

SPOTLIGHT NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



TOP NEWS

Leadership Message

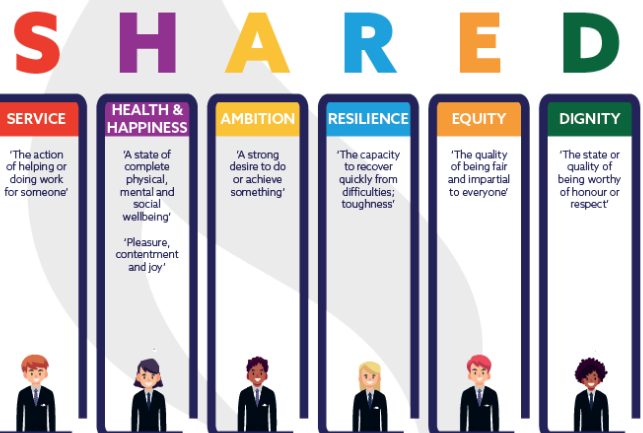
Year Group Updates

Safeguarding Update

Community News and Events

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01

In Partnership to
Educate, Nurture & Empower

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

As we reach the halfway point in this final term of the academic year I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the Assistant Principal for Safeguarding and Attendance.

I joined Lightcliffe Academy in January 2026 having spent twelve years in my previous school where I moved from being a Head of Department to an Assistant Headteacher with responsibilities that included Behaviour, Safeguarding, and Inclusion. In these roles I developed a breadth of knowledge and a passion for supporting young people to achieve their personal and academic potential. It is my belief that a strong partnership between home and school is essential for every student to succeed.

Having worked in education for over 20 years I have seen first-hand the impact mental health can have on the lives of young people. With the rise of social media and the pressures facing teenagers today I have used my time here at Lightcliffe, both as the DSL and Mental Health Leader, to address these challenges. Through regular assemblies, I have raised awareness on issues surrounding mental health and about modern pressures, ensuring all students know they are supported and helping them build the tools they need to thrive.

This is particularly important for our Year 11 students as they begin their GCSE exams. We know this can be a time of high-pressure but they have definitely risen to this challenge and have approached all exams with maturity and dedication. I wanted to take this opportunity to wish them the absolute best of luck in these final weeks and look forward to celebrating their time with us before they take their next steps.

Attendance is a key area of my role at Lightcliffe Academy and I have very much enjoyed celebrating students' achievements in this area. From handing out Amazon vouchers for 100% weekly attendance, to chocolates for those who have shown great resilience and improved their attendance overtime, to the hundreds of digital postcards I have sent home as recognition for everyone's support. Improving attendance is truly a team effort.

Looking ahead to our final half-term, there is still so much to look forward to and celebrate across the school community. This is always a busy but rewarding time of year filled with transitions, sports days, and end-of-term events. I look forward to meeting many of you during these upcoming activities and working together to ensure a strong, positive finish to the academic year.

Miss C Chappell
Assistant Principal for Safeguarding and Attendance

Year Group Updates

Year 7

We are incredibly proud of the positive start Year 7 have made this year, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence and independence continue to grow. Thank you for your continued support with attendance and punctuality. Being in school every day and arriving on time has a huge impact on learning and helps students settle positively into the day. Please continue to encourage students to arrive fully equipped and ready to learn. Year 7 students have continued to represent the school well through their positive attitude and engagement in lessons.

Well done to Grace T, Harrison M and Frankie A for their continued effort in lessons, kindness to their peers and their helpful attitude towards their teachers, it has been seen and recognised. Thank you as always for your ongoing support.

Miss Almas - Year 7 Leader

Year 8

Firstly I'd like to say well done to all of the Students who took part in the Fund Raising event for their groups chosen Charity. I am extremely proud of the effort and commitment shown by Year 8 this half term. To see the students work so hard together and put so much effort in to raising as much money as they could was fantastic.

Secondly, I am pleased to say we have recently launched our Normandy Trip for 2027 and there is quite a buzz between the students about going, which is lovely to hear.

Lastly, I am delighted to see continued improvements in attendance and behaviour across the Year group. Many students are demonstrating a strong commitment to learning by arriving on time, engaging positively in lessons and showing respect to staff and peers.

I look forward to going in to the final term of the year with this year group.

