

# The Barnsley Academy Way

## Character Newsletter

Issue #3 – Autumn 2023

### Vice Principal's Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we start a new year, on behalf of the team at Barnsley Academy, I would like to thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide your children with a school and curriculum experience that will give them the best opportunity to develop the character, values, and knowledge they will need to go on to live successful and fulfilling lives.

**Excellence  
is a habit**



Our character curriculum is the golden thread running through every aspect of the wider curriculum. We believe for students to thrive as adults they must have the opportunity to understand the world they live in and the issues and events that shape it. As part of our tutor time programme, students partake in Votes for Schools, where they vote on thought-provoking questions, as well as engaging with a range of fiction and non-fiction texts as part of our Tutor Time Reading programme - both vehicles to explore current and historical issues that have shaped our lives today.

We are unapologetically ambitious for our students. We know that academic success ensures that they leave with the qualifications and character that will give them choices and opportunities to thrive in life and work, which is why we incentivise ambition through Rank Order and with our Y11 students who have bought into our Gain A Grade initiative. We want our students to be passionate about learning and equally to understand that demonstrating ambition, determination and respect in life will be rewarded and acknowledged.

Beyond the classroom we continue to ensure that students can engage with a wealth of curriculum experiences. We continue to expose students to new and challenging situations. They continue to thrive, learn and grow as young people, and we believe that these opportunities will prepare them to be successful adults and employers as they encounter challenges in the future.

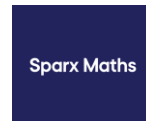
One of the many highlights of this term has been the continued progression of our KS3 MiSST programme; students performed in a Play Day with schools from around the north of the country, which we proudly hosted, culminating in a fantastic orchestral performance for families, friends and staff.

We have also hosted a range of events and guest speakers, including The Apprentice's Kathryn Burn and the Team Maths Challenge, as well as holding interviews for our prestigious Grammar Stream and Student Council Leadership Team.

As Spring term begins, we will continue to refine and strengthen our character curriculum offer as we work with you to develop the character, values and knowledge that will equip your children to achieve their full potential.

In closing, may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and hope that 2024 will be a year defined success, and treasured memories.

Mr McNicholas



# Student Voice

## Student Council



This term the student community came together to vote in our first ever Student Council elections. Overseen by Kaitlyn, Young Mayor of Barnsley, and our Student Leadership Team, students were elected by their peers to pass on any views and suggestions to staff and to work together to improve student experience. Each year group has a Student Prefect for each form, as well as a Year Prefect who coordinates their team. The Council also has representation from our teams of Ambassadors, as well as Empowering Young Women and staff-student representative. To be a Student Prefect is a privilege and we hope that our Prefects rise to the occasion. We are also delighted have candidates nominated for Barnsley Youth Council 2024.



## Active Citizenship Projects



During their PHSE lessons this year, pupils in Years 7-9 have taken part in a collaborative home learning project to form, plan, and evaluate a change they would like to implement in school. Students worked together to present their ideas – from making the school more accessible, why attendance matters, mental health, enrichment opportunities, to hosting Barnsley Academy's Got Talent – to their peers, before voting. The project with the best possible outcomes from each year will be presented to the Senior Leadership Team.



## Votes for Schools



To further promote the British value of democracy, this term students have taken part in the national Votes for Schools programme. Students have had their voices heard on a number of current affairs topics, helping them to think critically and consider different viewpoints.

## Black History Month

To recognise Black History Month in school, embedded through-out the form time curriculum weekly students celebrated Black women. In Votes for Schools, students voted alongside the nation to question; 'Are Black British women's stories told in our history?'





# Duke of Edinburgh

## Navigational Training

As part of our commitment to ensuring that students experience a wealth of opportunities at the Academy, this year we are proud to have had over eighty students achieve their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The Award involves four sections that young people need to complete to achieve Bronze – volunteering, physical, skills, and an expedition to develop students' independence and teamwork skills.



Before setting off on their expedition, students received training in nutrition, first aid, map reading, and how to put up a tent! They also took part in a 'lock in' at the Academy to prepare them for sleeping overnight. Having completed their practice expedition, students were raring to go for their walk to Silverwood Scout Camp.



## 'The BA Way Lock In'



## The Golden Birthday Tie



As part of the navigational training for the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, students participated in 'The BA Way Lock In'. Students camped out in the main hall overnight, bringing together all friendships across year groups.

