PARENTS & CARERS

NEWSLETTER

Northallerton School & Sixth Form College
Striving for Excellence

2nd October 2026

HEADTEACHER UPDATE

A Remarkable Start to the Academic Year

Firstly, I would like to extend a huge thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. Together, we have enjoyed what has been an exceptional start to the new academic year. In fact, it is the strongest start I have experienced in any secondary school I have had the privilege of leading.

Our students have returned with a clear sense of purpose and determination. Year 11 have been particularly impressive, arriving focused and ready to succeed. Their attendance is currently 6.9% higher than it was at the same point last year, demonstrating their commitment to making the most of every opportunity as they begin this important year.

Our new Year 7 students have taken the transition to secondary school in their stride. They have quickly embraced our high expectations, showing exceptional effort in lessons and a real enthusiasm for learning. Their attendance currently stands at an outstanding 98.2%, reflecting their excellent start to life at Northallerton School.

Across the school, attendance is 3.8% higher than this time last year. While attendance figures are important in themselves, they tell a much bigger story. They show that students want to be in school, that they feel safe, valued and supported, and that they are benefiting from positive relationships with staff and one another. They also reflect the continued strength of our teaching and curriculum, ensuring students can learn in a purposeful environment free from disruption.

I am incredibly proud of the character our students are demonstrating every day. Their commitment to attending school, working hard and contributing positively to our community is helping to create a culture where everyone can thrive. Thank you for your partnership in making this possible.



Celebrating Exceptional GCSE Success

As we reflect on another successful year, it is important to recognise the outstanding achievements of our Year 11 students. The progress made from their starting points in Year 10 was nothing short of exceptional, with many students exceeding both their own expectations and those predicted for them at the beginning of their GCSE journey.

These results continue a strong three-year trend of improving outcomes across the school. In particular, we have seen the number of Grade 9s awarded triple compared to three years ago, reflecting the hard work of our students, the dedication of our staff, and the support of families throughout their education.

Alongside these impressive overall outcomes, several students delivered truly remarkable individual performances. Isabel Dickinson achieved an incredible seven Grade 9s and one Grade 8, including a Grade 9 in Further Mathematics. Bethany Ring secured four Grade 9s and four Grade 8s, while Martha McQuaker achieved four Grade 9s and three Grade 8s, including a clean sweep of top grades in English. Amelia Stares gained three Grade 9s, an 8 and a Distinction, including the outstanding achievement of scoring 100% in English Literature without dropping a single mark. Libby also secured an excellent set of results with two Grade 9s and five Grade 8s.

We were equally proud to celebrate students who achieved the highest grades in individual subjects, demonstrating excellence across a broad and balanced curriculum. Their accomplishments are a testament to their determination, resilience and commitment to success.

Whilst we rightly celebrate these exceptional individual achievements, what makes these results particularly special is the progress made by the cohort as a whole. Many students achieved outcomes beyond what they thought possible, demonstrating what can be accomplished through hard work, high expectations and the right support.

Looking ahead, there is already a real sense of excitement around our current Year 11 cohort. Their focused start to the academic year, strong attendance and positive attitude to learning suggest they are well placed to continue this upward trajectory. If the first few weeks are anything to go by, we have every reason to be optimistic about what they can achieve over the coming months.

Congratulations once again to our Class of 2026. They have set a fantastic standard and left a legacy of which they should be immensely proud.

Welcome New Staff

A school is only as strong as its staff and leadership, and this September we have been delighted to welcome several talented and experienced colleagues to the Northallerton School team. Their expertise, enthusiasm and commitment to improving outcomes for young people have already made a positive impact, and we are excited about what they will bring to our school community.

We are pleased to welcome Lindsay Lynas as our new English Tutor. Miss Lynas joins us with extensive experience as an English teacher and former Head of Department, bringing a wealth of knowledge and a proven track record of supporting students to achieve their very best.

Joining our Mathematics and Science teams is Gordon Cameron, a highly experienced educational leader who has previously served as both a Senior Leader and SENCO. Gordon's breadth of experience and passion for helping every child succeed make him a fantastic addition to the school.

We have also welcomed Toni Wilden as our new Senior Attendance and Family Engagement Officer. Miss Wilden joins us with extensive experience as a senior leader and former Headteacher of multiple secondary schools. Her wealth of knowledge, strategic expertise and unwavering commitment to improving outcomes for young people are already proving invaluable. We are particularly



benefiting from her support for some of our most vulnerable children and families, ensuring they receive the guidance, care and intervention needed to thrive both in and out of school. Toni has made an outstanding start and is already playing a key role in helping us further strengthen attendance, engagement and student wellbeing across the school.

Our History department has been strengthened by the arrival of Rosie Williams and Molly Cushing. Both are at the beginning of their teaching careers and have already gained valuable experience from their teacher training placements. Their enthusiasm for their subjects, willingness to learn and commitment to developing outstanding classroom practice have been evident from day one.

