

Falconry News

TOGETHERNESS HONESTY INCLUSIVITY
RESPECT SUPPORT KINDNESS

Thirsk School
ANNUAL COLLEGE

Thirsk School
ANNUAL COLLEGE

WELCOME TO ISSUE 1 OF FALCONRY NEWS 25/10/24



WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Headteacher Intro
- Celebration of Achievement Evening
- Restart a Heart Day
- Performing Arts News
- World Challenge Trip 2024
- Sporting News
- Morocco Evening
- Sixth Form News
- Library Week

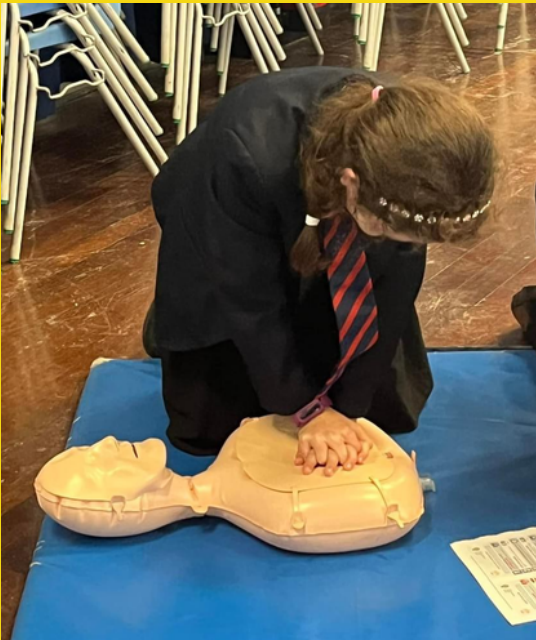
HEADTEACHER INTRO

Welcome back from all of us here at Thirsk School and Sixth Form College. Please enjoy the first newsletter of this school year, and a new look as well! This half term is always busy starting with Celebration Evening where we were privileged to hear from the inspirational Darren Sadler. And, now, as we approach half term we start preparing year 11 for their upcoming exams. Anyway, enough from me, read on to see what else has been happening so far this year!



CELEBRATION OF ACHIEVEMENT EVENING

We recently hosted our 'Celebration of Achievement' evening, where we recognised and rewarded the amazing things that our students do. We would like to thank Darren Sadler and Cheick Ahmed al-Hassan Sanou, also known as Iron Biby, for being such fabulous guests of honour.



RESTART A HEART DAY

We recently welcomed the Yorkshire Ambulance Service into school for our 'Restart a Heart Day' which was a tremendous success. We were incredibly proud of all our year 7s as well as the year 12 students who supported the day. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Jason, Debbie, Chris and Teegan from the YAS team.



Welcome to
Thirsk School

SCHOOL SHOW 2024/25

The Performing Arts Department have had a successful term of auditions for Legally Blonde. We are so proud of all the students who put themselves forward from the cast to audition for main roles. What a difficult choice we had! Our leading lady - starring as Elle Woods - is our very own Miss Woods in Year 13. Melissa has been a member of all the shows possible since joining Sister Act in 2019-20. Melissa leads the show with a strong cast in roles of Sorority Sisters, lawyers, criminals and hairdressers! Our full cast of over 70 students is one of our biggest yet and we look forward to sharing lots of updates with you. Tickets for the show will be on sale in January 2025.

PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

MONOLOGUES

Miss Beecroft has been running sessions for students who have been wanting to explore their performance skills through monologues. This has been something that is new to the department this year and is gaining momentum. We hope to be able to showcase some of their performances this term.

WORLD CHALLENGE 2024

Report written by Sophie Hodgson, year 13.

This summer 14 students took part in a World Challenge expedition to Morocco. We all prepared for the physical activities of the trip in different ways, Melissa from the 6th form and I decided to climb the Yorkshire 3 peaks in preparation with a few other friends of ours. This also allowed us to fundraise and cover some of the costs of the trip. As a group, we rode an exercise bike 470km. This was our first sense of 'teamwork' and although riding a bike in front of a canteen of high school students was daunting, we did it together and shared the embarrassment. Miss Hullah organised a pizza and games night for us to mingle; we all played games with people we had never properly spoken to. Once we landed in Marrakech and spent our first night there, this was really where the friendships started forming...

