



# Newsletter

## September 2023

It is difficult to believe that we are almost a month into the Autumn Term already. We are delighted with how our students have come back to school from their holiday and got on board with their learning. Clearly, a big thank you must go out to all our parents/carers for your support – we couldn't do our job here at school without you! Likewise, we would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Year 7s, other students across the school and new staff who have joined the Thirsk School community.

A list below of new staff to the school:

Staff Name	Dept
Nicola Gibson	Head of English
Alice Prothero	Technology
Lindsey Shackleton	English
Beth Johnson	Physical Education
Sarah Plumbridge	Maths and joint Head of Year 8
Georgina Noland	Geography/RS
Victoria Miles	English
Ryan Bolton	Teaching Assistant SEN
Victoria Penaluna	Teaching Assistant SEN
Eoin Harrison	Cover Supervisor and PE Assistant
Megan Oldcorn	HLTA SEN
Ian Scott	IT
Phil Lowther	Technology
Alistair Adair	Maths
Kirsty Delaney	Maternity cover in Science
Kirsty Fulford	Maternity cover in MFL

There have also been some changes within staff roles.

Julie Hudson	SEND Co
Julie Blogg	Joint head of Year 8
Agnieszka Nowinska	HLTA SEN



## Website

We are very excited here at school as we launch our new website, it went live at the end of last week and can be found on the same web address [www.thirskschool.org](http://www.thirskschool.org). Please do take a look, lots of information available, with all staff names and teacher emails included. Going forward, whilst we will still continue to send some letters out to parents/carers via email we would ask that you check the latest news section of the website regularly as this is where most information will be posted.

## Radio Project

At the end of last term, we started work on an exciting radio project. Yes, our very own radio station '6<sup>th</sup> Sense Radio'! Please look out for updates about this, as over 200 of our students have expressed an interest in being a part of the project and we genuinely have state of the art equipment in our very own 'media lab' to help make this opportunity come to life!





## Drama

This term has been a busy term already with a theatre visit for the GCSE and A Level Theatre Studies. Travelling a short way down the road to Billingham Forum, the drama and theatre groups spent an evening watching the Gothic Horror 'Woman in Black'. All students loved this experience, in awe of the 2 performers as the only people in the show (other than the Woman in Black) and appropriately 'scared' by this psychological thriller. We certainly had moments of jumping out of our seats. All students were a real credit to Thirsk School.

## School Production

As always, this term, the department have started the journey of the new musical. This year we are working on 'Footloose' the Musical. We have held our auditions and have been so proud of all the students giving it a go and putting themselves forward for key roles. We are delighted to have Megan M in Year 11 lead the show as Ren, supported by newcomer Thomas C in Year 12 as Reverend Shaw who has placed the ban on dance and music on his town of Bomont. With Melissa W, in Year 12 as his daughter, Ella S in Year 13 as the dance obsessed Rusty and Evie B in Year 11 as Willard, they join forces to bring the joy of music and dance back to the town. We have a company of over 70 students the Performing Arts team are ready for the challenge of a new musical. The show will be presented in February 2024.

## Year 6 Open Evening

A mixture of year 10 and 11 Hospitality and Catering students worked alongside year 12 Food Science and Nutrition students to create canapes to 300 people attending presentation evening.

They produced, presented and served a selection of sweet and savoury canapes which went down a storm! We are very grateful for the group of students who gave their time and efforts to make this part of presentation evening such a success!



## 'Battle of the Books' North Yorkshire Schools Competition March 2024

Thirsk School Library Book Club is preparing four Year 9 and Year 10 students for the forthcoming 'Battle of the Books Competition' to take place in a yet-to-be-confirmed North Yorkshire School during the Spring Term 2024. This event will feature children's author, Tom Palmer, who is best known for his popular writing for Reluctant Readers. Tom is the author of sixty children's books; 16 books for Barrington Stoke including 6 award-winning historical fiction titles and three Puffin football series, [Football Academy](#), [Foul Play](#) and [The Squad](#). [Foul Play](#) was short-listed for the **2009 Blue Peter Book Award**. *"An excellent fast-paced detective novel"* [The Times](#).

The Library Book Club sets out to read the top 50 children's books before Spring 2024 to enable our students to have a broad knowledge of works for children and young people. The participation and learning which takes place in preparation for this event is probably as much fun as the event itself.

Each Thirsk School student taking part is encouraged to bring their family to the event. The last winner of the North Yorkshire School 'Battle of the Books' was St Aidan's School Harrogate, so they are likely to be the host of the 'Battle of the Books' next year, which will mean a trip out for Year 9 and 10 Readers and an evening reception with a popular children's author.





## Summer Uniform

Please note the October Half Term Holiday signifies the end of Summer Uniform.