Miss Halliday - Year 8 Leader

Year Group Updates

Year 9

As we approach the May half term, we would like to recognise the hard work and positive attitude shown by our Year 9 students this term. Many pupils have demonstrated growing independence, resilience, and maturity as they continue to develop both academically and socially. It has been encouraging to see them taking greater responsibility for their learning and making positive choices around school.

Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support. We hope you all enjoy a relaxing and well-deserved half term break.

Miss Grogan - Year 9 Leader

Year 10

We have had a fantastic half term with Year 10. They began the term with their mock examinations, and their behaviour throughout the two-week period was impeccable. It was a pleasure to reward them with a breakfast to celebrate their hard work and commitment.

Special congratulations go to Ms Storah's Art class for their excellent conduct during the mock examinations. We would also like to recognise the following students for their outstanding performance:

- Jacob A - English Literature, Maths, Geography
- Lilly C - History, Health & Social Care
- Kyle M - History
- Luka C - History, Maths
- Hannah S - History, Maths, Geography
- Emily M - Health & Social Care, Maths, Geography
- Kim M - Health & Social Care
- Ava C - Health & Social Care, Geography
- Jake B - Maths
- Holly H - Geography
- Isabelle R - Geography

Year Group Updates

Year 10

We are looking forward to next half term, where the whole year group will attend a trip to Bradford College, alongside our Geography field trips.

I hope you all have a restful half term break and enjoy the sunshine, as forecast.

Mrs Rothery - Year 10 Leader

Year 11

As we reach the end of the year, we want to take a moment to recognise the incredible journey our Year 11 students have taken. This term marks the beginning of their GCSE examinations, and we have been impressed by the determination, maturity, and resilience they have shown in preparing for this important milestone.

As this chapter closes, we also say a heartfelt farewell to our Year 11 cohort. You have grown not only in knowledge but in character, and it has been a privilege to watch you develop into the young adults you are today. Whether you are moving on to sixth form, college, apprenticeships, or new adventures, we hope you carry forward the lessons, friendships, and memories made here.

Please remember: this is not goodbye, but the start of something new. You will always be part of our school community, and we look forward to celebrating your achievements on Results Day. I want to wish you the very best of luck in your exams and in the exciting journey ahead.

Mrs Richardson - Year 11 Leader

ACHIEVEMENT DIRECTORS

KS3

Year 9 chose their options this half term, which has been an exciting time for them, thinking about what they enjoy and where they would like to take their studies after GCSEs and future career ideas.

KS3 started their assessments this week, with Year 7s starting things off. It was a great opportunity for them to practice being in the Sports Hall where all the GCSE exams are sat, to see how the space feels and to get them familiar with the protocols and expectations. They responded well and we are very proud of them. Year 9 and 8 will be sitting their assessments after the half term break.

We have a busy final half term coming up with the Year 6s Transition Day, which our Year 7s cannot believe was almost a year ago for them - time flies!

We'll also be planning the celebration assemblies and rewards trips for the end of the year - so there's lots to look forward to!

Have a good and safe half term break.

Ms Storah - KS3 Achievement Director

KS4

Year 10 students have demonstrated an excellent attitude and commitment throughout their recent mock exam period. Students approached their exams with maturity, resilience, and a strong work ethic, showing clear determination to achieve their best. It has been particularly pleasing to see so many students taking their revision seriously and applying themselves fully in each subject.

To recognise this fantastic effort and positive behaviour, we were delighted to host a rewards breakfast. This provided an opportunity to celebrate their hard work and reflect on what they have achieved so far.

The event was a great success, with students enjoying a well-deserved treat and staff taking the time to congratulate them on their efforts. It was a wonderful way to acknowledge the positive attitudes seen across the year group.

