



## Newsletter – Spring term

Dear Parents/Carers

Two relatively short half terms have quickly brought us to the Easter Break. A lovely time of year with the days getting longer and the weather warming up, slightly! The school site looks lovely with all the spring flowers which were planted by our students a few years back. We have crammed a lot into this short term, with some notable highlights being the show, the PTA bingo night and the Head Boy and Head Girl Challenge. For those of you who attended Footloose, I am sure you will agree with me when I say how fantastic it was! The talent of our young people is truly amazing, from those taking starring roles, to those working behind the scenes to make the stage and set come alive. It, as always, highlights the true community spirit of Thirsk. And for those of you not familiar with the Head Boy and Head Girl Challenge, every year Mr Pentland asks them to come up with simply that – a challenge! This year's took a somewhat 'retro' twist, with 35 of our sixth formers attempting to beat some rather unusual world records. If you are as old as me then you will undoubtedly remember the TV show 'Record Breakers' and had it still been on the go, then I am sure our sixth form would have been on it for their efforts. The last I heard one activity involved catching cuddly toys blindfolded... but, as soon as we know any more, you will be the first to know!

Finally, thank you for your support, as always, this term. May the Easter Bunny deliver plenty of chocolate and we wish you all a wonderful Easter break.

Best wishes,

*E Lambden*

Emma Lambden  
Headteacher



## Term Dates

**A reminder that students break up on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 12.30pm and all return again on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April.**

## UKPN Antarctic Flags Project

In the first term, we invited Year 9 to do a flag design for Antarctica to fit in with our unit on Glaciation.

And our entry from Kira in Year 9 is one of the winning designs held up in Antarctica - and well-deserved as it was fabulous! (See photo and certificate attached). Thanks to all Year 9 who entered our competition as there were many great designs!

You will see that they open the competition up to primary schools and run it for all areas of the world so really fabulous that something from Thirsk has made it so far.

If you follow Polar Network on X (formerly Twitter) our photo should be appearing on there in the next couple of days.

### Here's the blurb:

Your flag has made it to Antarctica!

Your flag travelled to Antarctica with Derron Fox, a zoological field assistant at Signy Research Station, Signy Island.

The photographs were taken on Signy Island, in the background are some Adelie and Chinstrap Penguins. Derron is very lucky to work so closely with the penguins as part of his job. Signy Research Station is one of Britain's smallest stations and it is only occupied in the Antarctic Summer. Research at Signy focuses on the bird populations and terrestrial ecology. Signy Island is one of the remote South Orkney Islands, 1300km from the Falkland Islands and 600km from the Antarctic Peninsula.

We hope you enjoy these photographs and your certificate and we hope to see you enter again next year. Thank you so much for sending your beautiful artwork to us so that we could send it to Antarctica.



Ms Leopold



## Ski Trip February 2024

During the February half term, 39 students went skiing in Austria. One of the inspiring things about being a teacher is the chance to see students thrive in tricky situations. I have rarely seen this happen more than on this trip. Skiing is physically demanding, and involves complex coordination. The vast majority of our group, despite having had sessions on dry ski slopes, were essentially beginners. Therefore, this trip started off for most with a huge focus on the basics of staying upright on a slope, whilst gravity took them downhill. We had some epic tumbles, some tears and some truly comic moments, as whole lines of students collapsed into one another. We saw students go backwards down mountains, and get in terrible tangles with ski lifts. However, as the second and third day of the trip dawned, so our groups started to improve, and we started seeing them ski onto blue runs, and then red runs, and even, for a brave few, the odd black run. We saw unbelievable joy on the faces of teenagers who were finally allowed to simply shout 'whreeeeeeee!!!!' to the mountains as they slid, at considerable speed, in the right direction. As confidence grew, so our students' joyous engagement with the area improved, leading to some brilliant conversations in German, and a wonderful engagement by our group in 'Austrian National Fancy Dress Day' - who knew that was a thing! By the time the group climbed back onto the coach for the thirty-hour trip home, it was obvious that, for many, this had been a genuinely life changing experience. We are so proud of all of those that came on the trip, and we look forward to organising something similar again.

George Hollis





## Year 12 Food Science & Nutrition

Martin from Carrick's of Snape joined the year 12 Food Science and Nutrition cohort and staff for a lesson on fish filleting! As a group we filleted mackerel, seabass and sole. Martin talked about the fishing industry over time, the anatomy of a fish and the different processing methods such as smoking. He also discussed the different ways to cook the fish we were preparing. It was great to have an expert in who could tell us about his lifestyle as a fish monger and his family business! To continue our focus on seafood we had guest chef Mr Henderson cook alongside us afterschool! We made 3 dishes- scallops with a bacon and honey salad, Moules marinière and a Thai green clam dish. The students had a go at preparing, cooking and tasting the dishes, most of which students have never tried before!

