

The Barnsley Academy Way

Character Newsletter

Vice Principal's Welcome

Issue #1 – Spring 2023

I am delighted to welcome you to the first edition of our new, termly newsletter, *The Barnsley Academy Way*. This newsletter will keep you up to date with what is going on within school and on key events and news relating to the Character Education programme here at Barnsley Academy.

Our aim for all our students is that they leave at the end of Year 11, not just with an outstanding set of academic qualifications, but also with outstanding values, a wide array of curricular and extra-curricular experiences and the character to succeed in their chosen path.

The Academy values of **Ambition**, **Determination** and **Respect** are at the heart of all we do, and we continue to seek out opportunities to ensure students, staff and visitors to the school live and breathe these values each day.

Ambition - To achieve the best for ourselves and others; we do not settle for the ordinary.

Determination - To overcome obstacles and reach success.

Respect - Show due regard and consideration for the feelings, beliefs, or rights of others and for ourselves.

I would like to thank and congratulate the significant majority of students who demonstrate these values and who work hard each week to grow and develop as people, as well as learners. We take great pride in celebrating outstanding examples of these values being displayed by students, especially where it impacts positively on others within our school community.

For instance, we were extremely proud recently of a group of ten students who undertook a day's training in Manchester as part of the prestigious Diana Award Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme. Our anti-bullying ambassadors are key student leadership roles within the Academy and are helping to promote mutual respect and to support all students to make the right decisions, at the right time, for the right reasons.

We are looking forward to a busy summer term in which we hope to achieve our Silver Award as a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. Students are continually making progress in their form time curriculum, learning that distinguishing between right and wrong is not always straightforward, and appreciating that an individual's values, beliefs, and moral codes change over time. As a Rights Respecting school, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is fundamental in our school practice, and we believe the best interests of the children are a priority. Alongside this, we hope to be accredited with our Character Kitemark Award by the Jubilee Centre.

Martin Luther King said, 'Intelligence plus character – that is the goal of true education.' This newsletter is intended to give you a sense of how we support students to achieve this goal during their time at Barnsley Academy. I hope you enjoy reading about the many events that have taken place this academic year and the character students have shown that has led to many wonderful individual and collective successes.

Have a lovely Easter break and we look forward to continuing our collective character journey next term.

Best wishes,

Steve Pitcher
Vice Principal – Culture and Ethos



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Ambition

Determination

Respect

Education with Character

Welcome Message

Broadly speaking, Character Education refers to educating the part of the self that makes difficult and moral decisions. We believe people can **catch** good character from those around them, who we refer to as being 'role models'. People can be **taught** it theoretically through our curriculum or find it through **sought** opportunities in our informal enrichment activities. It is our mission that everyone in our school community flourishes and inspires other citizens to create obviously kind communities and a better world. The goal of building Character Education *The Barnsley Academy Way* is to give pupils the wisdom to work out what the wisest action is in a particular situation, the courage to do it, and the integrity to do it for the right reasons. At Barnsley Academy, we believe personal responsibility is essential to our collective success. We take ownership for our words, actions and choices. Everything we do in school is about preparing students to be happy and successful in life. *Ms Kilbane* (Director of Character Education)

Success is a science; if you have the conditions, you get the results. – Oscar Wilde



Year 11 Success

Year 11 have shown an incredible drive to succeed in their GCSEs, with high attendance in the Success Lounge, morning meetings, Period 7, and tutoring sessions. To reward their efforts, students have been given Golden Tickets and free tickets to Alton Towers. Keep going Year 11!



Scholarship Awards

Drew, Krystyna, Hazel and Daria (all Y11) have applied for scholarships at Eton, Ampleforth, and Wakefield Girls High School this year. From 100s of applications for Eton's Orwell Award, Drew was invited to a selection weekend with the final 30 candidates. Congratulations to Hazel and Daria who were both awarded academic scholarships demonstrating their effort and ambition. We are **incredibly proud** of all the Year 11 students who stepped out of their comfort zone and applied to some fantastic institutions in Barnsley and beyond .



We are what we repeatedly do.

Education with Character

Remembrance Day



"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. / At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them."
For the Fallen (Laurence Binyon)



The Academy marked Remembrance Day on the 11th November with a whole-school commemoration service, attended by representatives from the Royal British Legion. Speeches and poems were recited by staff and students, and Miss Morgan gave an emotional performance of the Last Post on the trumpet while we observed the two-minute silence. We remembered the victims of the two World Wars, as well as more recently those who have been caught up in the violence in Ukraine.

Holocaust Memorial Day

We marked Holocaust Memorial Day this year with assemblies and tutor time character education where we encouraged students to think deeply about what they are grateful for and commemorated those who gave their lives in the Holocaust.



Despite everything, I believe that people are really good at heart – Anne Frank

PROUD Fridays

We have introduced 'PROUD Fridays', where students can bring their work at lunchtime to present it to members of the Senior Leadership Team and receive a reward for fantastic presentation. This is to encourage students to take pride in their work and to be recognised for the time and effort they put into their classwork.