ACHIEVEMENT DIRECTORS

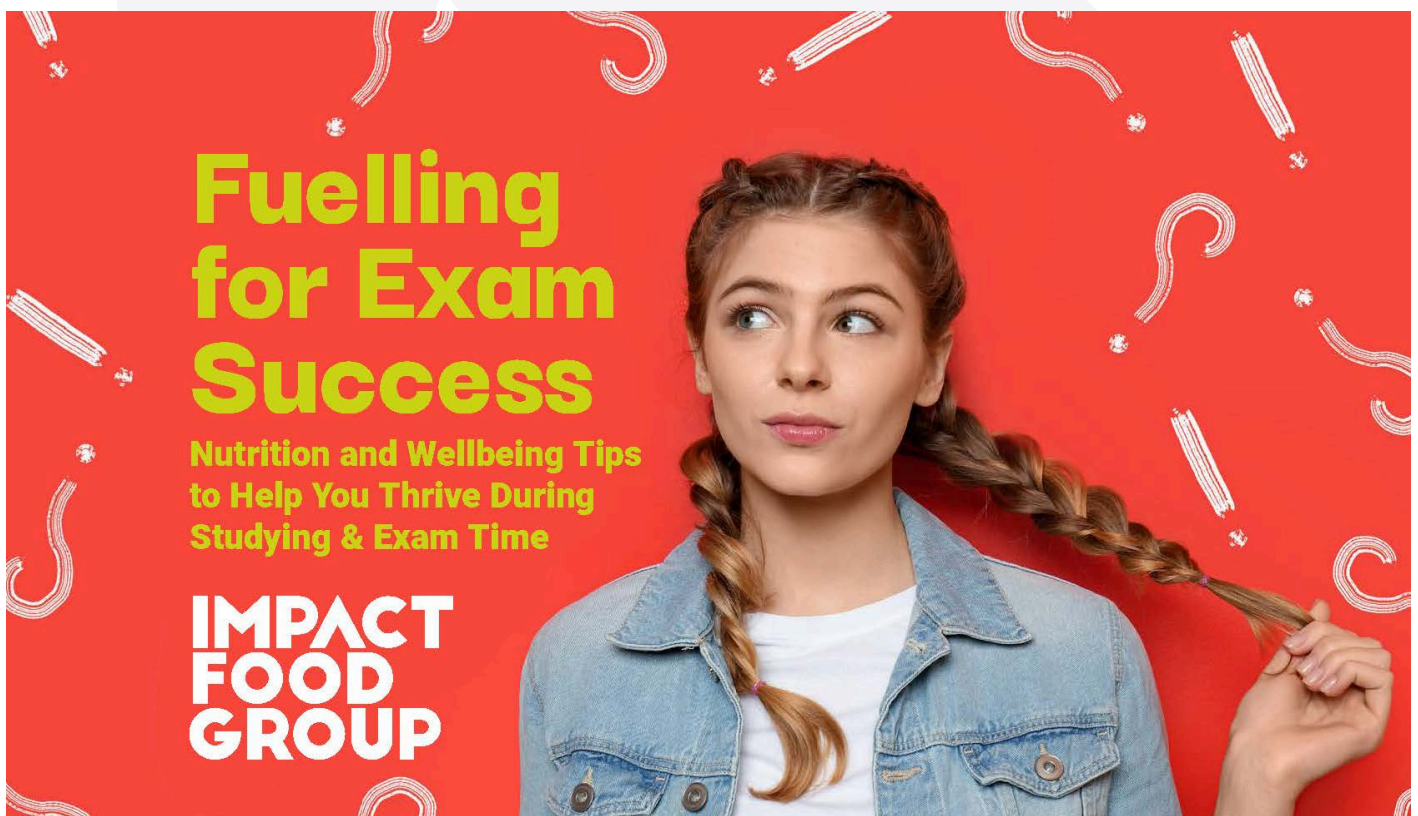
KS4

Meanwhile, Year 11 students have now begun their GCSE examinations. This is a significant milestone, and we encourage all students to stay focused, organised, and fully engaged during this important period. Every exam is an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and the hard work they have put in over the past years.

We wish all Year 11 students the very best of luck in their GCSE exams. With determination, resilience, and a positive mindset, we are confident they will achieve their full potential.

Miss Kanue - KS4 Achievement Director

CATERING UPDATE



FIRST GIVE

Over the past few weeks, our Year 8 students have taken part in an inspiring and meaningful project through our partnership with First Give. The programme has encouraged students to think about the importance of charity work, community support and social action, while developing key skills such as teamwork, public speaking, leadership and fundraising.

