

The Barnsley Academy Way

Character Newsletter



Ambition

Determination

Respect

Issue #2 – Summer 2023

Welcome from the Director of Character Education

As we reach the end of a very successful school year, we are delighted to be able to share so many **outstanding** achievements, experiences, and success stories from our **ambitious, determined, and respectful** students and staff. Firstly, I would like to thank families and everyone in the wider Academy community for sharing support, kind words, and expressing gratitude locally and beyond. It has been wonderful to meet and greet so many of you at our events this year as we build upon that **sense of belonging** and share in your child's journey to success.

This year, we have observed the vast majority of our students adapting to new routines and ways of thinking through our Character Curriculum. This structure has enabled them to flourish on their chosen pathway and has been at the heart of building an education of **excellence** and **character** in everything that we do. *Our most important purpose is to teach young people things they would not learn outside school, which free them to think and act more powerfully.* At the Academy, we are proud to offer our students an array of opportunities that challenge them and allow them to take part in new experiences, explore their interests, and develop their talents. These include our experience pledges, the Aspire programme, celebrating achievements, rewards and recognition of success, co-curricular clubs, our personal development curriculum, student leadership opportunities, and inclusive ambassador roles.

For example, we are extremely proud of the progress Year 7 students have made during our first year in the Music in Secondary Schools Trust programme. This transformative experience has made classical music accessible to a new generation of young people and has led to unforgettable, life-changing experiences. We have also had the pleasure of watching so many resilient and determined characters emerge and develop through the Duke of Edinburgh offering in Year 9 and 10 and they should be incredibly proud of their achievements.

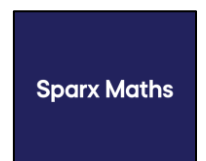
On a more personal note, the most important highlight has been spending time with students and listening to them share their thoughts and opinions about what they want from school and how we can best support their development, both personally and academically.

We look forward to working with you again in the next academic year but, for now, I wish you and your families a wonderful summer.

Kirsty Kilbane
Director of Character Education



'I never dreamed about success, I worked for it.'
-Estee Lauder



[www.facebook.com/
BarnsleyAcademyUL](https://www.facebook.com/BarnsleyAcademyUL)



[@BarnsleyAcadem1](https://twitter.com/BarnsleyAcadem1)



[@barnsleyacademy1443](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBarnsleyAcademy1443)

Education with Character

UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools

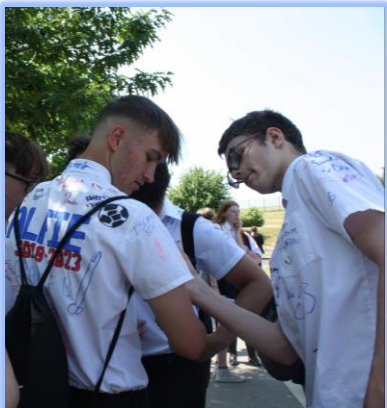
As part of our ongoing commitment to our Character Curriculum, we are pleased to announce that we have been awarded the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award. With contributions from staff, student panels, parents, governors, and the wider school community, this is a true reflection of the work that everyone in the school community has been doing since the start of this year and the commitment to making children's rights a priority in our school and through our curriculum. We now look towards achieving the Gold Award.



'Education, by its very nature should help people to develop their best selves'
- Nel Noddings

Year 11 Success

After countless hours of revision, preparation, and exams, we said goodbye to our Class of 2023 Year 11 students at the end of their Barnsley Academy journey this term. We are so proud of their collective efforts and their commitment to demonstrating their hard work over the years. Congratulations Year 11, and good luck in the future!



Best in Everyone Awards

We were delighted to attend the United Learning 'Best in Everyone' Awards in Birmingham in June to celebrate the achievements of three of our students. Elliot (Creative Writing), Jack (Sportsman of the Year), and Drew (Computing) were selected as award winners out of over 400 nominations from United Learning schools across the country. We are so proud of their hard work and are thrilled that their achievements have been recognised on a national level.



We are what we repeatedly do.