We are particularly pleased to welcome back Rosie Wells to the Art department. After spending a year away from Northallerton School, Miss Wells has returned to the school community and settled back in seamlessly. Her creativity, expertise and dedication to students are highly valued, and we are delighted to have her back with us.

Finally, we are excited to welcome Rebecca Thornton as our new Head of Geography. Rebecca joins us as an experienced Head of Geography, having successfully led departments in two other secondary schools. Her leadership experience, subject expertise and ambition for students will help drive the continued development of Geography and further strengthen outcomes for our young people.

I know that parents and carers will join me in giving all of our new colleagues a very warm welcome. Their arrival

further strengthens our school and reflects our commitment to providing the very best education and opportunities for the young people of Northallerton School. We are delighted to have them as part of our team and look forward to the contribution they will make in the years ahead.

A Wonderful Open Evening and an Exciting Future Ahead

Last week, we were delighted to welcome over 250 families to Northallerton School for our Year 6 Open Evening. I would like to sincerely thank every parent, carer and child who took the time to visit us and learn more about what makes our school such a special place.

The evening was a tremendous success, with families exploring our departments, speaking with staff and students, and experiencing first-hand the vibrant learning environment we have created. I had the privilege of delivering three presentations across the evening and was particularly pleased to speak with a number of parents and carers afterwards about the journey our school has been on over the last 18 months.

What stood out most was the overwhelmingly positive feedback we received. Families consistently commented on the welcoming atmosphere, the confidence and politeness of our students, and the pride that both staff and students have in being part of the Northallerton School community. Feedback from parents described students as "brilliant representatives", "polite and helpful", and highlighted the "positive and friendly feel around the school." Many families also spoke about the significant changes they have seen in recent years and the confidence they have in the school's future.

During my presentations, I spoke openly about our ambition for every child and the rapid progress the school has made. Whether it is our improving attendance, strengthening outcomes, enhanced curriculum offer, wider enrichment opportunities or the calm and purposeful atmosphere around the school, there is a genuine sense of momentum across Northallerton School. It was encouraging to hear parents recognise these improvements and share their confidence in the direction the school is heading.

Perhaps the greatest ambassadors for our school were our students themselves. Visitors repeatedly commented on how articulate, respectful and enthusiastic they were throughout the evening. leading tours and supporting departments to talking confidently about their experiences, our young people showcased exactly what Northallerton School stands for. They demonstrated our values of Ambition, Respect, Kindness and Success in every interaction.

One of the most rewarding conversations of the evening came from a parent of a recent Year 11 leaver, who spoke passionately about the difference the school had made to their child's confidence, engagement and future aspirations. Stories like these remind us why the work we do every day matters and why we remain relentless in our pursuit of the very best for every student.

I would also like to thank all our staff and student volunteers who gave up their time to make the evening such a success. Events like this are only possible because of their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment to our school community.

For families who were unable to attend, or who are still considering their secondary school options, we continue to offer daytime tours where visitors can see the school in action. We are incredibly proud of the progress Northallerton School has made and even more excited about the future that lies ahead. If you wish to have a tour. Contact office@northallerton-alt.uk

Student Leadership Team

I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to our newly appointed Student Leadership Team for 2026-27, particularly Imogen O'Connor (Head Girl), Zach Young (Head Boy), Mia Wright (Deputy Head Girl), Logan Summerson-Jaggs (Deputy Head Boy) and Poppy Greenwood (Senior Student Leader), who will play a key role in representing the student body and helping to shape the future of our school.

I would also like to congratulate the wider leadership team, who will lead important areas including careers, sport, arts and culture, civic engagement, and outdoor education. Their support will be invaluable in ensuring that student voice remains at the heart of Northallerton School.

The team will have their first major leadership opportunity on 7 October, when they will lead our annual Student

Leadership Conference. We are also delighted to be welcoming a very special guest speaker, and I know the students are looking forward to what promises to be an inspiring and impactful day.

Y11 Revision Evening

As we begin another important year for our Year 11 students, I would like to invite parents and carers to our Year 11 Revision Evening on Thursday 8 October.

This has become one of the most valuable events in our Year 11 calendar, and the feedback from families who attended last year was exceptionally positive. This year, we are making the evening even better, providing students with a range of high-quality resources and practical strategies to support their preparation for the forthcoming mock examinations and their GCSE studies.

One of the highlights of the evening will be the opportunity for students to receive a full set of revision guides at a significantly reduced cost. Through bulk purchasing and additional school subsidy, we have been able to secure some of the very best revision materials available while keeping costs to families as low as possible. We are committed to ensuring that every student has access to the resources they need to succeed.

Refreshments will be available from 4.30pm, and families will be able to collect revision guides and resources from this time. The main presentation will begin at 5.00pm and will be led by myself, alongside Mr Ient and Mr Thynne, as well as our outstanding Heads of English, Mathematics and Science. Together, we will share practical advice, effective revision techniques and key information to help students make the most of the months ahead.

Following the presentation, there will be further opportunity to collect revision materials before heading home.