## Year 11 Health & Social Care

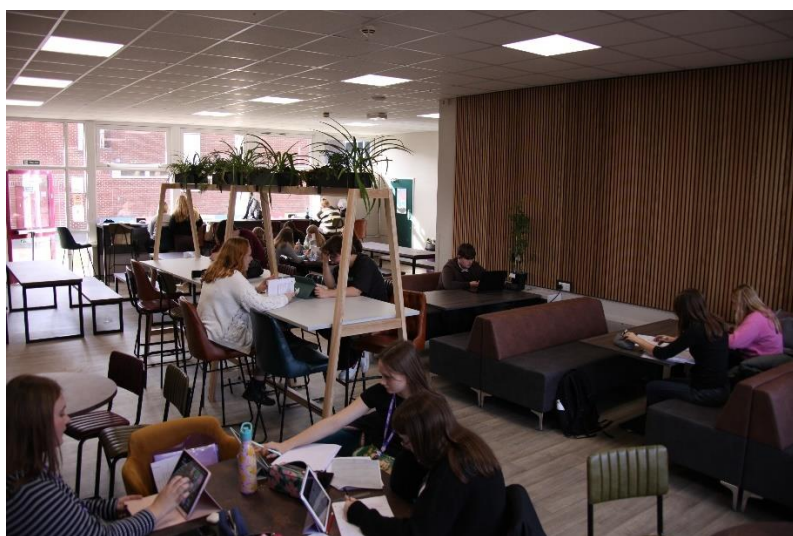
Year 11 Health and Social care students visited a local primary school to involve Key Stage 1 children in different activities created by the students. The aim was to put into practise everything they had been learning about in their health and social care lessons. The young children had a fabulous time and our students were amazing in their interactions. Lots of fun was had by all.

## Sixth Form Common Room

The Sixth Form have had a fabulous start to the year in their new-look common room. This refurbishment was partly funded by the amazing Friends of Thirsk School, and we are delighted with the final product.

It has been a busy time and our students have just completed their first assessment of the year. The data looks good! We have thoroughly enjoyed a superb Freshers Ball at Solberge Hall and are beginning a series of fundraising activities to support the Senior Citizens Party.

Our students have been engaged with a range of activities with main school including tutorial and open evening. The Gold Duke of Edinburgh students have presented at parents evening and as ever, we are proud of this contribution to our community.





## Year 11 Revision Guides Information

We've recently updated information and advice for parents / carers and students about which revision guide or websites we'd recommend for each of our KS4 courses. This can be found on our new website on the Year 11 page of the Latest news section. If you have any questions do get in touch with Mr Dickson or Mrs Stimson.



## Illness

There seems to be some illness about already this term so I would like to draw your attention to the following websites.

The NHS have produced some information about when not to send your child to school due to illness.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

DfE are aware that since Covid 19 there has also been an increase in anxiety amongst young children. The DfE have published some useful guidance Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools - GOV.UK ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

[Mental health issues affecting a pupil's attendance: guidance for schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

In order to develop closer working relationships with parents we request that all parents sign up to the My Child At School App, MCAS. Please see the attached parent guide. This is a great way to keep fully up to date about your child at school. Please see the attached information.

## MCAS

The school uses Bromcom as its Management Information System. The parent component of this is called My Child At School (MCAS).

Parents can download an app and access lots of information about their child(ren) at school. This is such a good way for school to inform parents and we can also ask you to give consent via this platform.

To support parents, we have uploaded the MCAS Parent Guide on to our website. If you do not have your log in details for MCAS please email [jenny.crabtree@thirskschool.org](mailto:jenny.crabtree@thirskschool.org).

## October is Children of Foster Carers month

Many potential foster carers wonder about the effect fostering will have on their own families, but as part of [The Fostering Network](http://www.fosteringnetwork.org)'s Children of Foster Carers Month, we want to highlight some of the benefits. Here's Abigail's story

Her parents started fostering when she was 7 years old, and she tells us 'I still hold special memories from those times. Our first experience of fostering was for a little girl of 2 - in fact, Kay arrived just the day before her second birthday. I was so excited - I



referred to her as 'mine' from that point on! I had a sister at the grand old age of 10 - I felt the need to love and protect her straight away.

'Over the years, my parents continued to offer sleepovers, plus short and long-term fostering. I remember some amazing sleepovers with our bedroom full of girls of different ages and the joy on their faces as they arrived and I greeted them.

'Fostering is not always easy - some of the children who come through your door may be struggling, upset, and have experienced difficult times and situations. If you can work with and help them through the emotionally difficult times, then you can impact a child's life massively - and you can certainly impact on your own family, too.

'When I hit my early teens I did share with my parents that I had felt some jealousy at having to share them. However, I did get over that and would not change my family life in any way as overall the experience has been overwhelmingly positive...

'I have benefited so much from having a sibling and foster siblings, my ability to interact with people is enhanced because of the experience I gained interacting with the children who came to stay with us.

'Now, as an adult, I have a sister and 2 nieces that I adore - thanks to having parents who wished to foster and adopt - and in doing so, provided me with such inspirational role models for life.'

Be there and care for them - we need foster carers across the county for children of all ages including sibling groups - foster a child near you

Find out more [www.northyorks.gov.uk/fostering](http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/fostering)