Education with Character

Soccer Aid

There was a buzz in the air on Wednesday 10th May as we hosted our first ever Soccer Aid charity event in school. After learning about sports nutrition and tactics, and of course creating banners and posters to support their forms, students gave their best efforts. Tennis football, kick rounders, five-a-side, and an obstacle course were enjoyed by all despite the rain threatening to dampen the fun!



Former Barnsley FC player Kevin Betsy was at the event to check out the student talent on display and select two students from each year group to attend the Soccer Aid match at Old Trafford. The students were an absolute credit to themselves and the school, and collectively raised over £1000 for Barnsley Hospice.



Congratulations to Jasmine, Matthew, and Lewis (Y7), Isabelle and Emmanuel (Y8), Gracie and Archie (Y9), and Zach, Tegan and Courtney (Y10) who were selected by Kevin to go to the match at Old Trafford!

100% Every Day

Education with Character

Culture Day

To celebrate the rich variety of cultures in our school community, as well as promote the British value of tolerance, Barnsley Academy held its very first Culture Day this term. After weeks of preparation and work from students and staff, the school community was welcomed by the flags of all the nations we are proud to have in school and took part in themed lessons throughout the day, exploring what culture means to them.

Students learned a host of new skills – from street dance to Gaelic football to making sushi – and were able to take pride in their heritage and teaching others about this. Thank you to our culture ambassadors for their dedication to making this a highlight of the year!

Theme:
Around the World

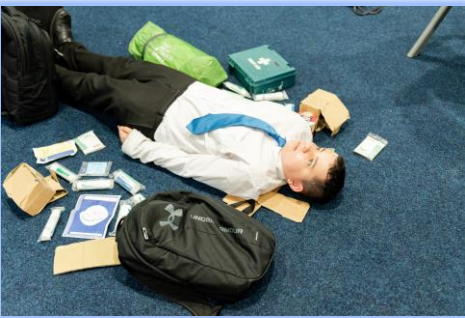


At Barnsley Academy we are proud to speak:

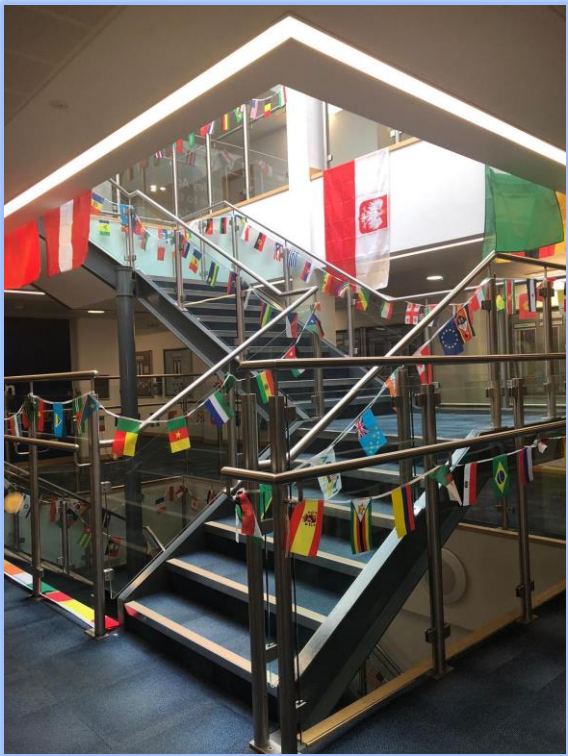
- ❖ Abkhazian
- ❖ Akan/Twi-Fante
- ❖ Albanian
- ❖ Arabic
- ❖ Bulgarian
- ❖ Chinese (Mandarin)
- ❖ English
- ❖ French
- ❖ Greek
- ❖ Hungarian
- ❖ Irish
- ❖ Kurdish
- ❖ Latvian
- ❖ Lithuanian
- ❖ Marathi
- ❖ Moldovan



