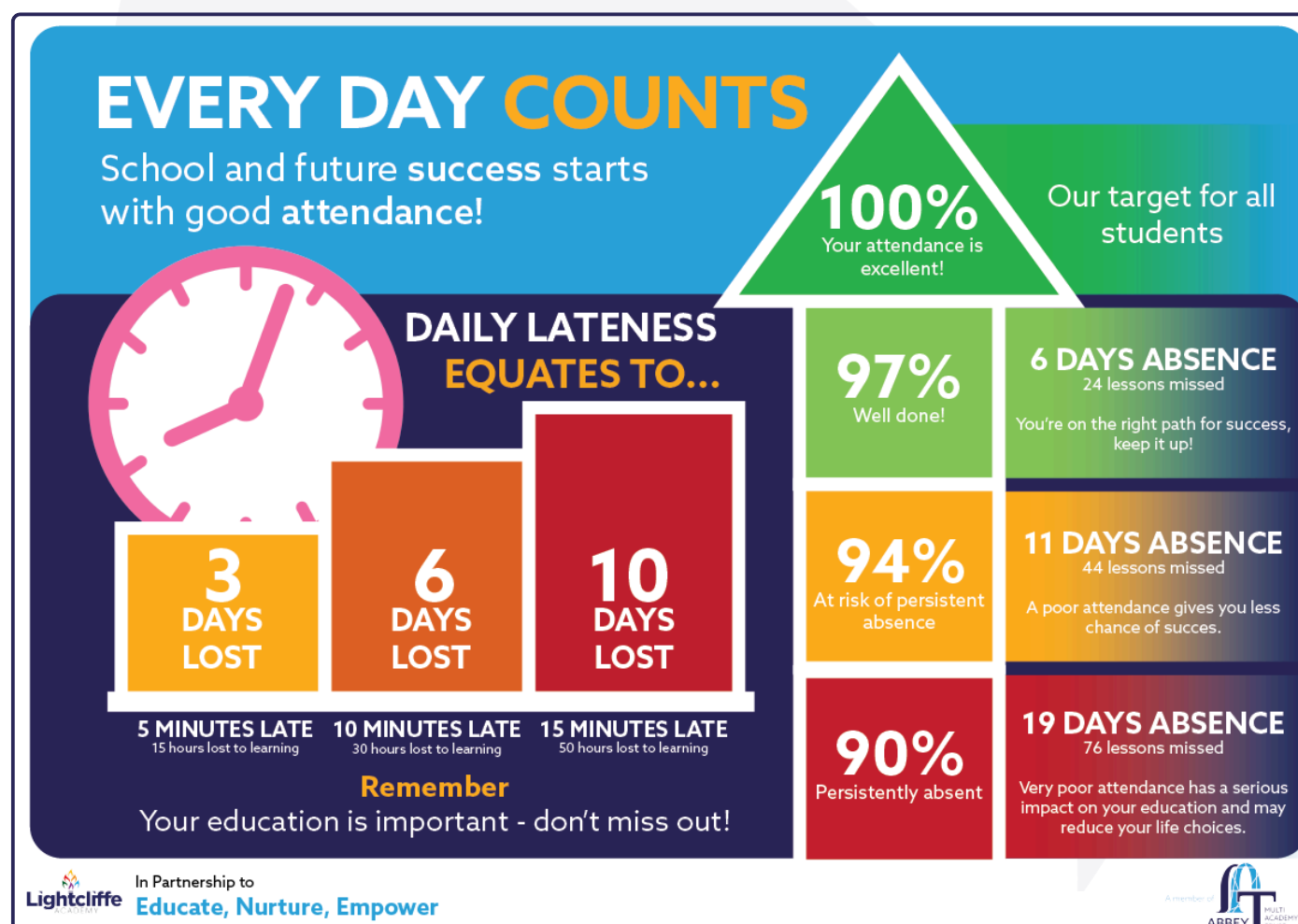
Holidays in Term Time

Students are not allowed to take holidays in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. It is very rare that any holiday would be authorised. Good attendance is key to students making good progress and taking time out to go on holiday can significantly hamper progress. Therefore, we request that no child takes holiday during term time.

You can be fined for taking your child on holiday during term time without the school's permission.

For the DfE statutory guidance on school attendance, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>



SPOTLIGHT ON...