Welcome to
Thirsk School



WORLD CHALLENGE 2024

...We completed a community project in Ouarzazate, laying and mixing concrete at a vocational school. We completed the project in shifts and really relied on each other's support if a job was getting a bit too much in the 40-degree heat. The teamwork from this project stuck for the rest of the expedition and really brought us closer together as a group. We worked until the peak heat of the day each day but got DELICIOUS Moroccan pizzas and mint tea once we had finished. Our accommodation for this period was with a local called Baali, whom we all loved staying with as he really made us feel at home. By the end of the project, our group became a team, despite having known each other for only 4 days. Our trek was a 4 day hike up the highest peak of the Atlas Mountains - Mount Toubkal. This trek proved to be a real mental struggle for most of our group. The first day acted as an acclimatisation day to prepare for the altitude, the heat and walking together as a group. We left Aremd at 6.45am. We climbed 2500m to the top of the pass and back, walking for 6 hours in total and completing 9.5km. We met Shakira our support mule and we drank freshly pressed orange juice at the top of the pass...

WORLD CHALLENGE 2024

...For day 2 of trekking we set off at 6.30am and trekked 9.5km incline to base camp at 3200m high. This took us 8hrs 47 mins on mountain paths. We sang songs up the mountain and even did the conga for a bit. The trek showed our teamwork. We walked as a group and if one person struggled, we fell back to walk together. The group dynamic really set in on the trek, we became such good friends that we even shared our snacks! We wild camped 3207 meters high on the second night. We were greeted by our tents, a communal tent for eating and a very basic toilet facility! We aimed for an early night as we had early alarm clocks. Some of us slept, some of us had a disturbed night due to the wind!

Welcome to
Thirsk School



...On summit day, we woke up at 2:30 in the morning with the aim of starting walking, but it was too windy and so we waited until 5:30am instead. One bonus to our early morning wake up was that the stars were incredible. We walked for an hour and a half in the dark before the sunrise came across the mountain which was a beautiful sight. The climbing conditions were tough, made more difficult by the wind. When we approached the ridge, our expedition leader decided it would be safer for everyone to be roped together. The whole group reached the peak of the mountain together and were so proud of climbing a mountain which was 4,167 metres high! Amazingly, even in Morocco, we were all cold that day, and so were fully wrapped up in coats and fleeces and wielding torches. When all of the group reached the summit at 4167 meters, we all felt such a sense of pride, Miss Hullah seemingly most of all of us, but we all wanted to rush down as the altitude was getting the best of us. We descended the mountain in smaller groups and met down at base camp – we all slept incredibly that night. The decline was 9km and took us 6 hours to get back to the gite. It was 24-28 degrees and it was the hottest we have trekked in! We were all smiles when we got to the gite as we were looking forward to a shower, a flushing toilet and a bed!!...

WORLD CHALLENGE 2024

...The final days were spent exploring the Moroccan culture. We started in Essaouira, a local seaside town, and visited a beach there. We all enjoyed having burgers for dinner after trekking up the mountain and loved the relaxation days we had there. We then had a coach journey to Marrakech. We all enjoyed bartering in the souks, and all developed our own tactics of haggling down to the best price. We visited a palace and enjoyed a cuisine tasting tour. We spent our last night sitting on the roof of our hotel, chatting and watching the nightlife of Marrakech. The World Challenge experience has allowed me to act more independently and resiliently. It has improved my teamwork skills and allowed me to form new friendships. I would recommend it to others!

Report written by Sophie Hodgson, year 13.

Welcome to
Thirsk School



SPORTING NEWS

INTER HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY WEEK BEGINNING 04/11/24

This event will take place on the school field at lunchtime. All participants competing will receive a house point and the top 10 finishers will receive bonus house points. We will also select the school cross country team from this event and those who are successful will represent the school at the area cross country championships the week after. Students should come to PE after P3, get changed and meet at the gate near technology to access the fields. The course will be explained before the event. All students have to do is turn up changed and do their best. Spectators welcome but will only be able to access the spectator area not the course or finish area.

Dates:

Tues 5th Nov - Years 7 and 8

Wed 6th Nov - Years 9/10/11/6th form



We just wanted to share the exciting news that Maya Hindmarch in Year 11 has recently been selected for the youth GB squad for weightlifting. This is an unbelievable achievement and follows huge amounts of work from her.

SPORTING NEWS

Welcome to
Thirsk School



SPORTING NEWS



We are so proud of Florence Bumby in Year 9, who is the youngest player to qualify for the under fifteen North Yorkshire county netball squad. What a fabulous achievement!

SPORTING NEWS

It was great to have 23 boys represent Thirsk School in the U16s rugby competition on Monday 21st October. The boys were fantastic, especially the year 10s who stepped up and represented the school really well. It's going to be an exciting year ahead for rugby at Thirsk! Blue team came 2/6 in the tournament whilst the red team came 4/6.



Welcome to
Thirsk School



Area Swimming Gala

The swimmers performed excellently and represented the school really well coming either first or second in every race. A special mention to Ben and Holly in sixth form who captained the team and designated the swimmers to the events. Competing schools congratulated the team on their outstanding efforts as they impressed spectators all day long! A fantastic morning of competitive swimming and a mighty deserved win!