Each Year 8 class selected a different charity to support and worked incredibly hard to raise awareness and funds for their chosen cause. The charities represented this year were Andy's Man Club, Cancer Support Yorkshire, Building Bridges Food Hub, Healthy Minds Bradford and Focus4Hope. Throughout the project, students organised fundraising activities, promoted their charities within school and the wider community, and learned more about the positive impact these organisations have on people's lives. Every class showed fantastic dedication and creativity, with each group successfully raising over £100 for their chosen charity – an incredible achievement that demonstrates the generosity, compassion and determination of our students.

The project culminated in a presentation event where each class delivered a passionate and informative presentation to a panel of local judges. Students spoke confidently about the work of their charities, the importance of the causes they support, and the fundraising they had completed. The judges were hugely impressed by the quality of the presentations, the professionalism shown by students and the genuine care and enthusiasm displayed by every group.

After a very difficult decision, the judges selected Class 8E, representing Andy's Man Club, as the overall winners. As a result, their charity received a fantastic £1000 donation from First Give. The class should be extremely proud of their hard work, commitment and outstanding presentation. However, this project was about far more than winning. Every single student involved should feel proud of what they achieved. All of the classes demonstrated kindness, empathy and a real desire to make a positive difference to others. The effort, teamwork and maturity shown throughout the programme were exceptional, and students represented the school brilliantly at every stage.

We would also like to thank the staff, local judges and everyone who supported the students during the project, as well as First Give for providing such a valuable opportunity for our young people.

Well done to all of Year 8 for an amazing achievement and for showing the power of young people working together to support important causes in our community.

Mr Cross - Assistant Principal for Personal Development

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

In school this half-term we have been celebrating Mental Health Awareness Week through assemblies and our Form Time programme. This year the theme is 'Action' and we have encouraged our school community to take positive steps to support their own, and the mental health of others.

Calderdale Support

Support can be accessed directly through Calderdale council and the link to their website can be found here: [Safeguarding Calderdale – Safeguarding children and adults in Calderdale](#).

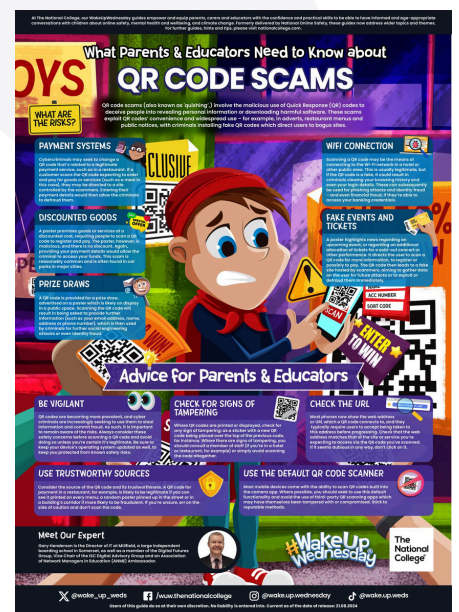
Through this link there is advice for parents on how to make a referral to the Calderdale safeguarding team as well as helpful information about 'safer sleep', 'healthy relationships' and 'bullying' to name a few.

Concerned about your child's mental health?

Below are some of the signs a young person may display if they are struggling with their mental health:

- Sudden changes in mood or behaviour.
- Withdrawal from friends or favourite activities.
- Unexplained physical symptoms like headaches or stomach aches.
- Changes in sleeping or eating habits.

We are here to help, even in the holidays. If you are concerned about your child you can contact the school and someone from the safeguarding team will be in touch.



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 and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting your child to attend Lightcliffe Academy on time, every day.

As we approach the final half-term of the academic year we would like to remind you that regular, continuous attendance matters and it does make a difference. In fact, attending school every day in this half-term can improve individual attendance by 2%.

In addition, attending school every day has a number of benefits. It ensures there is no lost learning or gaps in knowledge and it provides a space to connect with peers and staff and this, we know, has a positive impact on mental health and wellbeing.

There are lots of ways you can support your child attending school regularly, below are just a few:

- Make sure they have 7 or more hours of sleep per night.
- Pack their school bag the night before checking they have the right equipment for the day ahead.
- Book medical appointments outside of school hours.
- Encourage them to build resilience by creating continuous attendance.