Each half-term we give updates on a range of subjects. For this half term, it's English, Information Technology and Design and Technology

English

As we come to the end of our first term, the English Department is delighted to see students responding with enthusiasm and curiosity to our varied and challenging curriculum. From exploring powerful themes, introducing new texts and preparing for important assessments, we've seen some fantastic work completed.

Across Key Stage Three, our Year 7 students have been studying either *Animal Farm* by George Orwell or *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness - texts that offer rich opportunities for discussion and the exploration of themes such as power, friendship, courage, and the consequences of our choices. Tying in with Remembrance, Year 8 have been focusing on war poetry. Not only have we had some incredible creative writing, but students have been developing their analytical skills, exploring poet's intentions with emotional maturity and insight. Moving onto Year 9, students have been studying media and advertising, examining how language and image can shape, influence and sometimes, manipulate our perceptions of the world around us - all vital skills to become discerning consumers of the media.

At Key Stage Four, Year 10 have begun their study of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, two of their GCSE Literature texts, whilst Year 11 have been working hard to prepare for their mock exams. Using the rubrics, lessons have focused on exam skill and revising key texts to ensure they feel as confident as possible. It's been excellent to see so many students making the most of our after school revision sessions and we look forward to seeing their continued progress as the new year unfolds!

Thanks, as always, goes to Mrs Whitworth in the library for offering so many wonderful opportunities for our learners and for always keeping shelves stocked with the latest releases. Students are strongly encouraged to select a book (or two!) to keep them occupied over the festivities.

As we head into the holidays, we are reminded of the words of Dickens from *A Christmas Carol* in that 'I have always thought of Christmas time... as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time' so we hope everyone has a relaxing break, ready for a successful Spring term.

Miss Hipperson - English

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Each half-term we give updates on a range of subjects. For this half term, it's English, Information Technology and Design and Technology

Information Technology

Year 7

Our Year 7 students have been getting hands-on with Scratch programming, learning how to design interactive animations, games, and digital stories. They've explored key concepts such as sequencing, selection, and iteration while building confidence in thinking like real programmers.

Year 8

Year 8 have been diving into the world of binary, discovering how all digital data—text, images, sound, and more—is stored using only 1s and 0s. Students have converted numbers, experimented with pixel art, and learned why binary is the foundation of every computer system on the planet.

Year 9

Year 9 have been developing their Python skills using the TuringLab website FarmBot program, allowing them to practise writing real code and understand how commands control digital systems.

In line with the Academy whole school reading strategy, they were introduced to SNAKE reading, this took the form of a personalised story that incorporated many of our Computer Science Subject 60 Tier 3 words to strengthen both literacy and subject knowledge.

Key Stage 4

Our KS4 students have been preparing for their mock examinations. Once complete, students will receive a detailed Question Level Analysis (QLA) to help identify strengths, pinpoint gaps in their knowledge, and guide them on where to focus their revision. This targeted approach will support every student in working towards achieving their best possible grade in May.

Ms Crossley - Head of Information Technology

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Each half-term we give updates on a range of subjects. For this half term, it's English, Information Technology and Design and Technology

Design and Technology

Engineering Design students in Year 11 have been producing engineering drawings of their own Photo Display designs. The 2025 R039 unit tasks students to design and create their own Photo Display that will hold at least two photographs and can be wall hung or be freestanding.

They produced a series of design ideas, developed their preferred option, then create formal engineering drawings, including 3rd angle Orthographic drawings and virtual 3D models. All Orthographic drawings had to be drawn to scale and include critical dimensions.

Food Technology

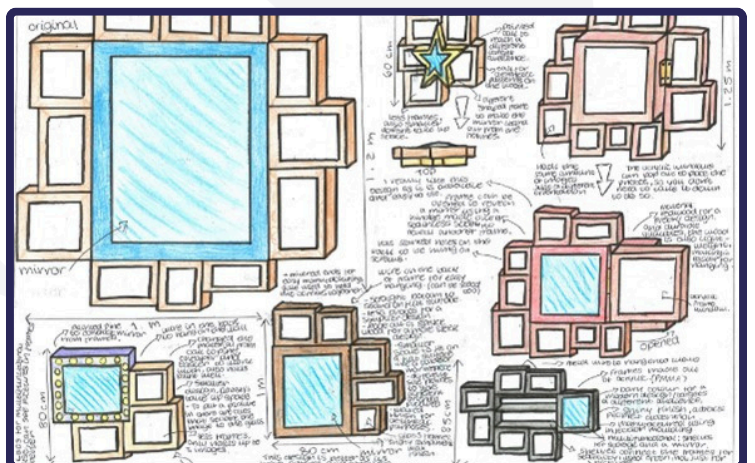
I'm excited to share an innovative learning experience our Year 8 students recently enjoyed. This term, we explored the concept of food miles—the distance food travels from farm to plate—and linked it to a practical cooking challenge: creating a DIY Big Mac in collaboration with our local McDonald's.