Restart a Heart



Our Year 9 students were given CPR training as part of the British Heart Foundation's 'Restart a Heart' Awareness Day. The students were taught when to use CPR and learned how to perform hands-only CPR. This is an essential First Aid skill and students are now equipped with the knowledge to help in an emergency and to potentially save lives.

100% Every Day

Education with Character



The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Training

Ten students attended anti-bullying training, run by the Diana Award, in Manchester this month. They were taught all of the skills needed to promote an anti-bullying culture and came away with big ideas for projects in school. Gracie (Y9) said that she was smiling so much that her cheeks were hurting! Fantastic effort and respect – well done all.

Odd Socks Day

Celebrating individuality and promoting Anti-Bullying Week in school



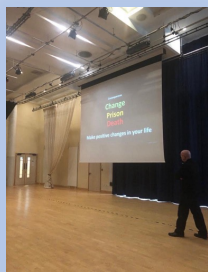
LGBTQ+ History Month

In February we marked LGBTQ+ History Month in school by focussing on LGBTQ+ character role models who have demonstrated excellence and our character values in their lives and careers. It is important that we recognise the ongoing fight for LGBTQ+ equality and recognise the progress made so far to promote LGBTQ+ rights.



Your Life, Your Choice

This year we have hosted representatives from South Yorkshire Police to deliver special assemblies to our Year 9s and Year 10s. PC Norton and other police officers spoke to our students about the importance of making the right choices in their teenage years and signposted resources and support for students who may be struggling with choices as they are growing up.



Spectrum



This term, we welcomed Spectrum to the Academy to speak to our Year 7 students about puberty, growing up, and making positive choices while they are navigating their teenage years. Students engaged brilliantly with all sessions and are now equipped with the knowledge they need to succeed as a young person in today's society.

Festive Celebrations

On the last day of the Autumn term, students enjoyed lots of festive activities, including hot chocolate, a form quiz, Christmas Jumper Day, and a visit from Santa Claus himself!



Success is a journey, not a destination

Education with Character

CyberFirst Girls' Competition

Isabelle, Lauren, and Aimee (Y8) competed in the final of the CyberFirst Girls' Competition at Sheffield Hallam University. The team competed against other schools and worked together to solve cybersecurity challenges and problems posed to them. The girls used computational thinking and showed an understanding beyond their years. Well done on your determination.



Maths Challenge Success



Over 150 students entered the Intermediate Maths Challenge this term, where they had to use logic and mathematical reasoning to solve difficult problems. Congratulations to our Year 9 and 10 students who received bronze and silver certificates.



Author Visit

For World Book Week, our student literacy ambassadors organised a visit from local author Jennifer Burkinshaw to deliver talks to Years 7-10. Jennifer spoke about the importance of reading for pleasure and her debut novel 'Igloo'. Jennifer admired our students' ambition and remarked on how respectful they were.



Up The Swanee



We welcomed Ian McMillan, Bard of Barnsley, and composer Luke Carver Goss to the Academy for poetry and music workshops discovering the hidden beauty of Kendray. The work that the students created will become part of a Musical production community project celebrating the history of the local area

Thanks so much for organising that brilliant day the Barnsley Academy; that booklet they did was really good. They're working really hard to get the best out of the young people there, and you can quote me on that!

*All the best
Ian McMillan*

All I have learned, I learned from books – Abraham Lincoln

Knowledge is Power

Recognition and Rewards

Birthdays



On their birthdays, all students receive a gold tie and a cookie as they come into school so that staff and students can wish them happy birthday.



This has made a positive difference to school and students feel accepted and celebrated on their special day.

Celebration Reward Assemblies

We have been delighted to recognize students who have an outstanding attitude to learning and are consistently ambitious, determined, and respectful in our end of term rewards assemblies. Congratulations to Holly (Y7), Lucas (Y8), Olivia (Y9), and Alfie (Y10) who received Meadowhall gift cards in the prize draw in December.



Scolosaurus



Scolosaurus badges given to the five highest-achieving students in each year group to reward their hard work.

MFL Crêpe Rewards

To reward their hard work and attitude to learning in languages, fifty of our students with the highest grade in Ambition, Determination and Respect were invited to have a crêpe with a topping of their choice from Madame Crêpe. They were brilliantly ambitious and even ordered in French!



Work hard, be kind

Enrichment

MiSST Away Days

A large group of our budding Year 7 musicians attended the MiSST Together Day in Warwickshire this term. They spent the day rehearsing as part of an orchestra, in sectionals, a choir and delivered a concert, performing music by Bologne, Ruiz and Lizzo! We received some lovely comments from the MiSST staff and from the host school – they represented the school fantastically well and should all be incredibly proud of the progress they have made on their instruments so far. *Miss Morgan*



Cooking Club

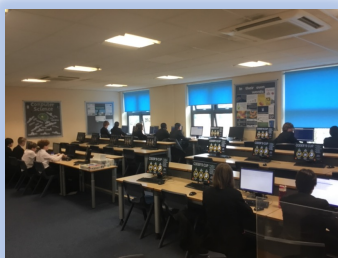
This year the Year 7 cooking club has dished up stir fries, pancakes, pizza toast, and shortbread to name a few! The group has gained new skills and independence and have even been cooking for their families at home.