Miss Chappell - Assistant Principal for Attendance and Safeguarding



ATTENDANCE

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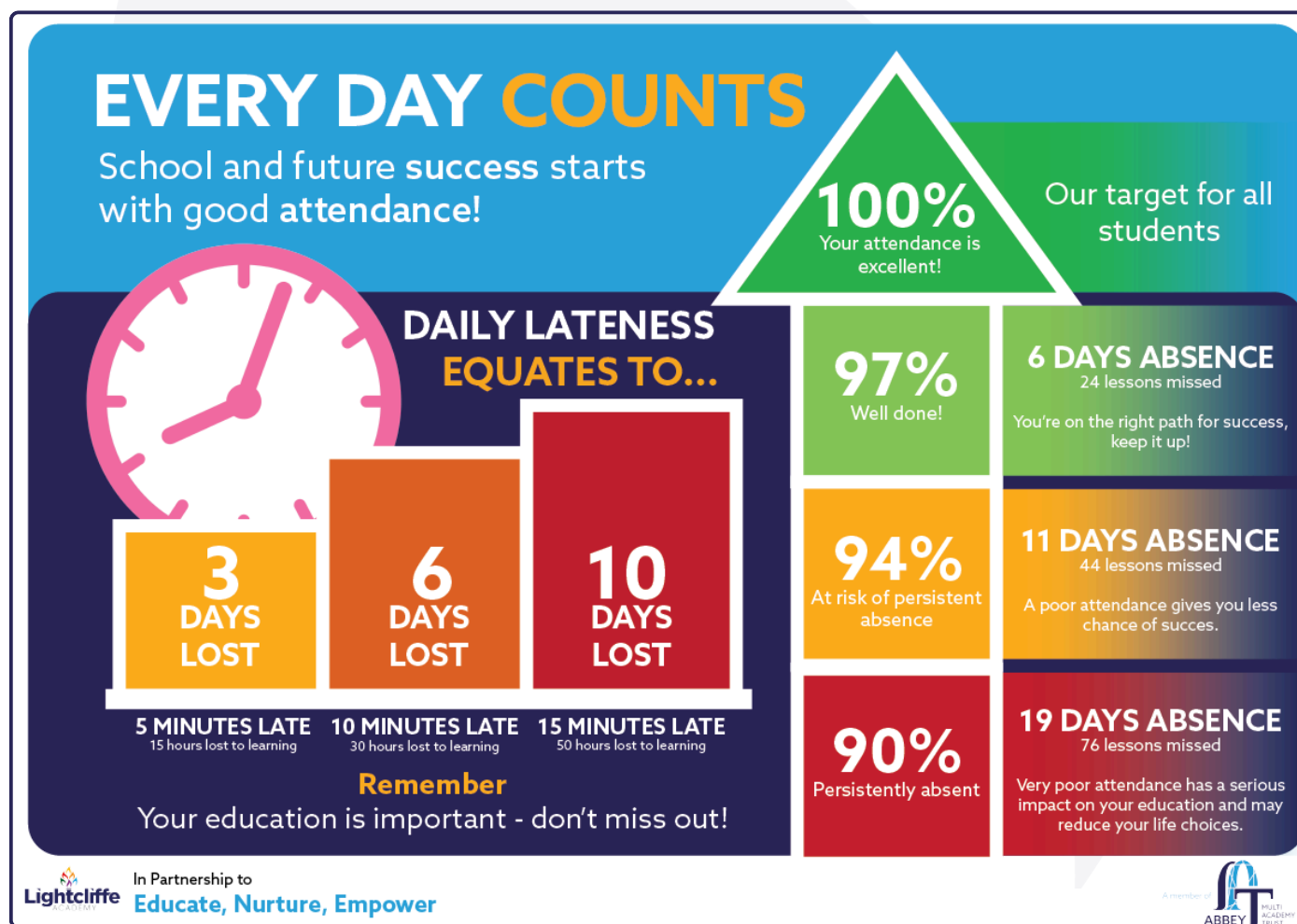
Holidays in Term Time

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 Science, Dance and Health & Social Care.

Science

As we head towards the end of the academic year, it has been a really positive time across the Science department, with plenty to celebrate.

Our Year 11 students are now coming to the end of their GCSE exams. They have approached this period with resilience and we are proud of the effort they have shown throughout. We wish them every success as they complete their exams and take their next steps beyond school.

Year 10 have also impressed in recent weeks, setting a high standard in both effort and attitude. This focus will be crucial as they move into the final units of the course and begin preparing for what will be a demanding but important year ahead.

