



NATIONAL  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ACADEMY

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# Pentecost Newsletter

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## Summer address from Mr Brailsford - Headteacher

I cannot believe we have already arrived at the end of another busy and successful school year. It only seems like yesterday that we were welcoming our new year 7s who are now almost year 8s. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and partnership. It has been a year full of growth, learning, and community spirit – and we are incredibly proud of everything our community has achieved.

Together, we have overcome many challenges including heavy snow, local flooding, 3 heatwaves and our first ever real lockdown – which was handled superbly well by everyone at National. I am extremely thankful to you all for your support and understanding over the last year.

This year, we celebrated many milestones, including:

**Achievement:** Our students have continued to show resilience, curiosity, and dedication and again were a credit to the Academy and their families throughout the year. For the second year in a row our attendance is in the top 25% of all schools nationally.

**Behaviour:** The DfE released the data for the whole country this month and we have made our comparisons. In terms of suspensions, they went up nationally by 21% in only a year. That was not the case here. The best way to explain how positive our behaviour is, is to say that our year 11 were suspended 75% less than the National average. 7.86% of year 11s are suspended nationally and here it is below 2%. That shows how engaged our children are and how much value they place on their learning and education. Thank you for all of your support around our standards and expectations this year. Working together is making a real difference to the lives of our students.

**School Events:** We've enjoyed a wide range of events – from Hagg Farm, Rhineland, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Yorkshire Wildlife Park and multiple Duke of Edinburgh expeditions to university visits, theatre trips, visiting the National Civil War Centre and also supporting the Lionesses in their 7-0 victory over Jamaica. Thank you to everyone who helped make these experiences and memories so special.

**Performances and Creativity:** Our school productions are always incredible and again showcased the incredible talent and confidence our students have. This year we had 'Back to the 80s' which was an absolute treat for me and was not only enjoyed by the cast but also by all of the supportive parents and generous members of our community.

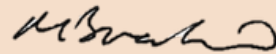
**Community Involvement:** Our charity initiatives and community partnerships have taught our students valuable lessons in kindness and civic responsibility. Our community partnerships have included visiting and welcoming guests from our local care home and also supporting and volunteering at our local food bank.

Farewells and New Beginnings: We say goodbye to some members of staff this summer, and we thank them for their dedication and contributions. We also extend a warm welcome to new teachers and staff who will be joining us from September. I know they are looking forward to meeting your children and working with you over many years.

Looking Ahead: We are already excited for what the next academic year holds. We will continue to strengthen our curriculum, provide support for every learner, and foster an environment where all children feel safe, valued, and inspired. Our brand new Sixth Form is due to open in September, so please keep a watch on our news for any updates and pictures when the time comes.

Thank you again for being part of our school community. It is a privilege to lead such a vibrant and supportive school.

I wish you all a restful, happy, and safe summer break.



# 'Life in all its fullness' John 10:10

## Hagg Farm

On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July, 42 of our adventurous year 7 students swapped their classrooms for the rugged hills of Derbyshire as they headed off on a five-night residential at Hagg Farm. Set against the beautiful backdrop of the Peak District, this unforgettable trip was packed with adventure, learning, and lots of muddy boots!

Throughout the week, students took part in a wide range of exciting and challenging activities, including caving, canoeing, abseiling, cycling, shelter building, swimming, and even a high-energy game of hide and seek under the stars. Each activity encouraged students to aspire beyond their limits, try new things, and step out of their comfort zones.

On their expedition hikes and cycling trails, students showed respect—for the natural world, for their instructors, and for one another. Whether guiding a friend through a dark cave or cheering each other on during abseiling, they built strong bonds rooted in kindness and encouragement.

Compassion shone through in the way students supported one another. Moments of nervousness or fatigue were met with comforting words, patient help, and shared strength. Even during the most demanding tasks, their care for one another created a spirit of unity and trust.

There was also a deep sense of humility throughout the week. Students discovered that real growth often comes from recognising our limits, asking for help, and learning together. They tackled each new challenge not for praise, but to improve, to learn, and to contribute to the team.

Hagg Farm gave our students the chance to experience life in all its fullness—to laugh, to struggle, to succeed, and to reflect. It was a week of adventure, resilience, teamwork, and deep personal growth. Most of all, it was a week where our school values weren't just spoken—they were lived out in every muddy boot print, every team cheer, and every step up the mountain.

Well done, year 7. You made us proud.