On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February the year 13 food science and nutrition cohort visited Johnson the butchers in Thirsk town centre. Mr and Mrs Truman took the time to show us round the butcher's shop and talk us through product sourcing, labelling, health and safety documentation necessary such as HACCP and practices that slow and remove the growth of microbes. It was fantastic to see our theory lessons in practice in a local business. Miss Hullah



## Sixth Form bits n pieces!

Sixth form held a bake sale on 26<sup>th</sup> March which has raised about £50 for Community Works. Sixth form are taking roses (very belatedly) to local care homes to bring a bit of spring cheer and love to the community.

Ms Leopold

## Sports Results

Year 7 Basketball – 2<sup>nd</sup> at the area Rally

Year 8 Basketball – 2<sup>nd</sup> at the area Rally



Year 9 Basketball – Area Champions and county finalists.

Year 10 Basketball – 2<sup>nd</sup> at the area rally

## Football

Girls

U13

Area Finalists (Final to be played on 11<sup>th</sup> April)

County Cup finalists (Final being played after Easter)

U14

County Cup Semi Finalists (Game being played on 10<sup>th</sup> April)

U15

Area plate finalists (game to be played after Easter)

Boys

Area Cup

Year 7 Plate Finalists

Year 8 Plate Finalists (final being played on Wed 10<sup>th</sup> April)

Year 9 Cup Semi finalists

Year 10 Cup Semi finalists

## Rugby

Year 9 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Area 7 a side competition

U12 – 4<sup>th</sup> Place



U14 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

U15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Year 9 Area 10 a side – 2<sup>nd</sup> place

## Netball

Year 7 – 6<sup>th</sup> Place

Mr Wharton

## **Battle of the Books**

Thirsk School students took part in the 'Battle of the Books' competition for the first time this year during the milieu of celebrations for World Book Day.

This is an annual Literary Quiz organized by Harrogate & District School Librarians' Group. The event was held this year at Queen Mary's Independent School, at Baldersby Park. Many North Yorkshire Schools usually participate, including St. Aidan's, Harrogate Grammar, St. John Fisher's, King James', Rossett School, Ripon Grammar, Ashville College. Some schools brought two teams rather than one.

'Girl of the Match' was Reah Bleasby, Thirsk School (front left) who won £25.00 worth of book tokens She answered every question correctly in the individual children's contest. It was like listening to Bobby Seagull on University Challenge! Our school team as a whole came joint fourth place with Queen Mary's. We think this was an excellent outcome for our students, given we were new to the competition and were up against schools which were well-seasoned in Battle of the Books'.

Author, Chris Mould, best known for his illustrations of George Orwell's Animal Farm and Ted Hughes' Iron Man', was question master for the evening. Chris said he was impressed by the enthusiasm for books and literature amongst Thirsk students and encouraged our pupils to 'keep reading'. In turn our team invited Chris to their Friday Morning Breakfast Reading Group which takes place in our school library. Chris responded readily and agreed to join us by planning an Author Visit for Friday 10 May to read with us, do some storytelling, illustration and book production.

There is much excitement amongst our students and we are all looking forward to Chris Mould's visit, which is a positive and direct outcome of taking part in the event.

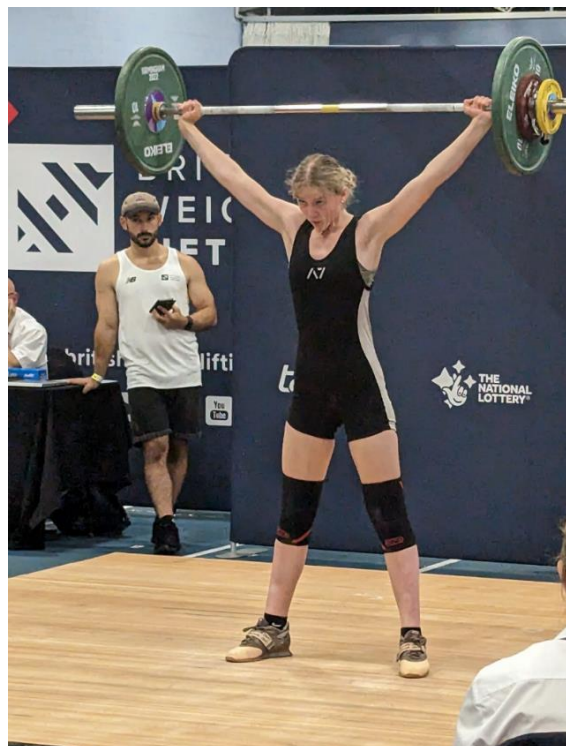
Mrs Lister





## Maya Hindmarch

Quite recently, Maya competed in the English National Weightlifting Championships. She gained a personal best, and won the silver medal in her age category. If you see her, do please congratulate her on her extraordinary achievement. Mr Hollis