Students began by investigating where the ingredients for a Big Mac originate. From UK beef and dairy to lettuce often sourced from Spain, they discovered how global supply chains impact sustainability and the environment. This sparked discussions about reducing food miles and supporting local producers.

The highlight of the lesson was the hands-on activity: assembling their own Big Mac! Students prepared patties, layered fresh ingredients, and recreated the iconic burger while considering how each component contributes to environmental impact. The collaboration with McDonalds enabled us to create products with a low food mile but an authentic taste.

This engaging session combined practical skills, sustainability awareness, and real-world industry links, giving students a taste of both culinary creativity and environmental responsibility.

Mr Ellis - Head of Technology



SHARED

2025-2026 PSHE Learning Journey

PSHE

Autumn 1

Autumn 2

SHARED focus is
Service

SHARED focus is Health
and Happiness

Year 7

Transition and safety

To know how to transition to secondary school and keep safe.

Health and puberty

To understand healthy routines and what happens during puberty.

Year 8

Emotional wellbeing

To know about mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Drugs and alcohol

To understand alcohol and drug misuse.

Year 9

Peer influence, substance use and gangs.

To understand about peer influences, substance misuse and gangs.

Healthy lifestyle

To understand about healthy choices.

Year 10

Mental health

To understand mental health and ill health, including during periods of change.

Exploring influence

To understand the influence and impact of drugs, gangs, role models and the media.

Year 11

Independence

To understand how to make responsible health choices and keep safe.

Building for the future

To understand self-efficacy, stress management and future opportunities.

SHARED CHARACTER VALUES

S – Service

This focuses on helping others and making a difference through sustainability. We're looking at ways to make our school more eco-friendly — from recycling and saving energy to running awareness projects about protecting our planet.

H – Health and Happiness

Everyone deserves to feel healthy and happy. We're developing ideas that encourage positive lifestyles like fun fitness activities, healthy food choices, and mindfulness moments to support mental wellbeing.

A – Ambition

Ambition is all about setting goals and supporting each other to succeed. A big focus for us is helping new students — both those joining from Year 6 and those transferring during the year — to settle in confidently and feel part of our school community.

R – Resilience

Resilience means not giving up, even when things are tough. This value links to attendance and mental health, encouraging everyone to keep going, show up, and support each other through challenges.

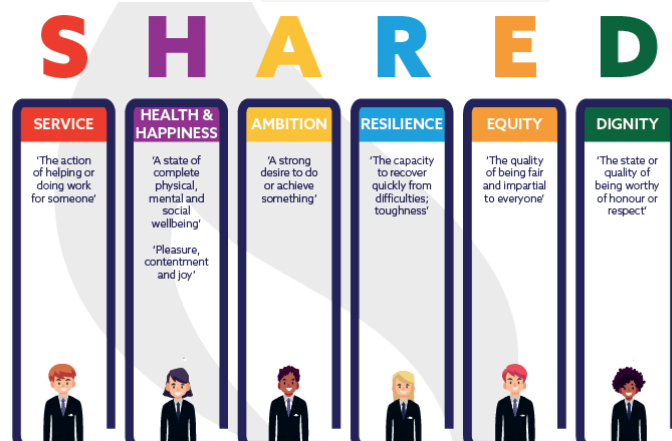
E – Equity

Equity is about fairness and inclusion. We're celebrating our differences — whether that's culture, background, or ability — and making sure everyone has the same opportunities to thrive.

D – Dignity

Finally, Dignity is about kindness and respect. We're exploring ways to connect with our local community, support others, and build our journey towards becoming a recognised School of Sanctuary — a place where everyone feels valued and safe.

As a committee, we believe the SHARED values help us create a school where everyone belongs and can be their best selves. We're proud to represent these values and can't wait to see how they grow across the school this year.



PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE

Little Shop of Horrors: School Production

The last few months have seen us completing a great deal of work on the upcoming school production of Little Shop of Horrors. In the last spotlight we shared the cast list with you, and the whole cast have thrown themselves into the rehearsals for the production with a huge amount of enthusiasm.

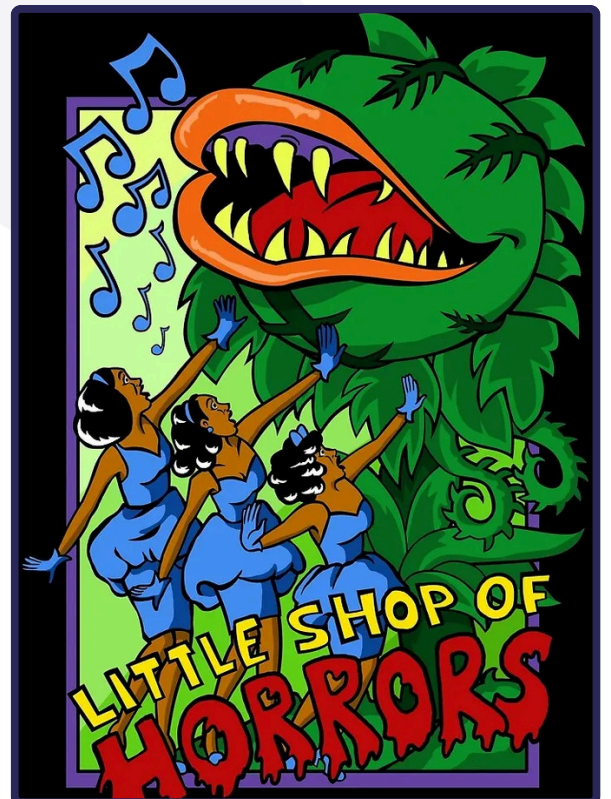
The last half-term has been spent working on individual scenes from the show. We have now completed all the work on the first act, and we will start the second act after the Christmas Break.

Details about tickets will be shared with you after Christmas as well. As we no longer use the ParentPay shop ticket sales will be done in a different way this year.

KS4 Update

In lessons year 10 and 11 classes are working on their component 1 and 2 work. This is work completed in school and counts towards 30% of their final BTEC grade. Year 11 classes will also be starting work on component 3 next term. This work is done in place of a final exam and is the culmination of the work they have completed throughout the course. In KS3 pupils are completing work on the projects they have done this term.

Mr West - Head of Performing Arts



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS - CAST LIST

CHARACTER	CAST
SEYMOUR AUDREY MUSHNIK AUDREY II (PLANT) ORIN (DENTIST) CHIFFON (URCHINS) CRYSTAL (URCHINS) RONNETTE (URCHINS) ESTELLE (URCHINS) TALLEY (URCHINS) URCHIN SINGER URCHIN SINGER BERNSTEIN SNIP MARTINA CUSTOMER 1 CUSTOMER 2 SKID ROW 1 SKID ROW 2 INTERVIEWER	George P Theah A George W Jakey A Jake B Liz C Ruby R Summer G Libby-Rae L Lillie Wring-S Freya N Aimee D Ava B Riley W Elizabeth H Lucy A Jessica B Ryan J Kelsey Bagshaw-K Lilly S
AUDREY'S CREW - Zeenat B, Megan D, Poppy H, Grace H, Rose H, Daisy W SKID ROW RESIDENTS - Jaxon A, Lacey B, Isabella C, Kaitlin F, Charlotte P Scarlett R, Emily W CUSTOMERS - Lola M, Lily P, Eva-Jane R, Abigail S, Elena S, Elijah S	

SPORTING SUCCESS

Seth H (Y8)

Seth H is one of Great Britains' top young skaters who attends Lightcliffe Academy, currently training/associated with LS-TEN Skate Park in Leeds.

Seth has been skateboarding since 6 years old and has developed his talents to elite level, despite only being 11 years old, competing in national competitions in mostly open-age events.