*Mr M South - Teacher of science*





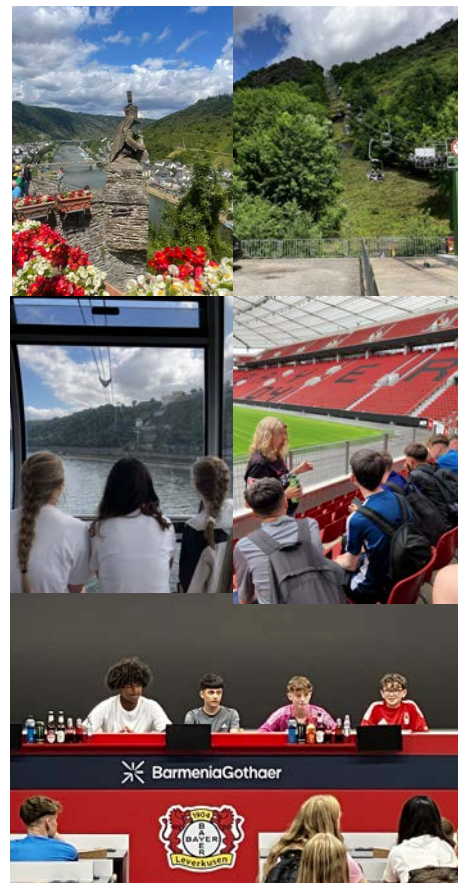
# Germany Trip

At midnight on Monday 7th July, 44 students and staff met to set off for a week in the Rhineland area of Germany. We travelled by coach and ferry to our home for the week, The Hotel Anker, where we were greeted once again like family by Renata, our host.

On day one, students completed a town trail in the neighbouring town of Boppard on the Rhine, where students had to answer clues and find information around the town in German and complete a secret extra mission to find Mrs Guests favourite snack, Jumpys. Later, we boarded the coach to Cochem, another picturesque town, but this time situated on the Moselle river. Despite travelling through heavy rain, the sun shone as we arrived and students nervously got on the chair lift, with stunning views over the town, river and the castle in the distance. Later, students enjoyed some shopping and tried some German specialities such as Currywurst and Spaghettieis. Then, we took a guided tour of the castle and learnt about its origins and history. A big well done to students (and some staff) for conquering their fear of heights! In the evening students completed a German themed quiz with Emily, Eling, Edith and Erinne being crowned winners!

Wednesday saw us visit the Deutsches Eck in Koblenz, where the Rhine and Moselle rivers meet. We visited the huge Wilhelm monument and took the Seilbahn up to the fortress to view the old town and the confluence from above. Lunchtime saw some stiff competition in "The Apprentice". Students received a list of 5 items and 10 euros to buy the items, as quickly and cheaply as possible, including the most random item they could find. We saw an array of items such as fly swatters, tweezers, scary cherubs and interesting fidget toys. There was a new school record this year as the fastest group completed this in just over 4 minutes and the cheapest was €4.80. Later, students had some time to relax as we took a cruise along the River Rhine, saw lots of castles and heard the story of the Lorelei – a beautiful siren, who whispered to the sailors to come closer and then made them crash into the rocks behind. After dinner, students and staff spent some time bowling. The competition was fierce with Charlie winning overall with an impressive score of 132. Well done!

A very early get up and coach ride on Thursday, saw the group visit the amazing city of Cologne. Firstly, students learnt about the origins of chocolate and saw a production line complete with tasters at the Schokolademuseum. Lots of lovely gifts were bought here for friends and family. After a short walk, students visited the UNESCO heritage site Kölner Dom (cathedral) which dominates the Cologne skyline and had some free time in the city. In the afternoon, a highlight for many was a tour of the Bayarena, which is the home of Bayer Leverkusen 04, who last year became the Bundesliga champions, but could not hold on to this title in 2025. Students were given a tour by 2 season ticket holders, were shown around the stadium seating, VIP lounges, dressing rooms and the tunnel leading to the pitch, which apparently is the best in Europe! Whilst there, the first team were training and students were able to have a sneaky peak. One group were able to see Boniface and the other group were awe-struck at meeting Hincapie who stopped for a photo. Students took part in a fabulous press conference in the press room, with Kyron stealing the show with his impersonation of Erik Ten Hag, the Bayer Leverkusen coach. To round up a great day in Cologne, we visited the Michael Schuhmacher collection which proudly displays all his cars and trophies and for the F1 fans, especially Mr Hunt, this was a real treat! The students enjoyed the trip, really embraced all the chances to speak German and took part in all activities enthusiastically.



