



Autumn 2025

# BENTON PARK NEWSLETTER

# WELCOME

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the Benton Park Community,

As we reach the end of the autumn term, I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to our students, families and staff for your support, hard work and commitment. We began the year with fresh ambition and have finished the term with real momentum.

This term we launched our new vision—"together we belong, develop character and achieve excellence"—and our values of kindness, resilience and responsibility. These are already visible in calm, purposeful classrooms, in the way students look out for one another, and in the pride they take in their learning. They also speak to who we are as a school in the community, for the community.



We also introduced our Benton Park Curriculum 2025. Built through a year of staff collaboration and thoughtful design, it is already bearing fruit: more coherent sequences of learning, stronger routines for retrieval, clearer assessment, and high quality enrichment that broadens horizons. Thank you to colleagues for the graft behind the scenes—and to students for embracing high expectations with positivity.

Our climate for learning has continued to strengthen. Behaviour has continued to improve, with consistent routines and a culture of respect across the school. Attendance is up on last year, and more students are arriving every day ready to learn and contribute. These gains matter—not just for outcomes, but for the sense of belonging and confidence they build in every young person.

We are equally pleased to see continued improvements in student, parent and staff voice. From Benton Park Youth Council to surveys, your insights are shaping what we do—curriculum refinements, enrichment priorities, communication, and our approach to behaviour and inclusion. Your feedback matters, and we will keep opening up clear, regular routes for you to share it.

Have a wonderful Christmas break—wishing all our families a joyful, restful and safe festive season. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5 January, ready to build on this term's successes.

As ever, if there is anything we can help with, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**Nicholas Skilton**  
Headteacher

# GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS



## REWARD PRESENTATION EVENING

We had our Rewards Evenings back in September, a massive well done to all students that attended. It was a fabulous evening and we were so proud of all our award winners.

## OUR EXCITING EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS!

We were thrilled to offer a wide range of extracurricular clubs this term, giving students the chance to explore new interests, build friendships, and develop valuable skills outside the classroom. From sports and performing arts to Minecraft and creative writing, there has been something for everyone.

Clubs run at lunchtime, and after school—so there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. We encourage all students to try something new and make the most of what's on offer. Attending the clubs, students will receive a stamp in their Extracurricular Loyalty Card. The more stamps they collect, the closer they get to earning exciting rewards—so regular participation really pays off!



# GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS

## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

We celebrated World Mental Health Day on 10th October. Our students in sixth form and lower school spent time looking at how to check in on each other and using resources from @youngminduk to support their own mental health.



## RESTART A HEART

Students took part in The British Heart Foundation Restart a Heart Day initiative to teach all our students vital first aid skills such as CPR. Students also learnt how to use a defibrillator. We are extremely proud that one of our students, Zach C-H in Year 8, starred in the national campaign.

## HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL REHEARSALS STARTED



# GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS

## LANGUAGES

### Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators for 2024-2025

We were delighted to announce that two of our Benton Park students were announced as Area Winners in this prestigious prize run by Queens College, Oxford:

Level 2 Area Winner: French English - Francesca L Year 10

Level 1 Area Winner: German - Alexander P Year 9

“Over 22,000 students participated in the competition in 2025, and we judged almost 5,000 entries, so this is a fantastic achievement. Our judges also commented on the very high standard of entries this year and remarked that it was extremely hard to choose winners and commendations.”

### Stephen Spender Prize for Young Translators for 2025

We were very proud to announce that Eddie, Year 9 has been awarded a special commendation for his German translation in the Schools Laureate Prize. This is a prestigious international competition, and we are so proud to see Benton Park students thrive amongst the best and brightest Germanists on an international stage!

### Dual Linguists get creative!

Year 9 Germanists have been busy cooking, making music and performing for their annual “Kulturwoche” (culture week) homework. This is a chance to explore an area of interest, and get creative! Entries so far have included baking German recipes such as Apfelkuchen and Apfelstrudel performing Beethoven pieces and German Christmas songs, making music videos and creating artwork. (Pictured: Penelope H's Apfelstrudel!).

### The Doves

On the hillside, over there, where the graves are,

A beautiful palm tree, much like a green feather,

Stands tall when in the evenings where doves from afar,

Come to nest and take shelter from the weather,

But in the morning they leave their height,

Like a necklace that falls apart,

To spread themselves out in the blue air, completely white,

And to land further away, to rooftops, they dart,

My soul is the tree where every evening it sings,

White swarms of crazy haze,

Fall apart from the heavens flapping their wings,

To fly away from the first rays.



# GENERAL SCHOOL NEWS

## WEDNESDAY 17th DECEMBER - FOOD BANK DAY

We launched our annual winter food bank appeal and would like to thank all our families for supporting and collecting lots of food and resources for our local Trussel Trust Foodbank. We are immensely proud of what our school community achieve. We collected for the Rawdon Food Bank again (Based at Trinity Church) which is part of the Trussell Trust. <https://www.trinityrawdon.org.uk/trinity-food-bank/>



## THE LEEDS WINTER COAT APPEAL IS BACK

You can donate any unwanted coats, fleeces, waterproofs (in adult, children & baby sizes), baby cot sleeping bags, snow suits for babies & children, pram footmuffs, hats, scarves and paired gloves. Last year we were able to provide over 8,900 items of winter clothing to families in Leeds for FREE. That saved people over £272,800 - money that stayed in the family budget and could be spent on other essentials.