- ❖ Ndebele
- ❖ Panjabi
- ❖ Pashto
- ❖ Persian
- ❖ Polish
- ❖ Romanian
- ❖ Russian
- ❖ Shona
- ❖ Sinhala
- ❖ Slovak
- ❖ Spanish
- ❖ Swahili
- ❖ Tamil
- ❖ Turkish
- ❖ Ukrainian
- ❖ Yoruba



Performance art inspired by Venezuelan refugee crisis photographer



African drumming in Music



Origami in Maths



Street dance at break



Gaelic football in PE



Rolling sushi in Food Technology

100% Every Day

Education with Character

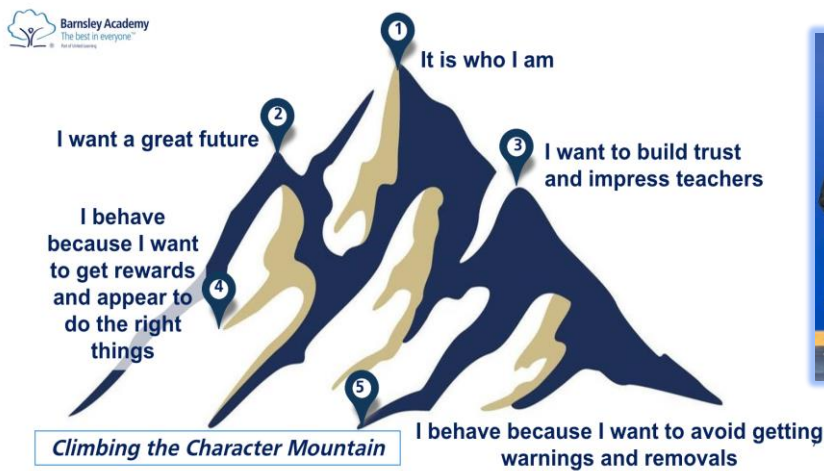


Success is a science; if you have the conditions, you get the results.
– Oscar Wilde

Young Mayor of Barnsley

We were thrilled to hear that Kaitlyn (Year 9) has been elected as this year's Young Mayor of Barnsley. Kaitlyn will now represent all young people across Barnsley and will promote and contribute to campaigns that are most important to them. Congratulations on your election, Kaitlyn – we can't wait to see what you do in your role.

Top of the Character Mountain Rewards



Head Students Announcement

After weeks of preparation, interviews, videos, and voting across staff and students, the results are in! We are delighted to introduce Barnsley Academy's Head Students and the Student Leadership Team for the 2023/24 academic year. A huge well done to you all!

Head Students: Marrissa and Makomborero

Deputy Head Students: Antonio and Prince



Student Leadership Team 2023-24

Lilyblue, Elliot, Marrissa, Jess, Maja, Libby, Prince, Makomborero, Antonio, and Hannah



'It is an honour being a part of the student leadership team and it will be a pleasure working with my teachers for the rest of my days at Barnsley Academy'
Makomborero, Head Student 2023-24

'Thank you for choosing me as Head Student – I am so excited to work with you all next year'
Marrissa, Head Student 2023-24

Success is a journey, not a destination

Music

MiSST 10th Anniversary

In April, our Year 7 musicians came together with students from across the nation to perform at the MiSST 10th Anniversary Concert at the Theatre Royal in London. Playing on a huge stage with an audience of hundreds (including Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jason Donovan) was a life-changing experience for our students and demonstrates the impact of a classical music education.



The Big Singathon

Three of our students took part in Barnsley Youth Choir's annual Big Singathon this summer to raise money so that young people can attend the choir. Zofia (Y10), Maja (Y10) and Autumn (Y9) sang for twelve hours overnight with the choir and helped to raise over £14,000. Well done girls!



Year 11 Concert

The Main Hall was filled with beautiful symphonies in June as our Year 11 musicians performed for the final time at the Academy. Performing on guitar, drums, keyboard, and piano, the students performed both well-known songs and their own compositions. Well done on your determination!



Year 7 Concert

After a full year with their clarinets and trumpets, our Year 7 MiSST students put on a wonderful performance for parents, carers and staff at the end of term. Performing a variety of songs, the students showed their tremendous progress throughout the year. Well done especially to Abigail, Charles, Toby, and Kimberley who performed solos.