While there may be a brief opportunity to speak with members of staff on the evening, the event is primarily focused on supporting students with revision and exam preparation. The main opportunity to discuss your child's progress will be at the Year 11 Parents' Evening on 3 December. Alternatively, if you have any specific concerns or questions, please contact the school and we will arrange for the appropriate member of staff to call you back.

We look forward to welcoming families to what promises to be an informative and highly worthwhile evening. Together, we can ensure that our Year 11 students are fully equipped to achieve their very best.

Individual Achievements

As we come to the end of this newsletter, I would like to celebrate just a few of the many achievements that make us so proud of our students.

A huge congratulations to Bella (Year 10) and Rowan (Year 9), who recently completed the 10k Shine Walk for Cancer Research, raising an incredible £1,200+ for charity. Their determination, compassion and willingness to support others are truly inspiring.

We also wish Hanna Holden the very best of luck after being selected for the England Boxing Squad for the U19 World Championships in Montenegro. This is an exceptional achievement and a testament to Hanna's dedication, resilience and hard work. We look forward to sharing updates on her journey throughout the month on our social media channels.

Finally, a special well done to Morgan, Jayden and Haiden, who helped reunite a stolen bicycle with its owner after recognising it from a social media post. Their actions perfectly demonstrate two of our core character values: Kindness and Responsibility. They chose to do the right thing and made a positive difference to someone in our local community.

Whether excelling in sport, raising money for charity or helping others, these students represent the very best of Northallerton School and Sixth Form College. Their achievements remind us that success is not only measured in grades, but also in the impact we have on the lives of others.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are building a school community where every student can thrive, succeed and make a difference.

Best Wishes,
Mr Broom

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NEWS AND UPDATES

School Production - Footloose Casting

After just 3 weeks of rehearsals, our Footloose company have really been kicking off their Sunday shoes!

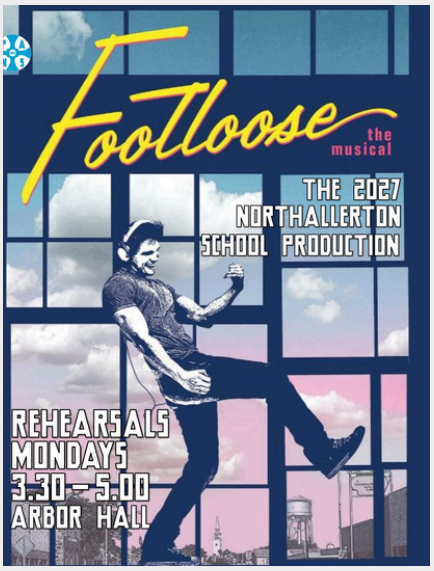
Over 50 students from across all year groups turned up at our first workshop in September to demonstrate their singing, dancing and acting skills and show their commitment to the school production.

The last 2 weeks have seen the students take part in singing and acting auditions as they showcased their skills to vie for named roles in the production. As always, the standard was very high and Mr Stimson, Miss Edwards and Miss Melvin were really impressed by the quality from all those that took part in the auditions. The challenge was then trying to cast the principal roles, but after lots of deliberation and careful thought, we are really happy to say we have a cast! And what a cast!

We are excited to announce that our company will be led by Will T as Ren, the new kid in Bomont who causes upset with his love of dancing; Chloe P will be Ariel, the rule-breaking daughter of the strict Reverend Shaw, played by Maisie S; Poppy G will be Rusty, Ariel's best friend and Lewis Sykes will be Willard, the lovable country-bumpkin. Alongside these roles are a host of other Bomont kids and adults who will be played by the other members of our talented company.

If there are any students who would still like to be part of the show, then come along to our company rehearsals on Mondays from 3.30-5.00 in Arbor Hall. Everyone is welcome!

Mr Stimson
Head of Performing Arts



Students Step Up for Cancer Research

We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic achievement of Bella in Year 10 and Rowan in Year 9, who took part in the 10k Shine Walk for Cancer Research over the weekend.

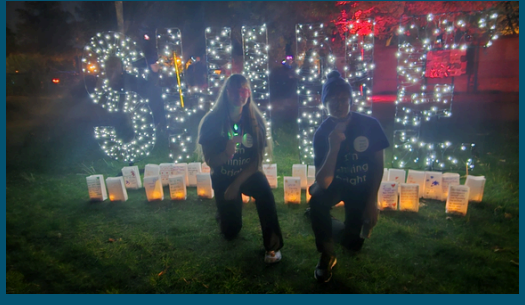
Through their hard work, determination and commitment to supporting an important cause, Bella and Rowan have raised an incredible £1,200+ for Cancer Research. Their efforts demonstrate not only resilience and dedication, but also a genuine desire to make a positive difference in the wider community.

Taking on a 10k challenge is a significant achievement in itself, but raising such an outstanding amount for charity makes their accomplishment even more impressive. They are excellent role models and have shown how young people can make a real impact beyond the classroom.

We are incredibly proud of both students and would like to congratulate them on this wonderful achievement.

