



Summer 2 Newsletter

July 2024



Dear Parent/Carer

Here we are again at the end of another academic year. The months fly by. Someone said to me recently that the days might be long but the years are short. How true! As we all head in to a well-earned break, I would like to thank you as parents/carers for all your support throughout the year, this Team Thirsk ethos is really important.

We had the leaving speeches on Tuesday for the seven staff who are departing to pastures new. We wish them the very best of luck and we will of course be welcoming new staff as their replacements in September. Details are tabled below.

Staff Departing	Staff Joining
Mrs Cave	Miss Beecroft Drama/Maths
Ms Cramoysan	Mr Britton PE
Mrs Eastwood	Mr Brownlee Maths
Mr Harrison	Mrs Dunne Art
Miss Powell	Mrs Gold Maths
Mr Shuttleworth	Mr Hawkes Science
Mrs Smith-Hill	Mr Lang Maths
	Mr Smith English
	Mrs Wilson MFL

We would like to wish Mrs Freeman our best wishes as she goes off on maternity leave and welcome back to Mrs Younger and Mrs Bone from maternity leave.

Congratulations to Miss Hallas (Art) and Dr Delaney (Science) who now have permanent positions.

A huge thank you to Mrs Brewer who is stepping down from Head of Maths after many years of excellent leadership of the department. We are delighted she will be remaining with us in a part time capacity.



We have seen a big increase in the number of trips going out of school this year, and the list gets longer next year. Trips are fabulous for our students and I would like to thank all the staff who give their time so generously to organise and run the trips on offer.

As the 184 new Year 7 students arrive in September, we of course need to say goodbye to the Year 13 and wish them all the best for the future, exciting times for sure. Also, to our Year 11 students, who have completed their formal education. Many will be returning for their next chapter and some will be going elsewhere. We wish them all the very best of luck. Remember to join the alumni.

Below is the latest list of news items from staff and students to celebrate some of the many great things we do and offer here at Thirsk and activities going on in our lovely community.

All that is left to say, is that I hope you and your family have a lovely relaxing Summer and we look forward to seeing the Year 7, 11, 12 and 13 students on Tuesday 3rd September and all year groups on Wednesday 4th September.

Yours sincerely

Emma Lambden

Headteacher

Chess Club

The Chess Club at Thirsk School is extra-curricular and vibrant. Students enjoy playing the game most lunchtimes in the library with their peers, but a highlight of the school year for many is to participate in competitions with other North Yorkshire Schools during Enrichment Week

St John Fisher's Catholic High School, Harrogate hosted the inter-school competition this year and 15 of our students; a mix of boys and girls travelled by coach to participate in the contest.

The session was fun and challenging. The Beginners Level and Advanced Level Players championships were won by St. John Fisher's, while Thirsk School won the Intermediate section.

The biggest learning experience for all is that fun and challenge is more important than winning, and the fruitful outcomes; getting on with others, sharing the love and enjoyment of the game; demonstrating consideration and taking turns will last a lifetime. Much strategic thinking goes on as well.

We hope St. Aidan's will be able to host next year's event for the growing army of chess players in the district.





Gliding

Back in the spring, the Henry Jiang and Oliver Fullen, attended a British Gliding Association Go Gliding STEM Event - an event put on to inspire young people into gliding as a pathway to STEM careers, including aviation. Off the back of this event, they were both invited to apply for a gliding scholarship. After submitting their applications and a seemingly very long wait, they eventually learned that they had both been successful in their application and gained 2 of the 6 scholarships offered. The scholarship, awarded by the British Gliding Association (BGA), is £500 towards training to become a glider pilot and flying solo. The Yorkshire Gliding Club at Sutton Bank where the training is to be held, have also waived their junior gliding membership fees to help the scholarship stretch to as many flying hours as possible. They have also been awarded an additional flight sponsored by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots (HCAP).

Not only will the boys learn to fly a glider solo, they will be involved in all aspects of gliding from maintenance of the gliders, groundwork at the airfield, time on flight simulators, studying the flight manual and absorbing all there is to learn from the wealth of knowledge passionately shared by existing members of the Yorkshire Gliding Club.

At the end of June, they attended an introductory session and Henry had his first flight of the scholarship (his second flight in a glider - his first was with his Air Cadet Squadron). He's now patiently waiting for school to finish, and the rain to clear up, so that he can spend his summer holidays learning to fly!





Gymnastics

On Sunday a group of our students were competing at the British TeamGym Championships in Cardiff. All three of teams that went from Richmondshire TD Gym Club medalled, which was a HUGE achievement at the highest level possible in the country. New skills, hours of extra training and they took on the big clubs despite not having anywhere near the level of facilities many other clubs have access to. We are in awe of the club, its coaches, and the wonderful parents of these students, for their monumental commitment. The results in the championships were as follows, and if you see these students, please congratulate them, they have earned it!

Level 3 Women's Micro - Silver
India Clay
Evie Reeves

Level 2 Junior Mixed Micro - Bronze
Evie Almack
Maisie Binks
Lily Rodgers
Georgia Wilson

Level 1 Disability Micro - Gold
Isaac Clay



Drama

We are pleased to announce that our School Production for this coming school year is Legally Blonde. Mrs Stimson, Mr Pierce Williams, Mrs Macdonald and the team are delighted to tackle this musical - one that promises to be filled with lots of joy and laughter. Our first formal get together to launch the show will be in the 2nd week back and is open to all of our students in the school.