## Wentworth Castle Gardens Volunteering



## The Expedition

Despite facing occasional obstacles along the way – wasps, blisters, and fields of cows to name a few – the students showed tremendous resilience and worked as a team to complete their expedition successfully. We are so incredibly proud of you all and we hope that you use the skills you have gained on Duke of Edinburgh in your future experiences.



**Success is a journey, not a destination**



# Moral and Intellectual Values

## Remembrance Service

In November, our school community once again gathered to commemorate those who have died in conflicts across the world, both historically and more recently.

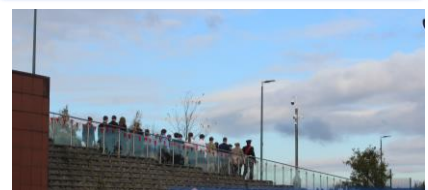
In our form time curriculum, students were encouraged to think critically about why remembrance is important and were reminded of the sacrifices made by others to ensure our freedoms.



The service was attended by all students and staff, as well as representatives from the Royal British Legion and the local community. Accompanied by our talented trumpeters, there were readings from staff and the Student Leadership Team, and a procession led by staff, Head Students, and our student cadets.



*"We are here today to remember all those young men and women who died in conflicts around the world, we must never forget what they did for us. My wife and I have for the last ten years volunteering to stand in supermarkets selling poppies and the response people who donate is wonderful, but we couldn't do it without Vicky the lady who organises everything for The Royal British Legion, She is here with us today god bless her. God Save the King"*



We were privileged to have Elliot (Year 11), winner of the United Learning Best in Everyone Award for Creative Writing, write an original poem celebrating and displaying our gratitude to those who gave their lives. Students then used this after the service as inspiration to create their own poetry and reflections on remembrance.

Elliot Stades  
Poppies that could grow  
On the soldiered soil below  
Rise high to the sun  
Victorious of the war we won  
At what price cost this strife?  
Was it worth one man's life?  
Or many soldiers that we left  
On Flanders Field for dead  
So, think in your hearts on the Sunday  
Of our saviours on that day  
Both who came home and who didn't  
And the bravery they represent  
Through their difficult fight  
And the future they made bright  
So, wear the poppies that grew  
To honour their sacrifice for you

Our thoughts continue to be with those caught up in conflicts around the world, particularly in Ukraine and in Israel-Palestine.

## 100% Every Day



# Scholarly Habits

## Scholarship Success

After success with scholarship applications to independent sixth forms last academic year, we have continued this progress this year. We had four students shortlisted and interviewed for the Orwell Award at Eton College (a full Sixth Form scholarship), as well as students being invited to assessment days at other independent schools. Fingers crossed for Elliot, who applied for a Creative Writing scholarship at St Mary's Cambridge, and for Emily, who has been invited for an assessment day at Workshop College.

Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard  
- Tim Notke



St Mary's School  
CAMBRIDGE



WORKSHOP COLLEGE  
AND  
RANBY HOUSE

## Greenhead College Visit



To broaden horizons and encourage students to think about life beyond Barnsley Academy, we took twenty-four Year 11 students to Greenhead College, an outstanding sixth form provider in Huddersfield, for an A Level taster evening. Greenhead is one of the best sixth form colleges in the country, with specialist programmes designed to prepare students for applications to Oxford and Cambridge Universities, as well as a diverse range of societies and student groups. Our students relished the chance to talk to current Greenhead students and were blown away by the experiences offered. This year we have had record numbers of students applying to Greenhead and we hope that this experience raises aspirations for future Barnsley Academy students.

## Grammar Stream

As part of our commitment to ensuring academic excellence, this year we have launched the Grammar Stream programme for our most academically able Year 7 students. The programme, aimed at stretching and challenging our students and encouraging them to deepen their love of learning, will help the participants to master concepts in Music and Maths, as well as better understanding the English language through Latin. After applying, interviewing, and taking part in a group task, we are thrilled to have twenty-seven participants in our first ever Grammar Stream cohort.

## Proud Friday



## MESME

Our most talented mathematicians in Year 7 and Year 8 have continued to be enthusiastic participants in the Mathematics Education for Social Mobility and Excellence (MESME) programme.