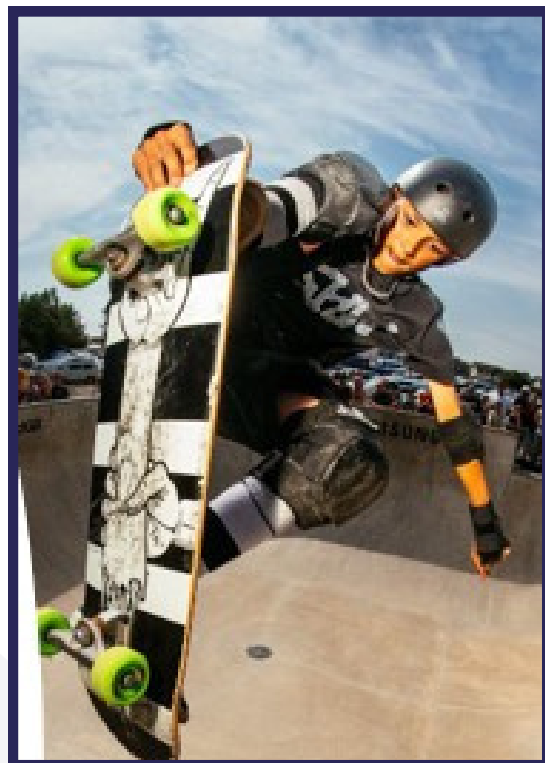
His exceptional ability has been recognized by the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) at Leeds Beckett University and Seth has already been accepted onto their scholarship scheme post Lightcliffe Academy which we are all extremely proud of and excited about.

Seth's talents have also been recognised at international level, in particular in the USA, where he has recently returned from Los Angeles after being invited to a host of prestigious skate competitions. He was also given a personal invite by skateboarding legend, Tony Hawk, to skate on one of his private skate parks in LA, and Seth even received an Instagram 'follow' from Tony Hawk after the event, which itself is quite an accolade.

Alongside this, Seth is on the Team GB skateboard pathway and hopes to represent Team GB at Olympic level in the very near future and has already received recognition of this from current Team GB captain, Andy Macdonald.

Connie D (Y7)

Connie is another students of ours of whom we are extremely proud of, and who is also on the Team GB pathway to professionalism, in Figure Skating, Ice Dance and Free Dance.



SPORTING SUCCESS

Connie began ice skating at the age of four at Bradford Ice Rink and now competes in both Ice Dance and Free Dance. She has already qualified for and competed in two British Ice Dance Championships.

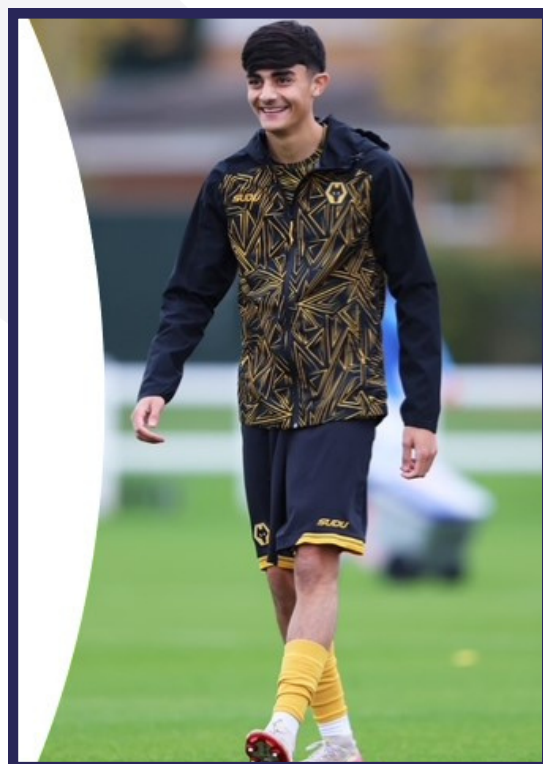
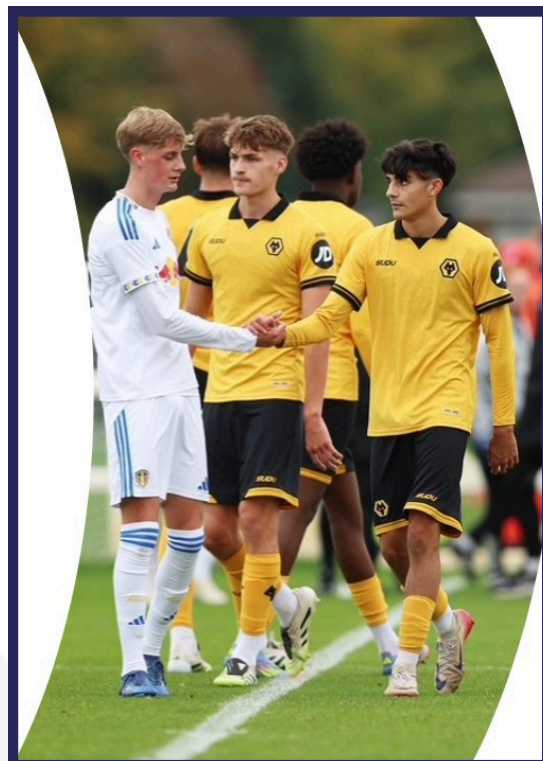
She has achieved numerous podium finishes at competitions across both disciplines. This season, Connie earned a place on the Great Britain free skating squad and is preparing for next year's British Championships, where she hopes to be selected to represent Great Britain at International events. All of her training and achievements are steps towards her long-term ambition of becoming a free skating coach and representing Great Britain at the 2032 Olympic Games in Australia.