In Years 8 and 9, students will finish the year with longer investigative units. These are a great opportunity for them to bring together the knowledge and skills they have developed, applying them more independently through practical and analytical work.

Year 7 have an exciting Forensics Day coming up. This 'whodunit' style experience will see them applying core scientific ideas through problem solving and investigation, and is always a highlight of the year. Alongside this, following a recent clear out, we were pleased to donate a large number of science textbooks to Christian African Relief Trust. This is a charity that other schools in the trust have supported, and we are proud to contribute. We hope these resources will go on to make a real difference as they are sent to schools in Malawi.

Finally, a thank you to all of the staff who continue to make the department such an encouraging and engaging place for our students. We would also like to recognise those who have left or will be leaving us soon and thank them for their contribution to the department.

A strong end to what has been a very positive year.

Mr Davies - Achievement Director, Science

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Each half-term we give updates on a range of subjects. For this half term, it's Science, Dance and Health & Social Care.

Dance

Last week, our BTEC Dance students took to the stage to complete their final choreography component, marking the culmination of months of creativity, collaboration, and dedication. Since January, students have been working tirelessly in groups to create original dance pieces lasting between seven and fifteen minutes, all based around the theme of "finding common ground."

The final performances were showcased to an audience of Year 7 students and members of the Senior Leadership Team, giving performers the opportunity to present their hard work in a professional and supportive environment. The audience was captivated by the variety of interpretations and the emotional depth shown throughout the performances.

Each group approached the theme in a unique way, demonstrating not only their technical dance skills but also their ability to communicate powerful messages through movement. Some performances explored the devastating impact of war and the importance of unity during conflict, while others focused on women's empowerment and the ongoing fight for equality. Another memorable piece highlighted the struggles faced by celebrities behind the spotlight, reminding audiences that fame does not protect people from hardship.

Throughout the performances, students showed impressive levels of creativity, teamwork, and commitment. Choreographing an extended dance piece is no easy task, and students were responsible for developing movement material, structuring routines, rehearsing regularly, and ensuring their performances clearly conveyed meaning to the audience.

The final showcase was a fantastic celebration of the talent within our school, and all students involved should be extremely proud of what they achieved. Their performances reflected months of perseverance and passion, leaving audiences both entertained and inspired. Congratulations to all of our dancers for completing such an important milestone in their Dance course.

Mrs Roberts - Head of Physical Education and Dance



SPOTLIGHT ON...

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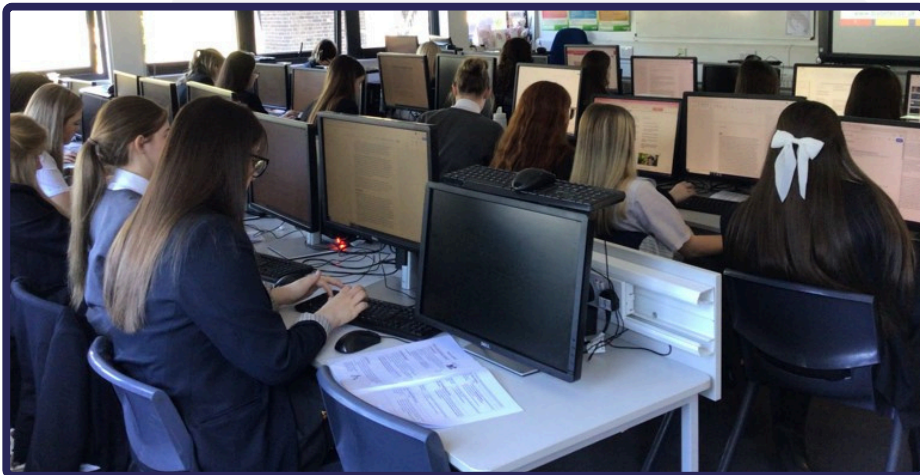
Health and Social Care

A big well done to our Year 10 Health and Social Care students, who have been putting in a huge amount of effort since Christmas to complete their coursework on time. Their hard work and positive attitude hasn't gone unnoticed.

The coursework challenged students to think carefully, apply what they've learned, and stay organised over a longer period of time. It hasn't always been easy, but they've shown real resilience—sticking with it even when things felt difficult

It's also been great to see the students showing ambition during this time. Many students didn't just aim to meet the requirements, but pushed themselves to do even better and produce work they're genuinely proud of. That kind of mindset will take them far, both in this course and beyond.