The Year 7 cohort have recently completed block one of the programme, involving attendance to ten sessions on how to think like a university mathematician – demonstrating a sense of adventure, curiosity, and acceptance.



## Maths Challenge

A number of our Key Stage 3 students took part in the nationwide UL Maths Challenge. They achieved some outstanding results. Well done!



## Christian Foley



We welcomed spoken word poet Christian Foley to the Academy to deliver a workshop to our Y10 students. We hope that this has inspired and supported them as they progress through their GCSE studies.



We are what we repeatedly do.



# Education with Character

## Year 7 receive their instruments



## MiSST North Play Day

Having successfully introduced the MiSST programme at the Academy last academic year, we were privileged to host our first Play Day this term. We hosted schools from across the North of England to practice their instruments and perform together as an ensemble. This was a great opportunity to show visitors some of the amazing things happening within the Academy. Our Year 8 cohort on the trumpet and clarinet and our Year 7s on violin and flute were joined by three other schools to develop their musical skills and perfect their technique. They worked seamlessly together to create and perform.



At the end of the day, the students came together as an ensemble to perform pieces that they had worked on throughout the day. Performing a range of pieces from artists such as Dua Lipa and Carol Britten Chambers, the informal concert reminded us of how much progress students have made since first picking up their instruments. We are extremely proud of the effort our students have put in to practicing and deepening their musical knowledge.

## NYO Inspire Day

In the October half term holiday, the Academy hosted an Inspire Day for the National Youth Orchestra. NYO Inspire aims to support young musicians who have a passion for music to overcome barriers to musical education, and we were delighted to be the venue for one of their prestigious events. Young people from around the country came together to create and perform a variety of instruments, from cello to French horn. This event has put the Academy on the map as a school where music is a priority.



100% Every Day



# Music

## Barnsley Music Hub Winter Concert



We were delighted that our Year 7 and 8 musicians were offered the chance to perform at the Barnsley Civic Centre in the Barnsley Music Hub Winter Concert. All had a great time.



## Winter Concert



## Open Evening

We had over 130 students stay back to help at our Year 6 Open Evening. We were blown away by their character and commitment: they certainly demonstrated the progress and success the school is making.

In December the Main Hall was filled with the sound of beautiful harmonies as Barnsley Academy hosted our first winter concert. There were performances from a range of year groups and genres – from our Year 11 Rock Band, to our KS3 choir, to our band new percussion ensemble. It was a fitting way to end a term filled with musical success.

## Choir Performance



Our Key Stage 3 choir brought festive cheer and warmth to parents and carers of Student Prefects as they performed a selection of traditional and modern Christmas songs.

## Percussion Ensemble

This term we have put together the Academy's first ever percussion ensemble overseen by Mr Rodney. As part of our enrichment programme, students have been learning how to play the drums, piano, and xylophone to create rhythmic compositions and performed for the first time as a collective during the winter concert.

## Upcoming Events

The Music Department is pleased to announce a host of upcoming musical events and performances:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024** – Choral Evensong at **St Paul's Cathedral, London**
- 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024** – Battle of the Bands, Horizon Community College
  - MiSST Residential, Gresham's School
  - MiSST 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert, **The Roundhouse, London**

## 100% Every Day





# Recognition and Rewards

**You Said...**

**...We Did**

**Gain a Grade**



**Bank 1000**

We have introduced 'Bank 1000' this year to motivate students to make positive choices and contributions to school life, both in lessons and during extracurricular activities. Students who 'bank' 1000 positive behaviour points – through merits, golden tickets, and participation in form and enrichment clubs/activities within an achievable timeframe have the opportunity to be recognised for their commitment throughout the year for bespoke events. Student achieving merits have received postcards home from 200+ upwards congratulations to all!



**End of Autumn  
Term 1  
Year 7 & 8**

As part of our commitment to ensuring that all students leave Barnsley Academy with the best grades possible, we have started our 'Gain a Grade' initiative with Year 11 students. Every time a student achieves something that will help them to gain more marks in their GCSEs, they receive a token which will contribute to the year group receiving a reward of their choosing – from selection boxes to a ticket to Alton Towers. Keep going Year 11!