MiSST Residential



Seven of our Year 7 MiSST students had the opportunity to attend a residential trip at Gresham's School to perform with students from across the country. Despite a few nerves beforehand, they were soon getting stuck in to rehearsals, outdoor activities, and getting the full experience of boarding school life. Students were fantastic throughout and met people from all walks of life.

MUSICFest 2023

Our rock band performed brilliantly at United Learning's MUSICFest event in Bolton this month. The band teamed up with Sheffield Park Academy to perform some of Arctic Monkeys' greatest hits. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to meet students from other schools and to see a whole range of performances from each school. They represented the Academy fantastically.



100% Every Day

Education with Character

Forensic Science Bespoke Workshop

A group of Year 10 students were lucky enough to participate in a forensic sciences taster day. They spent the morning learning about the techniques used in crime scene investigation such as fingerprints and blood testing, before putting their skills to the test in a simulated crime scene complete with Hazmat suits! The students came away with some souvenirs and eager to further explore this as a career.



Maths Challenge Success



Over 150 of our Year 7 and 8 students entered the Junior Maths Challenge, where they had to use logic and mathematical reasoning to solve challenging problems. We had some fantastic results, including three Gold certificates, and two students – Bang (Y7) and Jan (Y8) – being invited to the next round.

Working Worsbrough



This term, Year 9 and 10 students have been working in collaboration with local artists and historians to produce designs to decorate telecom boxes in and around the Worsbrough area.



The boxes will form part of a local art trail. Each box will be given a different theme related to the hard work of the Worsbrough community. The first box, intended for completion by the end of September, will have a theme of transport, celebrating public transport over the years.

Mr Twibell (Head of Art)

Wentworth Castle Gardens Project



As part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award, our Year 9 and 10 students have been volunteering at Wentworth Castle gardens over the past term.

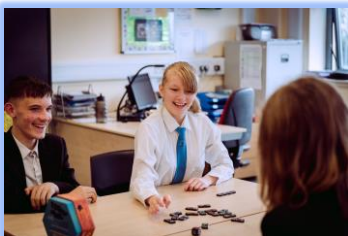


They have been working hard on the Barnsley Academy section of the Union Jack garden project, building it up from scratch to create a garden for visitors to admire.



Imagination Gaming

We welcomed the team from Imagination Gaming once again to deliver an engaging day of tabletop games to students in all year groups. Designed to encourage imagination and a love of learning, our students thoroughly enjoyed their day of friendly competition and trying out new games.



Knowledge is Power

Enrichment

Duke of Edinburgh



After months of preparation and training, our intrepid Duke of Edinburgh participants embarked on their expedition section this term. Despite facing some challenges – wasp nests, sprained ankles, and getting lost! – they all received their Bronze Award. We have been so impressed by the transformation of the students into resilient and determined young people ready to take on the world.



French Cinema Trip

Following a successful trip last year, our Year 10 students once again had the opportunity to watch a French film at the cinema in Sheffield. After taking in the heartwarming 'La Famille Bélier' (with a few tears shed at the end), the students explored Sheffield's cultural sites and enjoyed a 'magnifique' day out.



Magna Trip

We were privileged to be able to take a group of students to the Magna Science Adventure Centre in Rotherham this term. The students relished the opportunity to learn about science beyond the classroom and enjoy some hands-on exhibits.



Boys' Football Success

Our Year 9 and 10 boys' football teams have worked incredibly hard this term in their league campaigns. Our Year 10 team reached the semi-finals, where they very narrowly lost out to Outwood Carlton with Jayden (Y10) being awarded Man of the Match. Our Year 9 team secured a comeback victory over Penistone Grammar in their semi-final to reach the final at Oakwell. While the final didn't go our way, our team fought hard and relished the opportunity to play at the Barnsley FC home ground.



Ice Skating Reward

After achieving the highest number of points at our Soccer Aid event earlier this term, 10V were invited to go ice skating at Sheffield Ice. Despite it being the first time on ice skates for some of our students, they showed amazing resilience and determination to succeed and were extremely appreciative of the opportunity.



