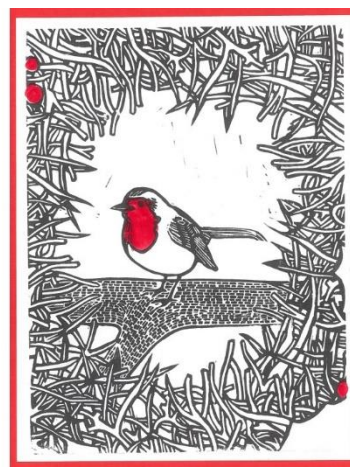
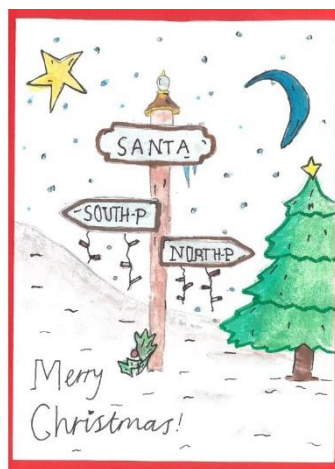




Thirsk School

& Sixth Form College

Newsletter – Autumn 2



We have now finally made it to the last week of a very long term. As always, this is a good opportunity to congratulate all students and staff for their hard work throughout. A 15-week term is always a challenge, combined with mock examinations, dark nights and mornings alongside colder weather – including snow this time! But, once our Christmas tree arrives, thanks to Mark Robson, there's always a sense that the end of term is just around the corner. Every year we ask our students to design a Christmas card with the winning design being used as the one we send to other local schools, as is the tradition at this time of year in education.

This year the standard was so good we had to choose three winners, pictured above! Please enjoy this term's news as you continue to read below, and once again thank you, the community of Thirsk, for your continued support.

As the holiday beckons, personally, I am looking forward to hot chocolates, strawberry creams only from the Quality Street tin please and Christmas TV! Whatever your perfect Christmas looks like, may it be full of joy. Wishing you all good health, fortune and happiness for both Christmas and the New Year and we look forward to seeing all students refreshed and ready for the Spring term on Tuesday 9th January 2024!

E Lambden

Emma Lambden
Headteacher



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Term Dates

A reminder that school is shut to students on Friday 22nd December and Monday 8th January. On Thursday 21st December school breaks up at 12.30pm, school transport will run as normal at that time.

Social Media and Website

Do follow us on Facebook, 'Be More Thirsk', Instagram Be More Thirsk and You Tube @thirskschoolsixthformcolle77 as well as keeping up to date via the school website, www.thirskschool.org

Christmas Card Design

Congratulations to Ilana Watson, Emmi Dickinson-Brown and Ava Brule-Walker.

Lost Property

All lost property must be claimed by Wednesday 20th December otherwise it will all be recycled.

Sports Results

Congratulations to the U14 Girls Football who have made it to the QF of the county cup and to the Year 7 boys football team who have made it through to the 3rd round of the county cup. We wish both teams the best of luck in the next round.

Y12 Hospitality & Catering

On the 14th December year 12 Food Science and Nutrition students had a visit from Andy from Johnson's of Thirsk who created a 3-bird roast with the students. Andy demonstrated the joining of the birds (duck, chicken and pheasant in this case) and students created the stuffing and helped him assemble it. Andy talked about food provenance, seasonality, coatings and discussed the ins and outs of running a food business! Thank you very much to Andy for giving his time to demonstrate his high-level butchery skills and answering our questions!





Y10 Hospitality & Catering

We were lucky to be one of 250 schools across the UK to receive 8kg of rope grown mussels for free from Offshore Shellfish. The Year 10 Hospitality and Catering students learnt how to prepare and cook mussels and created two dishes: Moules marinière and Thai Green mussels. Students had an opportunity to try both dishes with most students giving them a go and trying them for the first time! We are very proud of how students embraced this learning opportunity and are very grateful for the following organisations for their part in the scheme: Food Techers Centre UK, Fishmongers.com, DFDS Global, River Teign Shellfish Ltd and Fish Heroes.