**End of  
Autumn  
Term 1  
Year 9 &  
10**



**Work hard, be kind**



# Recognition and Rewards

## Madame Crêpe

To celebrate their efforts in their Modern Languages homework, sixty students in Years 7-9 were invited to receive a crepe from local business Madame Crepe. Students were excited to order in French and it was a joy to hear their beautiful accents.



## Choose Kindness



This term we have actively rewarded those students in all year groups who are 'Obviously Kind' by introducing our 'Choose Kindness' award. Students nominate a member of their form who has shown kindness and respect to others, and each week a student from each year group is celebrated in their assembly and awarded a 'Choose Kindness' keyring. Students display their keyrings with pride, and this has been a popular way to encourage character development and individual success.

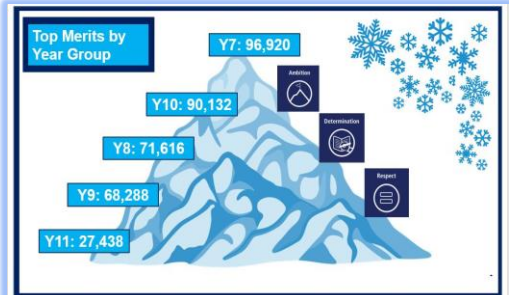
## Character Awards



At Barnsley Academy, we are proud to have so many students who consistently demonstrate the character virtues of Ambition, Determination and Respect. Character Awards occur three times a year: we look forward to our next winners.



## Form Rewards



In the last week of term, the form in each year group with the highest number of positive behaviour points received a treat of a breakfast sandwich and the chance to play Uno together during form time achieving some additional social time. Congratulations to the winning forms in Year 7, 8, 9, and 10.

## End of Autumn Term 2

To celebrate the end of term, all students enjoyed a Christmas dinner and quiz with their year group in recognition of their hard work and perseverance throughout the first term of the year.

## 10 Days of Christmas Attendance Award Winners

Students who achieved 100% attendance were put into a draw. Congratulations to the worthy recipients of a £50 restaurant voucher.



**Work hard, be kind**



# Capturing Enrichment

## Football Success

Despite it being in the last week of term, our Year 8 boys showed no tiredness whatsoever in a stunning 10-3 victory over Netherwood in their league fixture. The team overcame first-half adversity with a close scoreline of 3-2 to display fantastic teamwork and resilience in the second half. Well done especially to Kai, who led the second-half charge, and Nikodem, who scored a hat-trick. *Mr Parkinson*



## Basketball

## Drama Group

Adding to our already busy enrichment timetable, this term we have started up a musical theatre and drama group for our budding actors and actresses. The group has developed their script-reading skills, increased their confidence in performing to an audience, and honed their acting and musical techniques.



This term saw our first ever formal basketball fixtures, with students competing against other schools from across Barnsley. Our Year 7 team put in an incredible effort in their first ever fixture against Kettlethorpe High School, kicking off their campaign in the NBA Junior League. Despite a narrow loss, our Year 10/11 team fought bravely against Kettlethorpe in their fixture. Samuel (Y10) gained recognition from the captain of Sheffield Sharks, a high-level national team, for his efforts on court. We hope to continue our progress next term.

## Pumpkin Carving



## Cooking



## Financial Maths



## Horrible Histories



## Science Club

We are proud to offer a range of co-curricular enrichment clubs. Sign up at [www.barnsley-academy.org/education-with-character/enrichment-programme](http://www.barnsley-academy.org/education-with-character/enrichment-programme)



Knowledge is Power



# Education with Character

## Maths City, Leeds



As part of our activities for National Maths Week, a group of talented mathematicians visited Maths City in Leeds. The students explored hands-on exhibits and learned about the role that maths plays in societies around the world. Our students engaged with all activities, and some didn't want to leave! We hope that this inspires them to develop their maths skills in all aspects of life.



## Hornsea, Field Trip

Our Year 11 geographers took part in an enjoyable and productive fieldwork day in Hornsea on the Holderness Coast. Students demonstrated resilience in the pouring rain to investigate the sea defences and how effective they are. The students' hard work was rewarded with fish and chips and time in the arcade. *Ms Grocott*

## Year 11 Kingswood Residential

On a chilly Friday in October, sixty-five Year 11 students set off to Kingswood Activity Centre for a play and stay residential weekend. Highlights included zipline racing, the scrapheap challenge, and high ropes. There was even some impromptu karaoke around the campfire. Students engaged with all activities, and it was a fantastic way to build character and resilience as we move into the build up for GCSE exams.