Well done, Bella and Rowan! 🌟





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NEWS AND UPDATES



Introduction to Woodworking New Group Starting After Half Term

Following the success of our first community woodworking project, we are delighted to announce that applications are now open for the next cohort.

This beginner-friendly course, with a festive Christmas theme, offers participants the opportunity to develop practical woodworking skills while creating a range of Christmas decorations and gifts. The sessions are open to members of the local community and are designed to be welcoming, relaxed and suitable for complete beginners.

The programme will begin again after half term, and places are limited.

If you are interested in joining, please contact **mparkes@northallerton-alt.uk** to reserve your place.

We look forward to welcoming our next group of budding woodworkers! 🎄🔨✨





Flu Vaccinations Reminder Monday 5th October



A reminder that the flu vaccination programme for students in Years 7 to 11 will take place on **Monday 5 October.**

The vaccination is administered as a quick and painless nasal spray. Parents and carers should have received an email directly from the vaccination team containing information about the programme and details of how to provide consent.

If your child is unable to receive their vaccination on Monday, there will be a catch-up session in November for those who miss this round.

Please refer to the email from the vaccination team for further information and consent details.

UK Parliament Virtual Work Experience Programme



The UK Parliament is offering a fantastic remote work experience programme for young people aged 14-18 across the UK.

This opportunity allows students to explore the wide range of careers available within Parliament by taking part in realistic workplace tasks and activities based on different parliamentary roles. Participants will gain valuable insight into how Parliament works, develop employability skills and gain experience they can draw upon in future applications, interviews and CVs.

The programme is delivered remotely, making it accessible to students wherever they are based.

📅 Application deadline: 31 October 2026

For more information and to apply, visit: UK Parliament Work Experience Programme

Students with an interest in politics, law, public policy, communications or public service are particularly encouraged to explore this exciting opportunity.

Northallerton School & Sixth Form College
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BEHAVIOUR AND STANDARDS UPDATES

Celebrating Our Students' Success

This week, we are delighted to celebrate the achievements and progress of so many of our students across the school.

A huge congratulations goes to all of the students who have received the highest number of praise points this week. These students have consistently demonstrated positive attitudes, effort and commitment, and it is fantastic to see their hard work being recognised. Every praise point reflects a positive choice, contribution or achievement, and we are extremely proud of everyone who continues to set such a strong example.







We would also like to give huge praise to those students who have made significant improvements in their behaviour. Positive change takes effort, determination and resilience, and these students deserve recognition for the progress they are making. Whether it is making better choices, responding positively to support or showing greater focus in lessons, every improvement is something to be proud of.




Finally, we want to recognise a number of students who have recently shown improvements in their attendance. Regular attendance plays an important part in helping students make progress, build confidence and get the most from school. It has been wonderful to see these students making a real effort to attend more consistently, and we hope they continue to build on this positive progress.







We are incredibly proud of all of our students who are working hard to improve, achieve and make positive choices. Keep up the fantastic work — your efforts are noticed and celebrated!



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BEHAVIOUR AND STANDARDS UPDATES



Christmas Rewards Trip

Reminder: Christmas Rewards Trip Expectations

We are currently preparing our Christmas Rewards Trips.

As we start moving towards the end of term, we would like to remind all students and families of the basic expectations that must be met in order to be invited to attend.

Students **must** have:

- Attendance of **96% or above**
- **No** current Behaviour Step (Steps 1–6)

Students who are on any Behaviour Step from Step 1 to Step 6 at the point of the trip will not be permitted to attend.

We recognise that attendance can sometimes be affected by circumstances beyond a student's control. Appropriate consideration will therefore be given to students with long-term medical conditions, additional needs or other exceptional circumstances. Heads of Year know their students and families well and will ensure individual circumstances are considered carefully and fairly.

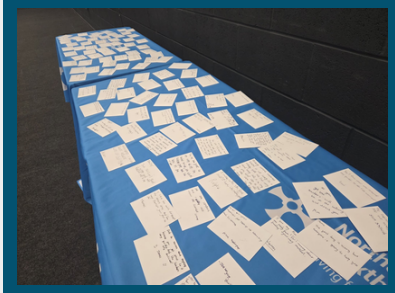
The Head of Year's decision regarding eligibility will be final.

Further information about each year group's destination and arrangements will be shared once bookings have been confirmed.

These trips are designed to recognise students who demonstrate excellent attendance, positive behaviour and consistently meet the school's expectations. We encourage all students to keep making positive choices and working towards finishing the term strongly.



















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SIXTH FORM UPDATE

Welcome Back to Sixth Form!

It has been fantastic to welcome our students back for the new academic year and to see our new Year 12 cohort begin their Sixth Form journey. We would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to those students who have joined us from other schools, and we look forward to supporting them as they settle into life at Northallerton Sixth Form.