Benton Park School is acting as a donation hub for the 2025 appeal! All we ask is that items are clean, of good quality and have a functioning zip. The last day for donations will be 30 January 2026. Our donation point is located in our main school reception!

All donations will be distributed to Community Hubs across Leeds early next month until the end of February 2026, more details of where you can get a FREE coat to follow. Help us to help families keep warm this winter. #leedswintercoatappeal #wearandshareleeds



# YEAR 7



## ALEXANDER ARMSTRONG ASSEMBLY

We were delighted to welcome Alexander Armstrong in to meet our Year 7 students. He read exerts from his new book, signed copies for students and ran an engaging session. It was an amazing experience and we received wonderful feedback on the behaviour, manners and mature questions from our Year 7's – well done to all!

## SPORTING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Tilly L who competed recently in the Gymnastics FIG Development 2 grade, the highest grade for her age on the elite pathway. We are delighted to let you know she placed 1st on beam, 2nd on floor and bars and 4th on vault and got the overall gold medal making her the Yorkshire Champion 2025 for this grade. She will now go on to represent Yorkshire in the National Finals in November against some of the top gymnasts in the UK.

We wish you lots of luck and can't wait to hear how you get on!



## FOOD TECH

Year 7 improved their knife skills when making a stir fry. They used a range of vegetables which make them really colourful.

# YEAR 7



## YEAR 7 PARTY!

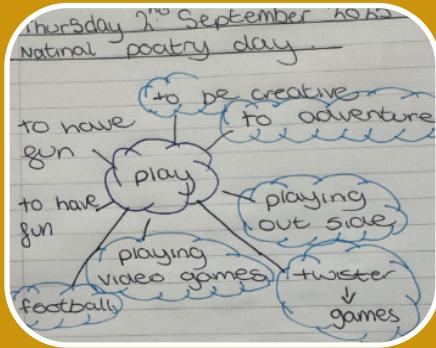
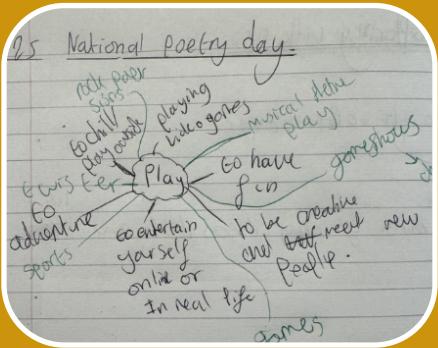


## NELL BANK

We had a fantastic few days at Nell Bank – despite the weather!

Students enjoyed working together to solve problems. They excelled and had the best time making new friends. Nell Bank staff reported that they were the politest students they'd had in a long time and were a credit to Benton Park!

# YEAR 8

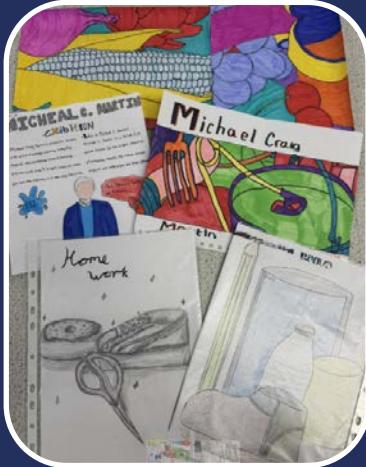


## ENGLISH

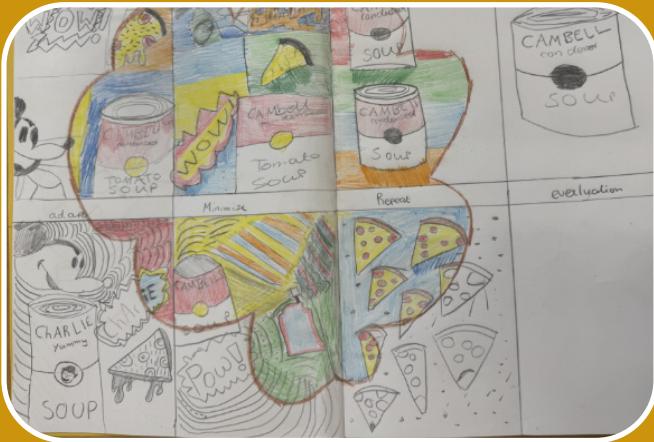
For National Poetry day students explored the theme of Play. They came up with some initial ideas using mind maps.



## ART



Year 8 have been working really hard this term. Students learnt how to draw an ellipse and then add shade and tone to their drawings. They also produced some excellent homework researching the artist Michael Craig Martin.



## TECHNOLOGY

Year 8 have finished their initial ideas for their mixed media lamp. We will be trialing lots of textiles techniques in the coming weeks to apply to our lamp.