Mason S and Josh H

Former students Josh H and Mason S who represent Leeds United and Wolverhampton Wanderers respectively, came head-to-head for the first time in their professional academy careers when they met in the Academy Premier League competition in October.

Both boys are performing exceptionally well at both their respective clubs and their journey to full-time professionalism is really promising.

Everyone connected to Lightcliffe Academy wish both boys all the very best in their future football prospects, with a number of staff looking forward to watching the return leg, live, when they met again at Leeds United in March 2026.



SPORTS UPDATE

Football Focus (Years 7-9)

Our Year 7, 8, and 9 Boys football teams have shown fantastic commitment and improvement throughout the half-term. Their teamwork, determination, and enthusiasm have created a brilliant atmosphere at both training and matches. A special mention goes to Ethan G (Y9), Zack A (Y7) and Billy K (Y8) for their outstanding effort and attitude towards some unlucky results for the teams.

Our Year 8 and 9 Girls team began their first games of their season this half-term with fantastic games of football played, with resilience and enthusiasm shown throughout them. Big shout out to Dorcas F (Y9) for making her debut for the team and Ava T (Y8).

We are looking forward to half term three, there are still plenty of games to be played and hopefully we can see lots of success in the Yorkshire and Calderdale Cup!

Rugby Success (Y7 Boys and Y9 Girls)

It has also been an excellent term for rugby, with the Year 7 boys who had their knockout tournament to represent Calderdale in the Yorkshire Cup, after hard battles against some fierce competition they made it to the final, where sadly we missed out but never the less, there was a lot to be proud of and the team represented Lightcliffe with pride.

Furthermore, our Year 9 girls started their season off with a game vs Rastrick, with a few students unable to attend on the day we took 9 girls to the fixture and they all played the full game on a wet and rainy afternoon with no complaints, demonstrating great progress, resilience, and team spirit. They have represented the school brilliantly and continue to grow each week. Shoutouts to Harris C (Y7) and Silver N (Y9) for exceptional contribution on and off the pitch.

Cross Country

Our students showed fantastic determination in this term's cross-country event at Old Brodleians Rugby Club, representing the school with real pride and effort. A special congratulations goes to Ava T (Y8) for an outstanding performance and achieving great success on the day.

Thank You to All Students

A huge thank-you to every student who attended after-school sports clubs this term. Your energy, positive attitude, and willingness to improve help to make our school's sporting community something we're truly proud of.

Mr Orange - Physical Education



GUEST SPEAKER

It was great to have Simon who volunteers to visit us this half-term, talking to Year 7s about the nature reserve, the abundant wildlife found and links to our shared curriculum. The Year 7 students were fantastic at listening and asking lots of great questions. It is an absolute must to visit the nature reserve so close to us!



COMMUNITY NEWS

ELLAND RLFC

»»» CALLING ALL «««

YEAR 7S

★ WE'RE RECRUITING ★

FOR 2026

CONTACT
OLIVER
07944647988

FOCUS4HOPE DRIVE

Thank you to everyone who donated to our worthy cause FOCUS4HOPE, Brighthouse. It was amazing the response we have had from staff and parents.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thursday 18th December

School Closes

Friday 19th December

Staff Training Day

Monday 5th January

School Reopens