Year 12 Meet theTeam

To help students and parents learn more about what to expect over the next two years, we will be hosting our **Year 12 Meet the Team Event on Thursday 8 October.**

This will provide an opportunity to meet members of the Sixth Form team and find out more about the exciting opportunities, support and expectations that form part of the Year 12 experience. Parents and carers who have not yet responded are encouraged to complete the Microsoft Form sent separately to indicate whether they are able to attend.

Y12 Meet The Team Event – Fill in form

Year 13 - Key Dates

Our Year 13 students have also returned with a positive attitude and are already preparing for an important year ahead. A key focus this term is supporting students with their university applications and future destinations. Important dates for Year 13 students include:

- **15 October 2026** - Early UCAS application deadline
- **13 January 2027** - UCAS equal consideration deadline
- **2 November 2026** - Year 13 mock examinations begin
- **26 November 2026** - Year 13 Parents' Evening

We wish all of our Sixth Form students every success this year and look forward to seeing them make the most of the many opportunities available to them. If students or parents have any questions regarding UCAS applications, post-18 options, or any aspect of Sixth Form life, please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form team.

Celebrating our 2026 Cuthbert Cross Winners!

Last term, we were delighted to congratulate Hazel, Will and Pranav, our Cuthbert Cross Award winners for 2026.

The Cuthbert Cross is one of the most prestigious honours a student can receive at Northallerton School & Sixth Form College, recognising exceptional commitment to our school values, outstanding contributions to school life and exemplary conduct.

As part of this special recognition, these students had the privilege of visiting Durham Cathedral, where they had the opportunity to meet The Revd Dr Philip Plyming, Dean of Durham, and enjoyed a guided tour of the Cathedral. This unique experience provided an opportunity to learn more about the life and legacy of St Cuthbert and to strengthen the longstanding connection between Durham Cathedral and our school.



We are incredibly proud of Hazel, Will and Pranav for this outstanding achievement and the positive example they set for others.

Congratulations to all three students on this well-deserved honour.







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SIXTH FORM UPDATE

Sixth Form Student Leadership Team

We are delighted to introduce our newly appointed Sixth Form Student Leaders!



Throughout the application and interview process, students demonstrated enthusiasm, commitment and a real desire to make a positive difference to our school community. They shared thoughtful ideas about representing student voices, supporting younger pupils and developing opportunities for everyone to get involved.

Head Girl: Imogen O
Head Boy: Zachary Y
Deputy Head Girl: Mia W
Deputy Head Boy: Logan SJ
Senior Student Leader: Poppy
Other Student Leaders: Calista, Charlie B, Spencer P, Zane C, Daniel G, Lex S, Lucie S, Paige AW

Our new team will help lead the Student Council, promote enrichment opportunities and work with students and staff to turn ideas into action. Their roles offer an exciting opportunity to develop their leadership skills while helping to shape school life.

Congratulations to our new leaders, and well done to everyone who applied. We look forward to celebrating the ideas, energy and achievements this team will bring!

Celebrating Our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Success

We are delighted to celebrate the success of three of our Sixth Form students who have recently achieved their Duke of Edinburgh's Silver Award.

Abi W, Matthew W and Jake S have all demonstrated exceptional commitment, resilience and determination in completing this prestigious award. Achieving a Silver Award requires students to dedicate many hours to volunteering, developing new skills, taking part in physical activities and successfully completing a challenging expedition.

Abi completed her volunteering section through her role as Assistant Head Girl, supporting school initiatives, charity events and improvements to the Sixth Form Common Room. Matthew was the first student from last year's Silver cohort to complete the award, showing excellent resilience, teamwork and perseverance throughout the programme. Jake also demonstrated great dedication in completing all sections of the award and successfully meeting the demands of the expedition challenge.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award provides young people with valuable life experiences, helping them to develop confidence, independence and leadership skills that will benefit them long into the future.



We are incredibly proud of Abi, Matthew and Jake for their hard work and commitment. Their achievements are a wonderful reflection of the opportunities our Sixth Form students embrace and the positive contribution they make to our school community.

Congratulations to all three students on this fantastic achievement.





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CURRICULUM NEWS

Performing Arts Students Help Abbeyfield Celebrate 70 Years



On Friday 11 September, we were very privileged to take a group of Year 11 Performing Arts students to Abbeyfield Fir House on South Parade to celebrate their 70th anniversary. Before the summer, Abbeyfield had contacted us to ask if we had some students who would be willing to put together some performances to entertain the residents and guests to mark their anniversary. Enter our Year 11 Drama and Music students who, with 2 days preparation under the organisation of Mr Stimson, put together a programme of songs and readings that they presented during their afternoon celebrations. Performing in the open air, the students presented songs from Frank Sinatra, Disney and Les Misérables and a range of dramatic readings from Shakespeare to Willy Russell and from Lewis Caroll to Spike Milligan and Pam Ayres.

The students were excellent ambassadors for the school and our Performing Arts department, as well as presenting themselves with maturity and respect. The attendees, including the Mayor of Northallerton, were all full of praise for our students and their confident and committed performances. We are very proud of them all and pleased we could bring some entertainment to their special occasion.