Library News

Four Year 9 & Year 10 students from Thirsk School have volunteered to be contestants and are taking part in the North Yorkshire Schools' 'Battle of the Books' Competition. This year the competition will be held at Queen Mary's Independent School between Thirsk and Ripon on Wednesday 28 February 2024 between 4.00 and 7.00 p.m.

Presiding at the 'Battle of the Books' event will be local author and illustrator, Chris Mould, who is best known for his illustrations of Ted Hughes' 'Iron Man' and George Orwell's 'Animal Farm'.

In preparation, Thirsk School students are arriving at the Library from breakfast-time on Friday mornings, so they can read widely and read for pleasure before school and during Form-Time, to ensure they get the opportunity to develop their knowledge of books and literature before the competition.



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Gymnastics Superstars

“Myself (Max Chambers), Indy Clay, Evie Reeves, Lily Rodgers, Georgia Wilson, Emmi Dickinson-Brown and Evie Almack all spent the October half term holidays on an amazing gymnastics training camp at GymHelsing in Denmark. Kim Fischer who is a Danish national coach, along with his team coached us for 9 hours per day for 6 days where we all pushed ourselves to our limits trying to improve our skills and learn new moves. We all came away from the week in Denmark inspired and loved the experience. Whilst we were there, we also got to train alongside the club’s elite team who have just recently represented Denmark at the Nordic Championships in Iceland. Needless to say, we were all extremely tired when we got home and ready for a rest.”

Thank you Max for a great report and congratulations to all the students involved. We look forward to reading about further successes in the future.

Thirsk Food Bank

Thank you and well done to the students in 9I who have been collecting food and provisions for the food bank in Thirsk, as their act of kindness for our community. They did a great job and the people from Community Works were delighted with their efforts.

House System

Throughout this term we have seen a great rise in activities linked to our houses, all of which are named after different types of Falcons. House competitions in dodgeball and basketball have been hugely popular, and many more are planned for next term. With only a few days left of term the standings in the house competition are as follows:

First: Lanner: 2755

Second: Grey: 2469

Third: Prairie: 2394

Fourth: Peregrine: 2063

Fifth: Saker: 2059

Sixth: Merlin: 1144

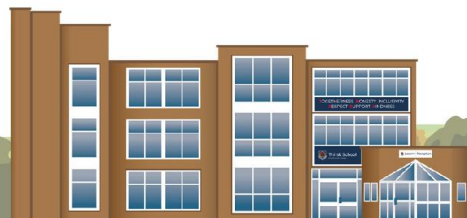
School Musical – ‘Footloose’

Rehearsals have been underway all term with the cast of 'Footloose' and it promises to be another highlight of the school year. The musical focuses around a community that have been hit with loss and have banned the idea of music and dancing. When a new character arrives in town with a new way of thinking the whole community begins to see how things can be. We have a fantastic group of young people working on this show and it is a delight to have been working with them. The show takes place on Feb 6th, 7th and 8th with tickets going on sale soon into the new year. Please reserve these dates in your diary to come and see us and have an evening of joy.



Performing Arts Trip to London

During the first week of December, 45 Performing Arts students from years 10 to 13 visited London, accompanied by 5 staff. A fabulous time was had by all as they watched two musicals in the West End and walked the length and breadth of Central London. As can be seen below, ice cream was on the menu.





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Senior Citizen's Christmas Party

The Sixth Form's annual Senior Citizen's Party was another resounding success. Christmas cheer was spread across multiple generations, as students and guests alike rejoiced in the company of one another. Crackers were pulled, carols were sung, and party hats were worn to indulge the brilliantly decorated hall in the Christmas spirit. The night began with a quiz from Year 13 students Callum and Dan who got the atmosphere rolling with their charismatic and bubbly hosting skills. The tables, intertwined with Sixth Form students and our elderly community, were waited on by our brilliant team of waiters and waitresses who served mince pies, tea and, most importantly, sherry. Council members Ellie and Charlotte then put on a great game of bingo to keep spirits high. As the night neared its conclusion, we joined together to sing some carols, Ava provided incredible music as she played the violin to Hark the Herald Angels Sing and Once in Royal David's City. Our very own Yellow Room Band played us out, as Merry Xmas Everybody had spirits so high, that Mrs Fletcher and Mrs Leopold couldn't resist throwing some shapes in the assembly hall.