# Year 11 Visit The New National Sixth Form Centre

On Monday 19th May, some of our year 11 students got an exciting opportunity to tour the building site of our new National Sixth Form Centre. They were given a tour of the site by Eddie, our site manager and were able to see the great progress being made on their classrooms, learning resource centre and sixth form dining area. The experience was valuable and positive in allowing students to envision their futures as NSFC students.

*J Cliffman - Head of sixth form*



## Year 8 Theatre Trip

On the 23rd April, we had the pleasure of taking 165 year 8 students to see &Juliet at Birmingham Hippodrome. This performance was straight from the West End into its UK tour and it was phenomenal. The musical, & Juliet, asks the important question: what if Juliet chose not to kill herself, deciding instead to live her life in her own way (told through fabulous music from this century)? So we follow the journey of Shakespeare, under the instruction of his wife Anne Hathaway, considering what would happen if they changed Juliet's life story. Along the way Juliet meets a new friend, goes to Paris and ultimately explores what it means to be her and to make her own decisions. A truly toe tapping, hit filled show that I would recommend to all. To make this experience even better it was also wonderful to be stopped by members of the public to praise the students and to say how wonderful it was to see so many young people enjoying the theatre. Let's hope they enjoy the offering we have for them in year 9.



*Miss C Hunt - Head of languages*

## Year 10 County Champions!

I am so very proud of this incredible group of girls . On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July, they played in the final of the county cup in 28 degree heat. In 4 years, they have been South Notts winners 3 times and runner up once, and county cup runners up 3 times and finally in our last game as a team they are county champions! They played East Leake and won 8-2!

Huge congratulations to the team, from year 9, Niamh R, our goalkeeper, Freya R and Sophie P and from year 10, Isabelle M - our team captain, Ava B, Lucy H, Grace P, Isabelle W, Isabella D, Isobel P, Kalia A-L, Hannah K, Keyarna R-S and Ruby F.

*Mrs M Jones - Head of PACE*





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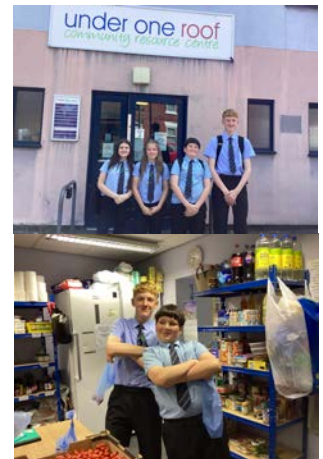
# Community Visits

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On Tuesday 22nd April, some of our year 10 students delivered an Easter themed afternoon to the residents of Annesley Lodge care home. The students had been planning this for a long time, and delivered games of bingo, an Easter themed quiz, and spent time chatting with the residents. I was really impressed by the mature and caring attitudes of the students involved, and I know the staff there were very grateful for the visit. We are hoping to visit again in the next academic year, and the students would like to plan more themed visits.



This inspired the younger year groups to want to get involved in a project of their own. On Tuesday 17th June, four year 8 students spent the morning at the Under One Roof food bank. During their visit, they organised the shelves, spent time dating food items that had been donated, and prepared food parcels for members of the public using the food bank. I was very impressed with how enthusiastic the students were, and how much they clearly cared about helping others. The manager of the food bank was also impressed, and said she would be very happy to have students from National volunteer again.



*Mrs L Newns - Teacher of maths and assistant head of year 10*

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## Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards

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We are incredibly proud to announce that a total of 131 of our students have successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award expeditions over the past few weeks. With 67 students from year 9 and 64 students from year 10 taking part, this experience has been nothing short of amazing.

The expeditions took place in the stunning Peak District, where students faced the challenges of navigating rugged terrain, working as a team, and developing essential outdoor skills. The beautiful landscapes provided the perfect backdrop for an unforgettable adventure, pushing our students beyond their comfort zones while encouraging resilience, determination, and collaboration. Throughout their journey, students gained not only practical skills such as map reading, camping, and teamwork but also invaluable life lessons in perseverance and self-confidence. The camaraderie built during these days will surely be remembered for years to come.

We congratulate every student on their achievement and thank all staff and volunteers who supported this rewarding experience. The Duke of Edinburgh Award continues to be an inspiring program that helps our young people grow, learn, and discover new strengths.

*Mr A Cockerill - Associate leadership team*





# Headteacher Awards

Wow, we have never given out so many Headteacher Awards! Headteacher Awards are given out when students reach 500 achievement points. Students are then invited to a celebratory pizza lunch with a member of our senior leadership team.