Charity Cycle Ride



Over two sweltering days in July, Julia, one of our Year 7 students, and her family and friends took on a mammoth 300-mile cycle ride in aid of three incredible charities. Despite the challenging weather, Julia showed amazing determination and has managed to raise over £1000. Well done, Julia!

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

Recognition and Rewards

Rank Order

This year we have introduced rank order assessment in all year groups, This has put understanding achievement back into students' hands and has had a hugely positive impact, with students striving to improve on their previous position. Some of our Year 10 students have described being in the top ten as their 'proudest moment' of their journey at Barnsley Academy.



Year 9 Rewards Trip



To celebrate their positive behaviour and attitudes to learning, 120 Year 9 students were invited on a trip to the cinema and to go bowling. This was a fantastic way for the students to unwind after a long term and to enjoy their success.

Rewards Assemblies

In the last week of term, we were able to reward those students who have consistently demonstrated ambition, determination, and respect in their learning and who have made a special contribution to school life. Well done to all award winners, and in particular to the four students who received the Principal's Award, for outstanding achievement and service to the school – Nikodem (Y7), Jan (Y8), Isla (Y9) and Makomborero (Y10)



Art Competitions

Every half term, the Art department runs a competition open to all year groups with a different theme. The winners all receive an Artist of the Term badge and art materials. Here are some winning pieces, on the theme of 'Spring'.



Molly (Y7)



Maria (Y8)



Isla (Y9)

Ambassadors

At Barnsley Academy we are proud to have a large community of student ambassadors who work with staff to organise and promote events, act as role models for other students, and represent the school in their interactions. For our students, being an ambassador – whether it be Cultural, Eco, Literacy, Music, or something else – creates pride in their achievements and is recognition of their contributions. This year we said goodbye to Leo, one of our top student ambassadors, as he goes on to college.



Work hard, be kind

Character and Careers

"I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul." – William Ernest Henley

Careers Lead Welcome

My name is Ms. Buckley, and I am the new careers lead working across two schools in the United Learning Trust. Here at Barnsley Academy, I will be responsible for the delivery of the careers programme whilst offering careers advice and guidance to students across the school. My background is within teaching itself, so having knowledge about the curriculum and opportunities available to young people is one of my strengths which I hope to implement in my time here. I will be working closely with staff across the academy but also external partners who we hope can use to inspire and motivate your students to have high levels of respect, build their ambition and push their ambitions to the highest level possible.



Barnsley College Taster Day

Some of our Year 10 students had the chance to attend an A-Level taster session at Barnsley Sixth Form College in June. They took part in a variety of sessions, ranging from Criminology to Chemistry to Art, and were able to experience sixth form life. The students came away from the day brimming with inspiration and ideas about what they would like to study in the future.



Manchester University

A group of our Year 10 linguists visited Manchester University to experience what it is like to study languages at university level. They met with undergraduate students, learned about career opportunities with languages, had a tour of the campus, and took part in taster sessions including an introduction to Portuguese. The students were great ambassadors for the school and came back inspired to continue their language learning after GCSEs.

Memory Skills and Techniques Workshop



In July we welcomed Karim Al-Abbas from Enlighten Education to deliver a memory workshop to our Year 10 students, helping them to problem solve and giving them strategies to revise for their GCSE exams next year. The students explored thought—provoking memory techniques and were determined to think critically and apply these techniques to their revision.



Be Remarkable

Character News

PROUD 1st Anniversary

At the Academy we encourage our students to take pride in the presentation of their work, showing a clear learning journey and making learning accessible for all. This term we celebrated the first anniversary of our PROUD table, where students show off their books and are recognised for their efforts.



Happy Birthday!



Key Character Dates for Term 1

7 th September	Parental Engagement Evening
September	Kingswood Residential
18 th -19 th September	Duke of Edinburgh Navigational Training
28 th – 29 th September	Silverwood Scout Camp, Silkstone (D of E)
21 st – 22 nd December	Y11 French trip to Lille, France



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.

See you
on the
6th Sept!



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