SPORTING NEWS

MOROCCO WORLD CHALLENGE EVENING



The Morocco team were brilliant in their support and preparation for this celebration evening and embraced everything thrown at them. Three Moroccan dishes were cooked for 100 people and then the students presented an assembly. Every team member played a part and stepped up. We are so proud of them and it ended the World Challenge Morocco trip on a real high! More details of the next WC trip will be launched at an evening event on 21st November for current Yrs 10, 11 and 12. The trip will be going to NEPAL in 2026!

Welcome to
Thirsk School



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Recently, Mr Dickson and Mrs Stimson were delighted to be guests of Thirsk Rotary Club to celebrate four of our students and their participation in two Rotary supported Schemes. Henry in year 10 was selected in the Summer to participate in the Ocean Youth Project. Henry presented to a full audience of invited guests about his time out at sea. Year 13 students Hannah, Laura and Sienna also presented about their week long residential through the RYLA project. This was a leadership project where they developed skills that are going to be beneficial through life. We are really proud of all four students and to be part of this endeavour by Thirsk Rotary.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

MENTORS

Earlier this term, a large number of our Sixth Formers were trained by the Wellbeing In Mind Team in how to be mentors to our lower school students. The sixth formers had volunteered for the role and have been trained to act as a big brother/big sister form of support for things such as homework, friendships and organisation. The mentoring will take place weekly for approximately 15 minutes during form time and the programme will run until Christmas. If you would be like your child to be involved with this or you have any further questions, please contact the assistant SENDCo via email: tori.fletcher@thirskschool.org



Welcome to
Thirsk School

SIXTH FORM NEWS

I am writing to say a huge well done to all of our students for their energy and effort in this first, very busy half term. For Year 12, this has been a huge step up for them but, as the data highlights, they have been very successful. I hope they feel welcome and fully part of the Sixth Form now. There are a lot of them, the biggest intake in many years. For Year 13 they have had the added pressure of career decisions and UCAS applications. As our first offers come in, it reminds me of the rapid journey they have been on since Year 11.

In the Sixth Form we remain committed to academic excellence with key support built around the evidence of assessment points. We are inclusive and fully believe that our diverse intake in all regards is a real strength to us. Our significant extra-curricular offer remains strong and watching our young people participate and succeed in an array of additional activities is a big part of what we do. I would especially like to thank Brooke Hodgson and the many volunteers who have signed up to this. These students use their leadership skills to support our younger students who need this help. They earn the respect of our younger students, and it is really appreciated just how much time our students give up for this scheme.

Please do not hesitate to contact me, re any queries, via email: gordon.pentland@thirskschool.org

As part of our tutorial programme we have had Study Skills, Mental Health, Financial Awareness and a Career focus. Our Sixth Form Council have also led a series of fund-raising activities this half term to ensure we can do our traditional Christmas Party for the elderly.

Going forward next half term, Year 12 should be setting up summer work experience placements and Year 13 career planning with UCAS for January 2025.

SIXTH FORM NEWS

EVENTS NEXT HALF TERM

31/10/24	Berlin Trip departs
05/11/24	Sexual Health Presentation
06/11/24	Sixth Form Open Evening
28/11/24	AP2 for all sixth formers
06/12/24	Yr13 off site study skills day

Welcome to
Thirsk School





Thirsk School
& Sixth Form College

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENT

Wednesday 6th November 2024 5pm -7pm

Meet the Sixth Form Team, ask questions and hear directly from students.
Tour the school to see departments in action

Unable attend on the night? Use the Virtual Tour!

Available on our website and a great way to get an insight on the subjects we offer.

if you have any queries, please email 6thform.office@thirskschool.org for more information.

TOGETHERNESS HONESTY INCLUSIVITY RESPECT SUPPORT KINDNESS

Topcliffe Road, Sowerby, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, YO71RZ

01845522024 | www.thirskschool.org

LIBRARY WEEK

The Library Book Fair has been a great success with staff and students, who have been able to browse new titles, read the blurb and make a decision about whether to recommend the book for library stock or buy it for their private reading at home. The 'Wednesday Book Club' led by Miss Richardson, Teacher of English, every Wednesday lunchtime in the library gave Book Club students the opportunity to select their favourite title from the Book Fair. Book Club Readers were asked in turn to vote for their favourite book which they would read as a group, during Book Club. It was a unanimous decision to read 'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder' by Holly Jackson, with parental permission of course if not quite at the recommended age yet!



*Welcome to
Thirsk School*



THIRSK

CONTACT US

Thirsk School & Sixth Form College
Topcliffe Road
Thirsk
YO7 1RZ

Tel: 01845 522024
email: thirskschool@thirskschool.org



FOLLOW US