Mrs Watson - Head of Health and Personal Development



SHARED

2025-2026 PSHE Learning Journey

PSHE

Summer 1

Summer 2

SHARED focus is
Equality

SHARED focus is
Dignity

Year 7

Diversity:
To understand about diversity,
prejudice and bullying.

Financial decision making:
To understand savings, borrowing
and budgeting.

Year 8

Discrimination:
To understand about discrimination
in all its forms.

Digital literacy:
To understand about online safety,
digital literacy, media reliability and
gambling hooks.

Year 9

Respectful relationships:
To understand about families,
parenting and relationships.

Employability skills:
To understand about employability
and online presence.

Year 10

**Addressing extremism and
radicalisation:**
To understand community cohesion
and extremism.

World of work:
To understand the world of work,
making links with employers.

Year 11

Communication in relationships:
To understand how to communicate
in a relationship and understand
relationship challenges.

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

Drama

Congratulations to the Year 10 BTEC Drama students who have now completed 30% of their course at this point of the year. The students have been working exceptionally hard on their scripted performances over the past few months and I am really proud of the work they have conducted.

The year 11 group have now completed the whole course with their recent performances for component 3. Well done to all who completed their performances, which were videoed for the external examiner to mark. Congratulations on completing the course and we wish you the best possible success in the future.

Media

Year 11 pupils have recently completed their final piece of assessed work which has been sent off to be marked by the examiner. Congratulations on completing the final component of the course, as well as for the hard work and commitment so many of you have shown over the last two years. We look forward to seeing your final results this summer.

Music

Pupils in year 11 have now completed all of the components of their BTEC qualification. Well done to all of you for getting to this point and meeting your deadlines to complete the work. We look forward to seeing your final results in August.

The year 10 BTEC music students have now completed their first assessment and the work has been sent to the exam board for moderation. We look forward to seeing their final grades for this component when we return in September. Work has now started in the second component of their respective course(s). This work will be completed during the first term of year 11, with a deadline prior to the Christmas holiday. This will then lead on to the final component which will be completed from January to May in year 11.

PERFORMING ARTS UPDATE

Performing Arts

Pupils in year 7 have started work on a drama project about evacuees. This work will see them learn about the "Golden Triangle" of drama, as well as skills around projection, improvisation, and devising their own script from a brief. This work will develop over the coming lessons to all pupils creating their own performances.

Year 8 classes have started to work on Mr. Fox. In their early lessons they have learnt about a style called reportage, which is used to give some plays a modern feel and make it seem more realistic, as this is a technique which is also used in modern news reports. This technique will then be built upon to develop other styles which are appropriate for this play.

Mr West - Head of Performing Arts

LITERACY AND ORACY

This half term students in Years 7-9 took part in a live assembly with the poet Testament. Testament is an acclaimed writer, rapper and Guinness world record breaking human beatboxer who is based in West Yorkshire. He demonstrated how poetry can be formed using inspiration from a range of sources and is powerful in how it can bring audiences together through words and rhyme.

Students have then written their own poems individually or in pairs and have practiced performing them in Drama lessons. A selection of students have been entered into our school competition where they will perform their poems to a panel of judges, the top 4 will proceed to the AMAT Trust Final where they will compete against students from Bishop Young Academy and Abbey Grange Academy and take part in a workshop with Testament.

Ms Ashworth - Assistant Principal for Curriculum Implementation

COMMUNITY NEWS



BRIGHOUSE JUNIORS FC

UNDER 16 GIRLS TEAM

NEW PLAYERS WANTED

⚽ ARE YOU IN YEAR 10 OR 11?

Join a growing girls' football team and be part of something exciting!

💙 WHY JOIN US?

- Friendly and welcoming team
- FA qualified coaching
- Develop your skills and confidence
- Make new friends
- Play competitive matches

📅 TRAINING - Thursdays 8:00pm – 9:00pm

⚽ MATCHES - Saturday mornings

📞 CONTACT

For more information or to get involved: **Call or Text: 07761 561018**

★ COME AND JOIN THE TEAM ★

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Friday 22nd May

School Closes

Monday 1st June

School Reopens

Thursday 18th June

Year 6 Transition Evening