Many congratulations to year 7 students, Lucas, Daksh, Leon, Brooke, Elsie, Jack, Azaiah, Jake and Oliver who enjoyed their celebratory pizza lunch with Mr Brailsford.

Congratulations also to Matilda, Ayesha, Lillie-Mae, Ryan, Elijah, Ethan, Rory and Zachary, all from year 7. They enjoyed their pizza lunch with Mrs Boothroyd, deputy headteacher.



Well done to Vienna, Tommy, Amy and Gradie from year 8, Zachary, Cohen, Joel, Edith, Noah, Eling and Blake from year 9. They enjoyed their lunch with Mr Hawkins, deputy headteacher.

Well done to Beth, Dami, Isaac, Edith, Hetty, Sophia, Chyna and George from year 7 who enjoyed a celebratory pizza lunch with Mr Brailsford.



Well done also, to Mylo, Euan, Sophie, Oliver and Santa Elsa from year 8 who enjoyed their pizza with Mr Llewellyn, assistant headteacher.





Well done to year 7 students, George, Isaac, Mara, Roxy, Isabella, Brandon, Connor, Bobby, Arthur, Harry, Alex, Ewan, Grace, Ella, Stanley, Henry and Thomas, who all enjoyed a celebratory pizza with Mrs Wall, assistant headteacher.

Well done to Nadia, Phoebe, River, Chase, Erin, Toby, Gemma, Tommy, Aleaha, Martha, William, Alex, Thomas, Ava, Oliver, Lucy, Harry, Layla, Holly and Casper who had their lunch with Mrs Boothroyd.



Well done to Georgia, Joseph, Max, Rafe, Liam, Shakiyah, Callum, Nathanael, Emily and Hector from year 9. Students enjoyed their lunch with Mr Brailsford.

Well done to all students who received their award. Keep up the hard work and positive attitude. This is such an amazing achievement and a true reflection of all your hard work and dedication.

## NSFC Induction Days



The National Academy Sixth Form Centre (NSFC) induction days took place over 1st and 2nd July. The first day saw well over 60 prospective students complete taster sessions in their chosen A level subjects. On the second day students enjoyed a visit to Alton Towers, getting to know their fellow students and enjoying a brilliant day in the sunshine. We look forward to welcoming these students as the first year 12 cohort to NSFC in September.

*J Cliffman - Head of sixth form*

## Year 12 Work Experience

Our current year 12 students took part in work experience week over the week commencing 30th June at a wide variety of local businesses. Photography, History and English Literature student Evie spent her placement in Kingsmill Hospital working with the medical photography department. She said of her experience, "it was interesting to go around the wards and see the different cases". She said that the experience was beneficial as it has 'opened her eyes to jobs in the NHS', they are not as gory as she once thought!

*J Cliffman - Head of sixth form*



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# Governor Awards

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Mrs Cowley, chair of governors and Mr Brailsford, headteacher have had the absolute pleasure of giving out an amazing 100 Governor Awards this year. The Governor's Award is given out to students who receive an amazing 550 achievement points. We have never given out so many of these awards in a single year and it is a pure testament to these students' conscientious attitude and tireless dedication. All students who achieve our Governor Awards really demonstrate our ARCH values everyday in the school community. Well done to all students who received their awards, we are so proud of you all.



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## Choir Visit to Annesley Lodge

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On Tuesday 15th July our school choir were invited to perform at Annesley Lodge Care Home. Our music teacher Mr Baggott and 11 of our students from years 7, 8 and 9 sang a range of songs to the residents, a lovely afternoon was had by all. It gave our students chance to connect with members of our local community and provide them with an afternoon's entertainment.



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# Enrichment Day

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On Wednesday 16th July our students took part in our annual enrichment day, going out on trips to complement their learning and enrich their school experience.

For their first ever enrichment day at National, **year 7** spent a thoroughly enjoyable day at the **National Civil War Centre** in Newark, learning about the impact and events of the English Civil War – in preparation for a more in-depth study during their year 8 History lessons next year. The museum organised a selection of absolutely outstanding workshops – such as learning about the different weapons of the Civil War, putting King Charles I on trial (with period costumes to match) and trying to convince a jury that a Civil War individual whom they were representing, deserved a sum of money as compensation for the hardships they encountered during the conflict. Year 7 behaved excellently during the day, with museum staff remarking to me throughout just how polite and engaged the students were and these sentiments were echoed by the wonderful staff from National who accompanied the students for their visit. I especially would like to thank the students who were named by staff as showing outstanding behaviour and levels of engagement during the day. These are Tyler-Rhys N, Ayesha A, Molly V, Kacia, Harry O, Lacey R, Caspar F, Isla W-S, Hugo A, Henry B, Lucas H-B, Leon J, Elsie H, Haraya, Alfie P, Elijah H, Arthur T and Cienna W. Thank you year 7 and have a wonderful summer break!