Coding Club

This year the coders have split into teams led by our Year 10s in order to train for the end of year coding tournament. The coders have created a variety of computer programs including a virtual Magic 8 Ball.

Mr Smith



Battle of the Bands



Seven of our students performed at the Battle of the Bands competition at Horizon Community College this term, competing against ten other bands from schools across Barnsley. Rebecca, Lily (both Y11), Tegan, Maja, Holly, Zofia, and Marrissa (all Year 10) performed 'Plug In Baby' by Muse and came fifth in the competition overall.

Chess Championship

After weeks of practice and some intense games, we held the Chess Club Competition Final in December. Our finalists were Kaden (Y7) and Dev (Y9), with Dev emerging victorious and winning his own chess board. Congratulations, Dev!



Extracurricular Sport

Our extracurricular sports clubs have been fantastically attended this year. We have clubs for basketball, badminton, netball, and girls' and boys' football. Please feel free to come and join any of the sports clubs on offer – they are for all abilities!



100% Every Day

Enrichment

European Kickboxing Champion

In December, Jack (Y11) won the junior European kickboxing championship, adding to his vast collection of titles. Jack is now the Northern, English, British, Four Nations, and European Champion and won three gold medals at the world championships in Turkey in November. Jack is now hoping to defend his British title as well as competing at the world championships in Germany and Australia.



Dodgeball Success



Our Year 7 and 8 girls' dodgeball team represented Barnsley at the South Yorkshire School Games finals after beating Trinity St Edwards. Although it took us a few games to get into the swing, the girls put in a fantastic performance and came third overall, competing against schools from across the county.

Christmas Markets in Lille

In December, forty of our Year 11 French and Spanish students travelled to Lille, France, to explore the Christmas markets and practice their language skills. The students went sightseeing in the city, visited a waffle factory, and bought any last-minute Christmas presents – all in the space of 24 hours! The students returned with fantastic stories and memories which they will have for the rest of their lives.



Year 11 Residential

To reward their hard work, Year 11 students were invited to a residential weekend of studying and activities at Kingswood Outdoor Activity Centre. A jam-packed itinerary had been prepared for our group, including buggy building, ziplining, scrapheap challenge, and a campfire. The students were fantastic - a special mention must go to the volunteers in the scrapheap challenge who modelled the 'outfits' made from cardboard boxes and bin bags! A highlight of the trip was the campfire, where students toasted marshmallows on the fire and made smores, before getting involved in some singing and dancing in the fresh air.

It's hard to beat a man who never gives up

Character and Careers

Miss Bell

Miss Bell is the Assistant Vice Principal for Scholarship and is the Academy's Careers Lead. Should you have any queries or feedback in regards to our careers programme and Post-16 provision, please get in contact with her at rosie.bell@barnsley-academy.org



University and College Visits

This year we have taken groups of students in Years 9 and 11 to visit the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Students spent time exploring colleges at the universities and experienced taster sessions at different departments. They were able to learn about university life and careers in different subjects and soaked up the atmosphere of two of the oldest and best universities in the world.



Business Competition

Our Year 10 Business students participated in a competition judged by the local chilled foods company FreshPak. The students had to design, develop, and present a concept for a new cereal. Congratulations to Melissa, Olivia, Hannah, and Casey, who impressed the judges with their innovative design and received positive feedback from FreshPak.

Royal Navy Chefs



Our Year 10 Hospitality and Catering Students received a visit from two Royal Navy chefs this term. The chefs helped our students to develop their catering skills and set them a timed challenge to prepare smoked haddock fishcakes and summer berry pavlovas. The resulting dishes were absolutely delicious!

Year 9 Skills Development Session

The Department of Work and Pensions came into school on the 30th and 31st March to work with our Year 9 students on the development of the soft skills employers require. They were introduced to the importance of resilience, communication and problem-solving skills within the workplace and completed activities that helped develop these essential traits. We will continue to reiterate the importance of developing these skills as they move through their GCSE years.



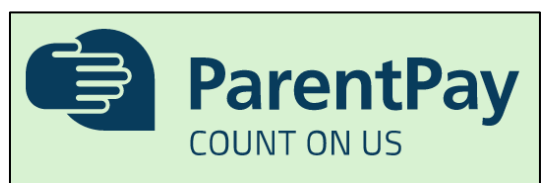
Be Remarkable

Key Dates

18th April 2023	What makes you tick? An introduction to careers with Year 7 and 8
24th – 25th April 2023	Y7 MiSST 10th Anniversary Celebration (Drury Lane, London)
26th April 2023	Junior Maths Challenge
10th May 2023	Soccer Aid – Charity Event
17th May 2023	Worsbrough Ward Alliance Barnsley Council Telecom Project
18th May 2023	Year 11 Concert
9th – 10th June 2023	Duke of Edinburgh Training Days (Group 1)
23rd June 2023	Culture Day
27th June 2023	Y10 French Cinema Trip (Showroom Cinema)
10th - 11th July 2023	Duke of Edinburgh Expedition Group 1



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.

Character is doing the right thing when nobody is looking