## Year 8 at Beamish Museum

One of the highlights of the half term was undoubtedly the Year 8 trip to Beamish Museum on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March. Almost 200 students and 13 staff took the journey north to visit the re-imagined mining community at Beamish. 6 separate groups spread out across the site, lead by the History Department and other teachers and support staff. Students got the opportunity to explore an early 20<sup>th</sup> Century town, investigating dentistry, the local co-op, an early garage and the sweet shop. Travel across the site was mostly done via hiking, though some lucky students experienced taking the trams and buses across to the pit village and colliery. It is here, that Year 8's had the chance to go down the mine complete with hard hat to learn about the workings of coal mining. It was accompanied by an exciting workshop focused on the invention of the safety lamp to avoid the many accidents caused by gas explosions in earlier years. Close by was the pit village, and students explored the pit cottages as well as the chapel and local school, complete with playground and classroom activities. Many groups took the opportunity to sample the cuisine of the community, with some groups spotted with Victorian Ice Cream or Fish and Chips! The day was concluded courtesy of the gift shop, in which students displayed their keen eye for a bargain before heading to the coach for a well-deserved rest on the journey home. A great day!

Chris Hansen

## House Points

As we enter the penultimate week of the term, there are still lots of points for houses to win, with the inter-house sport competition, the world book day competition, and the accumulated points on Bromcom from effort across the school. Please could I remind you all to always use tutor time on Monday to check student engagement with the 'Be More Thirsk' section of the planner, and to update Bromcom points accordingly.

The points currently stand as:

1. Lanner: 3901
2. Grey: 3863
3. Peregrine: 3689
4. Prairie: 3578
5. Saker: 3140
6. Merlin: 2287

## Rotary Competition

A group of students attended the Technology Tournament run by the Rotary Club that took place at Catterick Garrison. The teams were challenged to design and build a launcher to fire a capsule into the air.



The capsule had to pass through a hoop at a height of 1 metre above the launch pad, reach a minimum height of 3 metres and return to earth as close as possible to the launch pad. Students worked in teams of 4 and competed against teams from other schools in our area. Our students demonstrated great creativity, resilience and team work as they designed and tested their inventions.

One of our key stage 3 foundation teams came second place! The highest Thirsk School has placed since in its history of entering the tournament! What a success!

Whilst the scoring was taking place students had the opportunity to look at some of the army vehicles too! A great day had by all involved! Miss Hullah





**ROTARY TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENTS**

**Thirsk School**  
Awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at Foundation Level in the Rotary Technology Tournament held at Catterick Garrison on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024

organised by the Rotary Clubs of Richmond, Thirsk, Northallerton, Northallerton Mowbray and Wensleydale with 1st Close Support Battalion REME

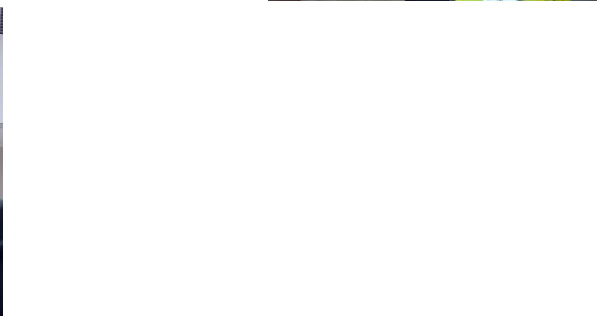
The Tournament provided an opportunity for using team-building skills in solving a design and technology problem, as well as practising oral, written and graphical communication skills.

David Phillips, District Governor  
Rotary District 1040

**Rotary**  **PEOPLE OF ACTION**

Teeganne Wilkes in our sixth form has been raising money for the Anthony Nolan Charity by running two miles every day. By doing this for a month she has raised over £400 (the equivalent of ten swab tests). Following the example of her fantastic work, several of our sixth form students have now registered to be on their list of stem cell donors- an amazing and generous gesture by our wonderful young people. Mrs Fletcher





## Footloose

In February Thirsk School once again presented an amazing showstopper to sell out audiences each night. Footloose the Musical proved to be the star musical we hoped it would be. Each night students of Thirsk took to the stage and belted out 'Footloose', 'Holding out for a Hero' and 'Let's Hear it for the Boy' along with a large number of other songs made famous from the film. Newcomer Thomas C successfully held stage as Reverend Shaw, matched with returning cast member Laura E as his ever faithful wife. Melissa W shone as the rebellious Ariel, delivering 'Holding out for a Hero' with the voice of a popstar. Eve A in her debut role as Ethel gave us a delightful element of motherly sas. Her son Ren, played with confidence and humour by Megan M held the shows storylines of hope and determination. With so many new faces in our cast it is hard to mention them all and of course to our Year 13s who we are always sad to see go in their final shows. Ava B W in her debut role on stage (joining us from the Band this year) and Ella S who has done a show every year since 2018 in her 'Back



to the 80s' debut. As she heads on to studying Drama at University, we know she'll be back to see us in future years. The team we have in Performing Arts always promises to make the annual school production a success. Mr Pierce Williams always loves it when 'the band are back together' and presents the quality of sound we love. Mrs Macdonald has an amazing eye for choreography and seems to know exactly what Mrs Stimson needs for the action. We look forward to announcing the show for next year through next term.





**TOGETHERNESS HONESTY INCLUSIVITY RESPECT SUPPORT KINDNESS**