*Mr T Horrocks-Taylor – Teacher of history*



**Year 8** spent their day in groups exploring **Yorkshire Sculpture Park** and considering how spirituality may inspire art. We were lucky enough to have excellent weather for the day and the students were able to walk around in the sunshine looking at many different types of sculpture; those inspired by nature, those inspired by beliefs and those pieces of art that are meant as a statement. Many of the students had particularly strong reactions to the Damien Hirst pieces, with some thinking they were great and others not really sure what they were about.

Many of the students were also thrilled by the wildlife they got to see in the sculpture park- with some students especially excited by the large number of sheep present at the site. The behaviour and conduct of students was excellent throughout the day with some members of the public and those working at YSP commenting how well behaved, respectful, and polite our students were. They were exemplary representatives of the school all day.

*Miss L Catling - Teacher of religious studies*

Our **year 9** students took a trip to **Yorkshire Wildlife Park**, as part of a thought provoking topic studied in the science department. Before their trip, students worked in teams to research, discuss, and produce a presentation on the importance of conservation. Their challenge was to critically evaluate the role of zoos in protecting endangered species and preserving biodiversity. The trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park then offers an opportunity to see conservation in action. Students saw a wide range of species—many of which are part of global breeding and protection programmes—and reflected on how these initiatives align with what they've learned. A good day was had by all and a highlight was seeing baby snow leopards!

*Mrs E Almedia - Head of science*



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# Enrichment Day

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This year we took **year 10** on a STEM trip to **Alton Towers**. Before going to the park, all of our students learnt about the history of the Towers and the mechanics and mathematics behind how the rides work. It was particularly interesting to learn that the G-Force on Rita is higher than a shuttle going to space.

We all had a fantastic day despite the queues, even the staff that got soaked on the rapids!!

*Mrs A Matthews - Teacher of maths*



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## Year 11 Celebration Service

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On Tuesday 24th June I had the privilege of helping lead the year 11 celebration service at the Church of St Mary Magdalene. After a warm welcome from Reverend Helen Chantry, Mr Brailsford shared his thoughts on the last five years and praised the effort and commitment the students had shown on a regular basis. He also reflected on the cultural similarities and differences between when he started school compared with when this year group's educational journey began. He then encouraged the students to 'look at the cross' and keep Jesus at the centre of all they do.

I then read the words to the hymn 'O God you search me and you know me' written by Bernadette Farrell which was inspired by the words of Psalm 139. They tell of God's love for each of us and His presence in our lives. Helen then led a paper folding activity where the result was that each student ended up making their own cross with the words, 'You are loved and you are enough' written across the centre. It was clear that this reminder of God's love for us all resonated powerfully with each of the students. During the closing prayers I asked God to give each student a sense of calm and peace as they wait to move on to the next stage of their education and that they would be refreshed over the summer.

Overall, it was a lovely occasion to round off the students' time here at The National Church of England Academy.