Oxford University Trip

Four Year 12 students visited the University of Oxford on the 25th and 26th of June, alongside others from Stokesley Sixth Form. We stayed over at Brasenose College, right in the heart of the city. On the first day, we arrived at roughly 3:30pm, and were shown to our accommodation for the evening inside the college. We were each assigned a very good dorm room, where we left our belongings. The four of us, alongside Mr. Macmillan, then took a brief walk around the surrounding city areas, where we visited the largest bookshop in the city – Blackwell's, and spent far too much money inside! We then returned to the college, where we went inside to dine in the beautiful dining hall alongside fellow visitors and present students too. To cap off the evening, we made our way to the college's green and did a quiz, in which we came 2nd, surprising ourselves in doing so; shortly after the quiz those who wished to do so gathered in one of the many event rooms and watched England vs Slovenia. The following morning, we said goodbye to our dorms and ate a provided breakfast in the dining hall. We made our way out of the college, after talking to some student helpers who are currently studying our desired subjects, and visited lectures and talks delivered by professors and students of our subjects. I went to the History lecture, which was an informative mix of a taste of studied content, as well as information on the application process. Afterwards, we took a look around the wider city and other colleges, to get a better taste of the city, so rich in culture and history. We then made the four-to-five-hour long journey back to Thirsk, arriving at roughly 8:30pm. We would all like to give a big thank you to our wonderful hosts at Brasenose for giving us extraordinary experience and Mr. Macmillan and the Stokesley staff for taking us down there and dealing with the relentless conversation in the car too. Tom, Year 12





World Challenge Trip

In preparation for their expedition the students heading to Morocco did their last push with fundraising in school. It consisted of a bike relay challenge, bake sales, prize draws and guessing games! The bike relay took place over two days in the main hall where students took it in turns to pedal to achieve 3 targets. Our initial target-cover the distance of the 'Marathon Des Sables, The Legendary, a massive event that takes place in Morocco- 250km. Our challenge target- Plus, Thirsk to Manchester airport - 160 km (410km total), Our aspirational target- Plus, Marrakesh to Toubkal summit - 60km (470km total) Over 2 days the bike was pedalled for 21 hours!! Every member of the team did their bit on the bike with a handful of students going above and beyond and they refused to leave the school building until they hit the 470km target...and THEY DID IT! The group displayed great teamwork and determination and we are very proud of what they have achieved.





The guess the name of the teddy bear was won by Archie D in year 7 with the name of Jasper and Dan B in year 9 won the how many sweets in the jar being the closest to 606! The aim was to raise funds for the airport transport, around £200. We have raised approximately £1100! This total will get the group to and from the airport, a set of group t shirts and will contribute to the group's optional activities when they are in Marrakesh. We are very grateful for all of the local businesses that support our fundraising efforts by donating prizes for the prize draw these include: Carlton Cakes, Johnsons the butchers, Upstairs Downstairs, PM Wines, Milbury Hill, The Black Horse at Kirklington, Bianco's, Pure and Simple Services, Coffee at Number Ten, Fit with Lianne, Kirklington Candles and Hive Hair and Nails. We would also like to thank Manor Farm Eggs at Sinderby for their donation of eggs towards our bake sale and Tesco for the sweets for the guessing game.



To complete very busy week, students took part in an indoor climbing trip to Freeline at Clifton Moor. This was designed to push students out of their comfort zones, get them interacting as a group and supporting each other. Most of the group were complete beginners to climbing and everyone pushed themselves and had a really enjoyable time!





We have a build-up day on Friday 19th July where students are to bring in all of their kit for a kit check and final training with Allan our World Challenge leader before departing on Sunday 21st July for our adventure!!



The students heading to Morocco this summer on our World Challenge expedition tested their culinary skills and tried their hand at creating Moroccan dishes and tasting them! Our menu consisted of harissa chicken skewers, beef meatballs, lamb koftas, vegetable cous-cous and flatbreads! Everyone got involved, increased their team work and communication skills as well as trying new flavours ahead of their trip!

Year 12 Food Science & Nutrition

The food science and nutrition sixth form cohort have recently been cake decorating! Students have taken part in two sessions over a week learning how to create flowers with sugar paste, level cakes, make ganache, cover cakes with fondant and develop their piping skills further! Within these sessions students were creative and patient, making fondant flowers is very time consuming! A huge thank you to Penny Robinson for giving our students her time and sharing her skills and knowledge.





Music

Welcome Back Concert September 27th Drama studio 4pm start solo performances and music from the brass ensemble and saxophone choir. Admission free, refreshments provided by Fred & Bert.

Students still considering learning a musical instrument information can be found at www.northyorkshiremusicclub.co.uk also if your child is interested in learning brass we have the talented and enthusiastic Mr P Woodrow providing brass lessons woodrowmusic tuition@gmail.com and myself if your child would like to play saxophone or clarinet please get in touch with Mrs Dickson.

All rehearsals for ensembles begin first week back in the Autumn term.

And finally.....

Over the course of this year, we have hugely expanded the role of our houses in school. All students are in a house, and they receive house points for all sorts of positive things, both inside and outside of the classroom. Alongside these points, we also have regular competitions- both in sport, and in other aspects of school life, that also bring house points.

At the end of a long year of positive engagement and competition, the standings are as follows:

Overall sports competition:

1. Lanner: 1237
2. Saker: 1061
3. Merlin: 961



4. Peregrine: 892
5. Grey: 884
6. Prairie: 730

These results, along with other points given this week, have changed the overall competition to:

1. Lanner: 6082
2. Peregrine: 5984
3. Grey: 5841
4. Prairie: 5486
5. Saker: 4789
6. Merlin: 3919

Congratulations to Lanner on an amazing year, and to everybody who has been involved in this.

Mr Hollis