Mr Stimson
Head of Performing Arts









Ice Sculpture Design Competition

Calling all young designers and book lovers!

As part of the Love Northallerton Ice and Fire Trail, students are invited to take part in an exciting Ice Sculpture Design Competition. This year's theme is Literacy, so designs can be inspired by a favourite book, character, object or setting. The more creative and imaginative, the better!

One winning design will be turned into a real ice sculpture and displayed as part of the trail on Sunday 31 January 2027. The winner will also receive a trophy, with their name and school displayed alongside the sculpture.

Entries should be submitted to : k.wilson@northallerton-alt.uk by **7 December 2026**.

We look forward to seeing your fantastic designs!



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CURRICULUM NEWS

English Department

Welcome Back to a New Academic Year

The English Department would like to extend a warm welcome back to all students and families at Northallerton School and Sixth Form College. It has been fantastic to see such a positive start to the year, with students returning to lessons ready to learn and engage with the exciting curriculum ahead. Following a series of learning walks, conducted by the Head of English, it has been wonderful to see students settling quickly back into routines and demonstrating positive attitudes to their learning. Across the department, students' books show that our PROUD expectations are being applied more consistently, helping to ensure high standards of presentation and pride in work. All students should now have: a Learning Journey in their exercise book, a knowledge organiser for their first topic and a PROUD sticker on the front cover of their classwork book.

We would also like to remind students that if they miss a lesson for any reason, all lesson slides are available on Microsoft Teams. This allows students to catch up on learning independently and remain up to date with their class. Year 11 revision materials and homework will also be posted electronically.

Sparx Reader

Our Sparx homework programme is now fully underway. Students should be completing homework regularly to support and extend their learning in English. Although Sparx is optional for Year 11, we would like to encourage students to revise their Literature set texts using the platform.

We continue to use a range of praise and sanctions to recognise excellent completion rates and address missed work. If parents or carers have any questions about Sparx, or require support accessing the platform, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Wignall, who will be happy to help (via email).

Each Wednesday, Mr Wignall will also be celebrating our top Sparx achievers through the school's social media channels, including the English Department Instagram account: @nssfc_english.



Year 11 Support and Enrichment

We are pleased to continue offering additional support opportunities for our Year 11 students.

English Language Enrichment
Week 1 - Monday until 4.00pm

English Literature Enrichment (Optional)
Week 2 - Monday until 4.00pm

Students can find all room allocations and registers on the English corridor noticeboard.

To further support examination preparation, we will also be running the following targeted intervention sessions with Miss Osborne:

- Moving Grade 6 to 7: 7th May 2027
- Moving Grade 4 to 5: 14th May 2027
- Moving Grade 3 to 4: 21st May 2027

In addition, Mr Watkins will be leading Walking Talking Mock sessions in the exam hall to the full year group to help students prepare effectively for their mock examinations:

- 23rd October (PM) – English Language Paper 2
- 15th January (PM) – English Language Paper 1

English Book Club Returns

We are excited to announce that English Book Club will begin on **Tuesday 6th October.**

Our first text will be Aphrodite, and copies are available to collect from Mr Watkins.

Book Club is open to students in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, and we encourage all keen readers to get involved.

Year 11 Spoken Language Endorsement

At the end of Year 10, our current Year 11 students completed their Spoken Language Endorsement assessments. Any student who has not yet received their result should visit Mr Granville Twig, who will be able to provide their final mark and answer any questions they may have.

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CURRICULUM NEWS

English Department

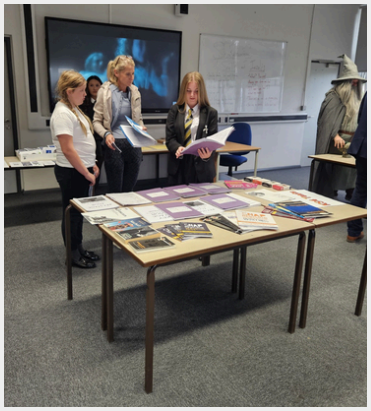
Year 6 Open Evening Success

Earlier this term, we were delighted to welcome prospective students and their families to our busy and successful Year 6 Open Evening.

Visitors enjoyed a range of activities including:

- A handwriting competition
- Two reading quizzes
- Interactive literacy challenges
- Displays showcasing our curriculum and examples of outstanding student work

A huge thank you goes to our fantastic student helpers: Edie, Bonnie, Mia, Olivia, Hannah, Olivia and Cassie, who represented the department brilliantly throughout the evening. Their enthusiasm, confidence and willingness to support visitors helped make the event such a success.

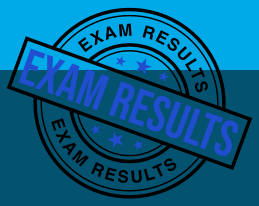






Author Visit Inspires Young Writers

This term we were delighted to welcome author Daniel Tawse to Northallerton School and Sixth Form College.
Students from a variety of year groups took part in engaging writing workshops focused on creating and developing memorable characters.
The sessions gave students valuable insight into the creative writing process and provided practical techniques that they can apply in their own work. We would like to thank Mrs Mela for organising this inspiring opportunity.
We would like to encourage all pupils to visit the LRC throughout the school year to borrow books.