*Mr T Surgay - Academy chaplain*





# Goodbye To Year 11

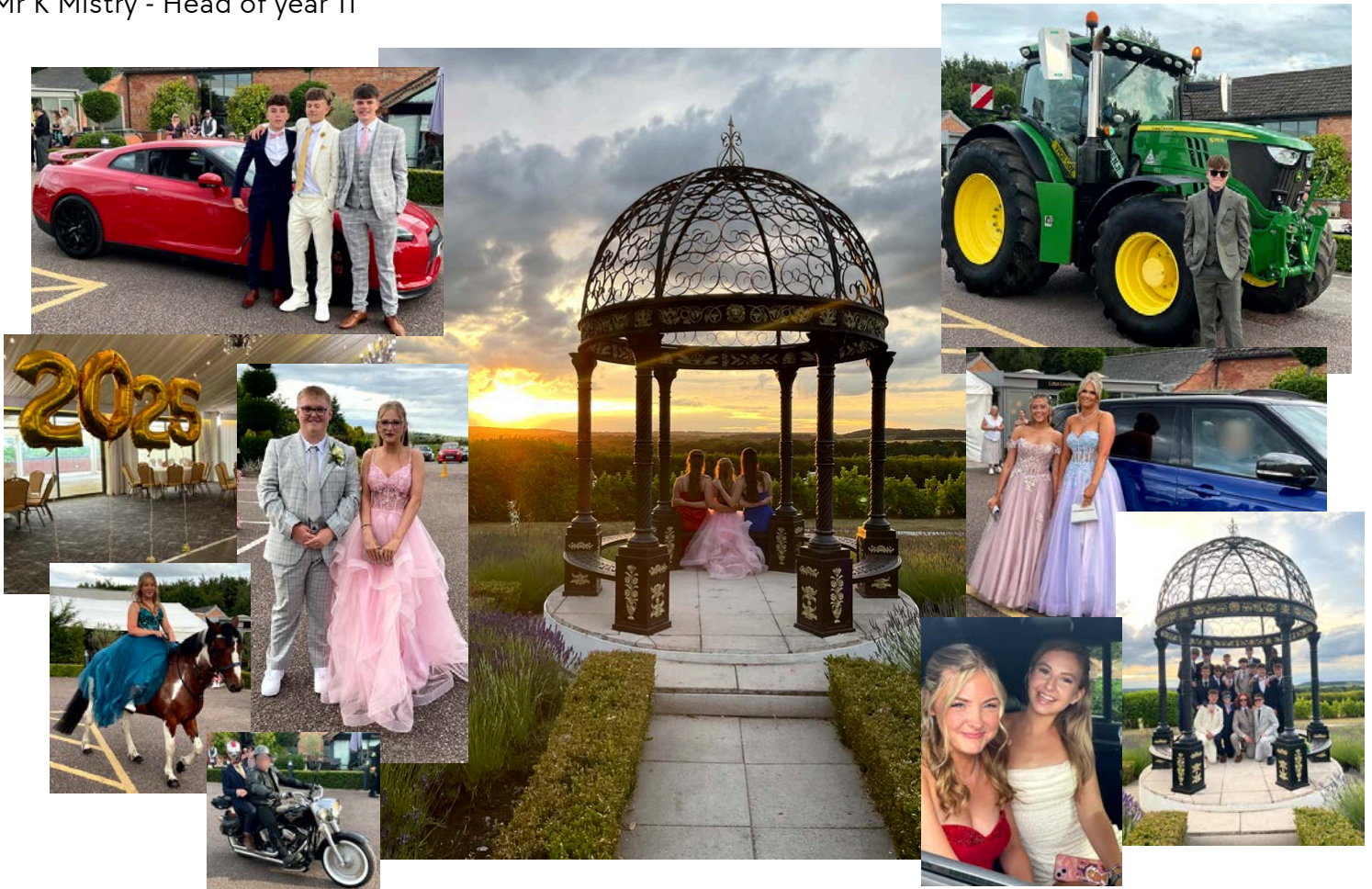
What a night! Held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June at Goosedale, the year 11 prom was a celebration befitting a fantastic group of students who've worked incredibly hard this year. As ever, National students know how to make an entrance – with arrivals that included a horse, a tractor, multiple groups of motorbikes, and even a surprise appearance from Iron Man himself!

The evening was packed with dancing, laughs, lots of sore feet, and a few teary goodbyes. A huge congratulations to this year's awards winners:

Funniest person – Alfie B  
Best leader – Caleb M  
Smartest person – Amy H  
Hardest working – Marley H  
Life of the party – Alfie B (again!)  
Most likely to be a millionaire – Izaak S  
Professional sportsperson – Josh N  
Most likely to be a celebrity – Hollie R  
Best duo – McKinley W & Josh F  
Shoulder to lean on – Holly W  
Best dressed – Simone E & Riella M  
Best entrance – Florence H  
Prom king – Jack F  
Prom queen – Shalom

It was a night full of joy, style, and unforgettable memories – a perfect send-off for a brilliant year group. We wish every one of them success and happiness in whatever comes next. Keep being amazing!

Mr K Mistry - Head of year 11





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# Head of Year Highlights

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## Year 7

It seems like just the blink of an eye since we started year 7 in September and here we are at the end of their first school year in secondary education.

This term has seen a successful residential at Hagg Farm and an enjoyable Enrichment Day at the Civil War Museum in Newark. Year 7 students involved in both of these activities behaved very well and the feedback from staff has been extremely positive.