Battlefields History Trip

On Wednesday 29th November, forty-eight of our Year 9 and 10 Historians departed school at 3.30am for the World War One battlefields. Following a lengthy but uneventful coach journey, all of the students found themselves standing in a British cemetery outside Ypres in Belgium. Over 80% of the graves here were of soldiers whose identities were unknown. There can be no more powerful way of teaching the horror of war than to reflect on its impact on individuals. The men buried in these graves had once had lives and families that were ripped away from them in the maelstrom of conflict. Each grave had probably never been visited before, as no relative would know that their son or husband now lay there. We therefore marked the start of this trip by paying the unknown individuals buried beneath us the respect that they deserved.

On the second day of the trip, we travelled to Vimy Ridge, and then onto the Somme in France. Here the trench lines are still evident across the landscape. We walked out from the remnants of the British front line across 'no-man's land', hearing the stories of the first day of the battle- the worst day in British military history- when whole communities of young men were wiped out. We paid our respects at the Thiepval memorial, and many students were





struck by how often they found their own surnames on the lists of combatants whose bodies were never found.

Following two days of considerable coach time, we focused our third day in Ypres, the salient where so much fighting took place between 1914 and 1918. Here we visited both British and German cemeteries, went down into some extremely wet trench lines, and toured museums that spoke of the different battles. The day ended with the memorial service at the Menin Gate, where our students were outstanding in their respect and engagement, standing out in the cold for well over an hour to witness a moment that has taken place every evening for almost a century.

Trips like this can be a very full-on experience for everybody involved. However, Saturday morning acted as a bit of light relief as we visited the Christmas market and chocolate shops. Mr Hansen had been learning Flemish, and so all the students were taught key phrases to use on an incredulous but patient group of stall holders. Having purchased more sugar than an average human could eat in a year, we slumped onto the coach for the journey home. Mr Hollis had utterly failed to bring any DVDs that anybody wanted to watch, but most students (and staff!) happily plugged themselves into their various mobile devices, dozing their way back to Thirsk. We always talk about how outstanding our students are on trips, but this did seem to bring out the very best in all of those that came with us. It was a pleasure to take such an attentive, respectful, and interested group of young people on such an important trip. Mr Hollis





Drama

As part of Celebrating the Arts week for Thirsk Community Primary School the A Level Theatre Studies visited and spent the day working with all students from Year 1 to Year 6. It was a pleasure to work with the school but more amazing to see the theatre group in action with a performance they created Panto style. The students at the Primary school loved seeing Thomas C as the naughty elf up to mischief! The A Level Students did themselves proud by creating this performance and delivering it 4 times through the day then leading workshops and mini performances with the students. Miss Wall from the Primary school contacted us to say 'the feedback from staff at school has been incredible! We had a staff meeting on Tuesday and all teachers were buzzing about the day. They were particularly impressed with your students please pass on our praise and thanks to them. I did some pupil voice around the day, and I can tell you that this will be a core memory they will keep forever from primary school.'



Harriet Binks – Little Princess Trust

"Hello,

Just a quick email to let you know that I've decided to fundraise for Little Princess Trust, and I'd really appreciate your support.

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast and totally secure. Once you donate, they'll send your money directly to Little Princess Trust, so it's the most efficient way to give - saving time and cutting costs for the charity.





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You can donate to my JustGiving page by clicking here https://www.justgiving.com/page/amy-binks-1701292889284?utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=page%2Famy-binks-1701292889284&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=pfp-email

JustGiving sends your donation straight to Little Princess Trust and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.

Thank you for your support!"

Harriet is doing this in memory of her grandma, who lost her hair and then her life to cancer. This Friday would have been her grandma's 70th birthday so it seems appropriate that she will donate her hair on that day. If you can, please do support Harriet.

Christmas Card

Please click on the link to reveal a card from the staff a governors.

<https://jlcards.com/D5Mg43>