Celebrating Year 11 GCSE Success

Although we are currently awaiting the outcome of a small number of remarks before finalising all data, we are delighted to share some of the highlights from this year's GCSE English results:

1. Almost one third of all Grade 9s achieved across the school came from English Language, while 23% of all grades 8 and above awarded across the school were achieved in English Language. We were also delighted to see a number of students achieve Grade 9 in English Literature. A huge well done to: Martha M, Poppy G, Amelie S, Sadie W, Isabel D and Bethany R for grade 9 success.
2. Students achieved, on average, a third of a grade higher in English Language than in their other subjects, with positive outcomes across all classes.
3. 94 students achieved either their best or joint-best GCSE grade in English Language.
4. The progress gap for students with SEND reduced significantly, with SEND students making comparable progress to their non-SEND peers.
5. We improved our Grade 4+ outcomes by over 30 percentage points from the start of Year 11 to the final examinations. This figure was also higher than last year's Grade 4+ outcomes.
6. A special congratulations goes to Amelie S, who achieved full marks in English Literature, an exceptional accomplishment.
7. 100% pass rate on our A Level courses.

We are incredibly proud of all students and the dedication they showed throughout their GCSE studies.



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CURRICULUM NEWS

Get Involved in Music at Northallerton School!

There is something for everyone in the Music Department this year, whether you are an experienced musician, a complete beginner, or someone who simply enjoys performing and being part of a team.

Have A Go! Instrument Discovery Club takes place on **Thursday lunchtimes** and is open to all KS3 students. This is a fantastic opportunity to try a range of instruments, learn the basics, and discover a new passion. No previous experience is needed, and all instruments are welcome.

If singing and performing are more your style, why not join our Musical Theatre Show Choir? Rehearsals take place every Tuesday after school from 3:15pm to 4:00pm and are open to all students with an interest in musical theatre. Whether you love singing, dancing, acting, or simply being part of a production, everyone is welcome.



String players are invited to join the **Bowed Strings Orchestra,** led by Mr Harbottle. Rehearsals take place on **Thursday mornings from 8:45am to 9:10am** and are open to violinists, violists, cellists and double bass players. Students will have the opportunity to improve their ensemble playing and build confidence as performers.

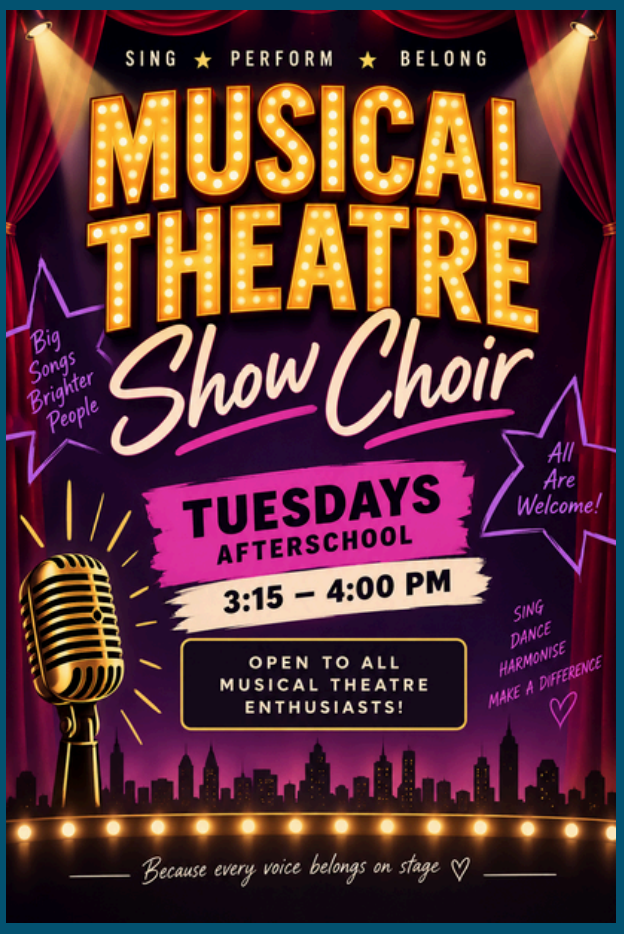


For students who already play an instrument, our **Band** meets on **Tuesday lunchtimes** and is open to all KS3 musicians, whatever your ability level. It is a great chance to develop your skills, play alongside others and experience making music as part of an ensemble.

Music is a wonderful way to build confidence, make new friends and develop new skills. We encourage students to come along, get involved and discover all that music has to offer.

For more information, please speak to a member of the Music Department. 🎵🎭🎸🎻🎤





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SEND AND INCLUSION



Phoenix Centre Coffee Morning

Parents and carers of students who access the Phoenix Centre are warmly invited to join us for a Coffee Morning on **Wednesday 21 October, from 9.00am to 10.00am** in the Phoenix Centre.