Overall, this year we have seen amazing successes in terms of achievement certificates. 72 students achieved their Headteacher Award and an outstanding 58 students achieved their Governor Award. This reflects the overall positive attitude and behaviour seen in year 7 from the majority of students, as 98% of all year 7 students achieved their bronze certificate – gaining over 150 achievement points. The tutor group with the most credits this year is 7B, with congratulations going to Mrs Bust and all the students in 7B. Our student of the year was Lucas W in 7A and it was a pleasure to present him with his certificate and prize in our achievement assembly recently.

Finally, I am sorry to have to say 'goodbye' to two of our amazing tutor team: Mr Adam and Miss Catling as they leave us to join new schools in September. As a year team we wish them all the very best and thank them for their commitment shown to 7C and 7F this year.

May I take this opportunity to wish all year 7 students and their families a safe and relaxing summer break.

*Ms S Craven – Head of year 7*

## Year 8

As we come to the end of another academic year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what a successful and rewarding year it has been for our year 8 students. This year, we've seen our young people grow in confidence, maturity and resilience. They've approached challenges with determination and have embraced opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom. Whether it's through their academic progress, sporting achievements, participation in clubs and activities, or simply the way they've supported each other as a year group – there is much to be proud of.

Looking ahead, year 9 is a significant and exciting stage in their school journey. It's a time when students begin to think more deeply about their future, and one of the biggest milestones will be choosing their GCSE options. We will be working closely with students and families throughout the year to ensure everyone feels supported, informed and confident in making these important decisions. There will be assemblies, information evenings and one-to-one discussions designed to help students explore their interests and strengths, and consider the pathways available to them.

Over the summer holidays, I encourage students to enjoy a well-earned break. Rest, recharge, spend time with family and friends – and return in September ready to make a strong start to year 9. It's also a good time to reflect on personal goals for the year ahead and to think about the kind of learner, friend, and person they want to be.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. Wishing you all a safe, happy and relaxing summer break.

*Mr J Beaver – Head of year 8*

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# Head of Year Highlights

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## Year 9

Coming back to year 9 from maternity leave I have been genuinely impressed by the growth and maturity our students have shown. What a fantastic group of students we have. As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding term, I'd like to take this opportunity to reflect on the progress and achievements of our wonderful year 9 cohort. Our student with the most achievement points is Zachary B with an amazing 378! In second place we have Cohen G with 357 and in third place we have Joel H with 348! What a fantastic achievement, well done.

This year has been an important one for our students, both academically and personally. Year 9 marks a transitional phase where students begin to develop a stronger sense of identity, independence, and responsibility. I'm incredibly proud of how many of our students have embraced these challenges, showing maturity, resilience, and a real enthusiasm for learning. One of the key highlights this term has been the students' engagement with the options process. It's been inspiring to see them think carefully about their strengths, interests, and ambitions as they make important choices for their future studies.

As always, wellbeing remains a priority. We've focused on fostering a supportive environment where every student feels valued and heard. The pastoral team and I are always here to listen, and we encourage students to speak up if they ever need help or guidance. Looking ahead, we're excited about the opportunities the next academic year will bring as we embark on our two year journey of GCSE's.

Thank you for your continued support. It's a privilege to work with such a talented and thoughtful group of young people, and I look forward to what the next chapter holds for them as we enter year 10.

*Mrs E Hopkin - Head of year 9*

## Year 10

Year 10 have had a very positive term at the end of a very important academic year. Well done to 10C and 10F, leading the way with an average attendance of over 95% this term. We have 102 year 10 students above our 97% target (over half the year group), with 49 students at 100% (about a quarter of the year group). In lessons every student has received achievement points, and year 10 have collectively been awarded over 13,000 positive achievement points this term. 10G have over 4,500 positive achievement points. Congratulations to Wisdom in 10A, Taylor in 10G, Ava in 10E, Kalia in 10G, Harley in 10F, Archie in 10E, Lauren in 10G, Jacob in 10B, Dylan in 10B, and Keyarna-Unique in 10D for being our top 10 most rewarded students in year 10 this term.

This term year 10 have experienced an exam season for the first time, with an intensive two weeks of mock exams in June. Mock exams are designed to be a learning opportunity, so whether students are pleased with or worried about their results, please encourage them to focus on identifying areas for improvement and creating a plan to address them.

We also have a significant number of year 10 students who have completed the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, showing a commitment to learning a new skill, taking part in a physical activity and volunteering, in addition to successfully completing their overnight expedition. Congratulations to all who have gained this award. There has also been significant success for the year 10 girls football team, who have come to the end of their four year journey together. Finally in their last game as a team they became county champions, winning 8-2 in the final. Huge congratulations ladies!