In December our Year 11 Sports Studies students attended a residential at High Adventure outdoor activity centre to help them get on top of their coursework.

## High Adventure

## Lille, France



In December, the Modern Languages department took a group of forty Year 11 French students to Lille in Northern France to experience French culture and take in the sights and sounds of one of France's most important cities. Despite the early start, students were raring to go, with it being the first trip abroad for many. A guide on tour of the Old Town, visits to the famous Christmas market, and a traditional French meal were among the highlights as the group experienced authentic French culture.

## Yorkshire Sculpture Park



To inspire our Year 10 Art and Design and Photography students as they embark on their GCSE courses, we visited the Hepworth Gallery in Wakefield, followed by the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Students documented their visit with experimental drawings and photography, gathering inspiration for their GCSE coursework through the array of art and sculpture that they saw.

**Character Caught, Taught and Sought.**



# Leadership and Careers

## BBC's The Apprentice Workshop



We welcomed Kathryn Burn, runner-up on The Apprentice in 2022, to the Academy to deliver a lecture and workshop to our Year 10 students. Kathryn delivered dynamic and engaging sessions, using her wealth of experience in business to inspire our students and give them an insight into what running your own business involves.



## COP28 Simulation

In November, a group of our Year 10 students participated in a climate conference simulation at William Hulme's Grammar School in Manchester. Students played the part of world leaders and media representatives and took part in a real-life climate project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## Student Leadership Workshop



Fresh from the results of the Student Council elections, our new Student Prefects participated in a leadership development day to build their leadership and teamwork skills and encourage them to think creatively about what ideas could improve the student experience. After reflecting on their own leadership styles, our Prefects then worked in teams to create ambitious projects for improving school life. Despite only meeting some of their peers that day, the Prefects gelled extremely well together and produced innovative ideas with focus and determination.



## Health and Social Care Careers Day

Y10 Health and Social Care students had the opportunity to attend 'We Care into the Future' event held at Barnsley Metrodome.

On arrival, students followed a simulated patient's journey led by health and social care professionals. They were shown how the patient experiences care in an emergency department, a hospital ward, their local GP and back to the community, and the different roles that are required to deliver this care.



The students then attended the careers marketplace, with representation from Barnsley health and care providers including staff members from Barnsley Hospital, South West Yorkshire NHS Foundation Trust, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, Barnsley's Primary Care Network, Barnsley Council and further education providers.

This was a fantastic opportunity for the students, and they were able to understand the different job opportunities in the Health and Social Care field.

**Be Remarkable**



# The Big Picture

## Christmas Gratitude Parents and Carers



## Kindness begins with me.

To mark the election of the Student Council, we invited the parents of our new student prefects into school to celebrate their children's achievements. We were delighted to be able to discuss the next steps in developing Student Voice at the Academy. We look forward to building on this relationship as the year progresses.



## International World Kindness Day Award Winners



Our Senior Prefects were proud to deliver food parcels to support members of our local community.



## Closing remarks from The Director of Character Education

Reflecting on our Commitment Term with an overarching theme of Kindness - it is evident that the culture of character has been established and celebrated in all aspects of our school life. We are incredibly thankful to our wider community for supporting us by embracing our methods and encouraging students to create a sense of belonging; as we witness so many proudly identify as a Barnsley Academy student – using their voices to build a space for all to flourish as individuals. We have focused this term on embedding our nine-character virtues as we introduce individual icons seen on the front cover to support students in climbing their own mountain to success. We are working on our website and hope to make this a successful communication platform with parents/carers with student access. We look forward to welcoming you and your families into the Academy in Spring 2024.-Ms. Kilbane

Hard work beats talent

### Upcoming Events

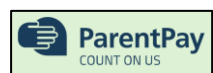
**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>**  
January: Year 11  
Progress Evening

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup>**  
February: Year 9  
Options and Progress  
Evening



Arbor is our parent communication platform, where you can view behaviour, messages from school, and parental consents. Please contact school if you cannot log in.

ParentPay is where you can pay for school meals, any extra items your child may require, and school trips. Please contact school if you cannot log in.



Website  
<https://www.barnsley-academy.org/>

**Character is doing the right thing when nobody is looking.**