This will be a great opportunity to visit our new space, meet members of the team and find out more about the support available to students. We will also be sharing information about the new NOCN SETPD courses and will be happy to answer any questions.

We look forward to welcoming parents and carers for an informal and friendly morning over a cup of coffee. ☕

Date: Wednesday 21 October 2026
Time: 9.00am to 10.00am
Venue: Phoenix Centre

We hope to see you there!

We're Level 3! RHS Gardening Award

We are proud to announce that our students have achieved the RHS School Gardening Award Level 3! 🌱

Students earned this award by successfully growing and caring for a variety of plants while demonstrating their commitment to environmentally friendly gardening practices. Their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm for sustainability have truly paid off.



As a reward for their achievement, the school received a selection of seeds, a horticulture book and a £50 garden centre voucher, which will help support future gardening projects.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this fantastic achievement! 🌍💚🌸

New Chicken Hut and Run 🐔🥚🍰

We are delighted to introduce our new chicken hut and run, made possible thanks to the generous support of the Northallerton School Foundation.

Our students have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming the new flock and have taken great pride in caring for the chickens as part of their daily routines. The project provides valuable hands-on learning opportunities, helping students develop responsibility, teamwork and animal care skills.

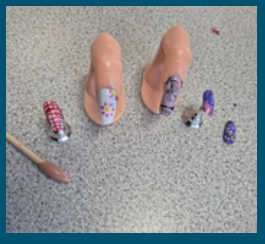
The chickens have already settled in well, and we have even started collecting fresh eggs, which have been used in baking activities in the Student Café.

A huge thank you to the Northallerton School Foundation for their support in making this wonderful addition possible. We look forward to seeing the positive impact it continues to have on our students.





Beauty Enrichment is Underway!



Our students have made a fantastic start to their new Beauty Enrichment programme. This half term, they will be focusing on nail art, developing their creativity, fine motor skills and attention to detail while learning a range of techniques and designs.

We can't wait to see their confidence and skills grow as they create some amazing nail art masterpieces. Watch this space for updates and photos of their work!

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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Skills for Life

Over the past three weeks, students across Northallerton School & Sixth Form have been taking part in a range of Personal Development (PD) lessons and assemblies designed to help them develop the knowledge, skills and character needed to succeed both in school and beyond.

A key focus this term has been helping students understand how they can make a positive contribution to their school and wider community. During our Student Leadership programme, linked to the International Day of Peace on 21 September, students explored the question: "How can I be a voice for positive change in school?" Through assemblies and a dedicated drop-down lesson, students considered the qualities of effective leaders, the importance of respectful relationships and how they can help create safe, inclusive communities where everyone feels valued.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 focused on developing their leadership skills, reflecting on how leadership is demonstrated through everyday actions such as kindness, responsibility, teamwork and standing up for what is right. Year 10 students explored taking others' perspectives, developing empathy and understanding how listening to different viewpoints can strengthen relationships and improve decision-making.

Alongside this leadership work, students have completed a range of age-appropriate PD lessons linked to communication, relationships and personal wellbeing. Years 7 and 9 investigated what good communication looks like, considering the importance of listening, respect and clear communication skills. Year 8 students explored the physical and mental changes experienced during adolescence, helping them understand the significant developments that occur during their teenage years.

Relationship education has also been a central theme. Years 7 and 9 focused on family life, parenthood and caring responsibilities, while Year 8 examined what makes a healthy relationship. Year 10 students considered the impact of relationships and explored strategies for managing feelings and emotions during periods of change and challenge.



Our assemblies have continued to complement this learning. Students have reflected on the values of peace, respect and community linked to the International Day of Peace, while discussions surrounding World Heart Day on 29 September encouraged students to consider how healthy lifestyle choices can support both physical health and long-term wellbeing. Looking ahead, students will also be exploring the importance of emotional wellbeing and seeking support when needed as part of our work around World Mental Health Day on 10 October.

These important learning experiences help students to become confident, respectful and responsible young people, preparing them for the opportunities and challenges they will encounter throughout their lives.

A special thank you to Mrs Schofield, Mrs Walker and Mr Myers for leading a series of engaging and thought-provoking assemblies over the past three weeks. Their contributions have helped reinforce many of the key themes within our Personal Development curriculum and have encouraged students to reflect on how they can make a positive difference to both their school and the wider community.



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KEY INFORMATION

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- **Monday 5th October 2026 -** Flu Vaccinations (Years 7-11)
- **Tuesday 6th October 2026** - Careers Fair
- **Wednesday 7th October** - Student Leadership Conference
- **Thursday 8th October 2026 -** Year 11 - Year Ahead Evening (5pm)
- **Thursday 8th October 2026** - Year 12 Meet the Team
- **Thursday 22nd October 2026** - Halloween Disco (5.30 - 7pm - Years 7, 8 and 9)
- **Friday 23rd October 2026** - Break up for Half Term (3.15pm)



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