Well done to all year 10's for each of their positives this term, and enjoy the summer break.

*Mr J Gilham and Mrs L Newns - Head and assistant head of year 10*



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# Staffing changes

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As we approach the end of the academic year, we take the opportunity to say goodbye and thank you to a number of colleagues who are moving on to new chapters in their careers.

- Mr F Adam, teacher of RE/PD and sociology, who has been a much-valued member of the social sciences faculty.
  - Mrs S Reardon, teacher of food who has not only supported students in the classroom but also enriched school life through a range of extracurricular cooking clubs and events.
  - Miss L Catling, assistant head of faculty for social sciences, whose dedication and leadership have made a real impact on both staff and students.
  - Miss L Palmer-Coole, teacher of science, who leaves us with our thanks for her commitment and hard work in the science department.
  - Miss O Hyde, teacher of English, who will be remembered for her passion for improving literacy and her contribution to the wider school community through careers guidance and education.
  - Mrs J Fawcett, teacher of PE, whose energy and dedication have helped inspire a love of sport among many students.
  - Mrs B Case, teacher of PE and drama, leaves us after nearly 20 years, her endless positivity, energy and enthusiasm will be sorely missed.
  - Mr K Barnett, teacher of English and assistant head of year, who departs after an incredible 23 years of service. Mr Barnett's contribution to the school community has been immense, and his presence will be greatly missed by staff, students, and parents alike.
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- Mr S Tyson, deputy safeguarding lead, a much-valued member of our team, who has played a pivotal role in supporting students, parents, and external agencies. His wealth of knowledge, experience, and unwavering commitment have made a lasting impact and he will be greatly missed.
  - Mr J Knightley, science technician, an essential part of the science department; preparing countless experiments, maintaining lab equipment, and always ensuring lessons ran smoothly and safely. His behind-the-scenes support, calm problem-solving, and commitment have had a positive impact on both staff and students.
  - Mr T Surgay, academy chaplain, whose dedication has supported us to live out our academy vision and values on a daily basis.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to each of them for their dedication, hard work, and positive impact on our school. Their contributions, both inside and outside the classroom, have helped shape the experiences of countless students over the years. We wish them every success in their next chapters and hope they carry fond memories of their time with us.

We have said goodbye for now to Mrs K Harrison - head of science and Miss R Austin - teacher of English, who have both gone on their maternity leave.

Welcome to our new staff!

As we begin another exciting academic year, we are delighted to welcome a wonderful group of new colleagues who have joined our school community. Each brings a wealth of experience, energy, and expertise, and we're confident they'll make a great impact both in and out of the classroom.

Please join us in giving a warm welcome to:

- Mr N Mullen, teacher of history
- Mr L Botham, assistant head of faculty, social sciences
- Ms M Bowden, assistant head of PACE
- Ms N Morris, teacher of science
- Mr B Griffin Smith, teacher of science

- Miss B McLaughlan, teacher of ADT (Art, Design & Technology)
- Ms A Mike, teacher of RE/PD (Religious Education/Personal Development)
- Ms S Teague, teacher of RE/PD
- Ms F Jardine, teacher of English
- Mr O Ward, teacher of drama
- Ms N Gardiner, teacher of German
- Ms S Spencer, teacher of English

We're thrilled to have them on board and look forward to the fresh ideas, talents, and perspectives they'll bring to our school. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!

## Dates to remember

Wednesday 3rd September 2025 - Year 7 and year 12 return to school

Thursday 4th September - All years return to school

Friday 19th September - Year 7 welcome service

Friday 19th September - School photograph day

Thursday 25th September - Year 6 open evening

*Friday 26th September - INSET day*

Thursday 9th October - Post 16 open evening

Wednesday 15th October - Friday 17th October - Battlefields trip

*Academy holiday - Monday 20th October - Friday 31st October 2025*

Wednesday 12th November - Year 9 AMP evening

Tuesday 25th November - Friday 28th November - German Christmas markets trip

Thursday 4th December - Year 7 theatre trip to Oliver

Monday 15th December - Christmas concert at St Mary's Church, Hucknall

Wednesday 17th December - Christmas dinner day

Wednesday 17th December - Year 13 awards evening

*Academy holiday - Monday 22nd December 2025 - Friday 2nd January 2026*

Monday 5th January 2026 - All year groups return to school

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