# YEAR 8



## HUB GARDEN

The Hub's Key Stage 3 students planted vibrant purple crocuses in Gardening Club as part of the End Polio Now campaign. Kindly donated by the Rotary Club of Aireborough.



## RESIDENTIAL

Year 8 Residential will be in Castle Howard in the summer term – July 2026. Letters have been sent out, if you would like your child to attend, please contact the Year 8 Inbox.

# YEAR 9



## GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Students completed a walk around the key geographical features of Malham, including Malham Cove, Gordale Scar, Janet's Foss, and Malham Village.

Students practised various fieldwork skills, including field sketches, as well as applying their geography understanding to the area around them.

Staff were impressed with the resilience and kindness shown by students as they encouraged each other through sunshine and drizzle!



## SPORTING SUCCESS

### Yr 9 Boy's Football

0-0 Guisley  
1-1 Ralph Thorsby  
4-2 Cardinal Hennan  
**POM: Thomas C**

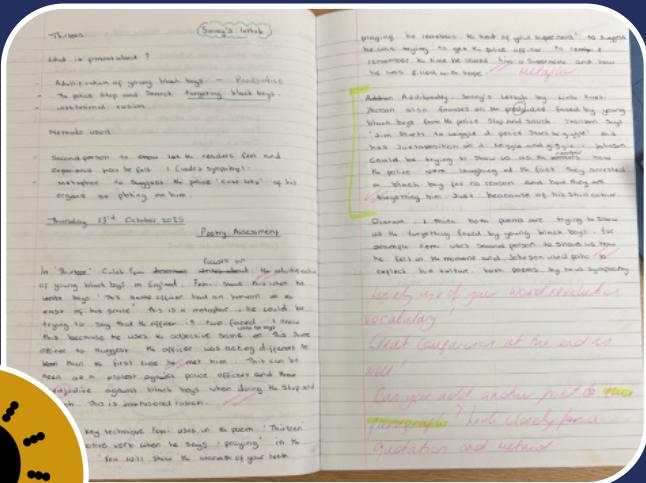
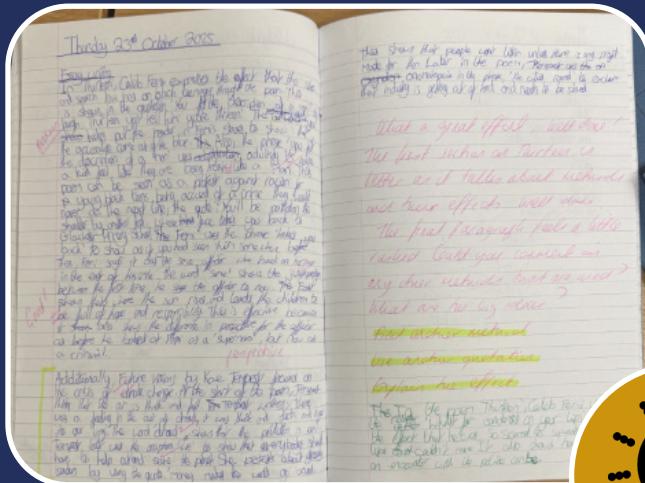
### Yr 9 Rugby

12-24 Morley  
**POM: Charley A**

### U14's Girl's Football

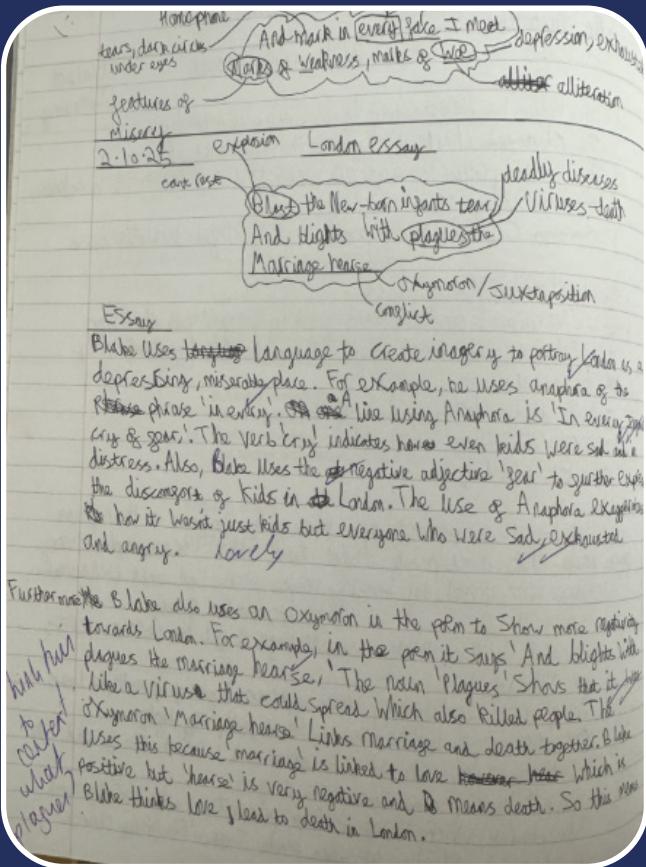
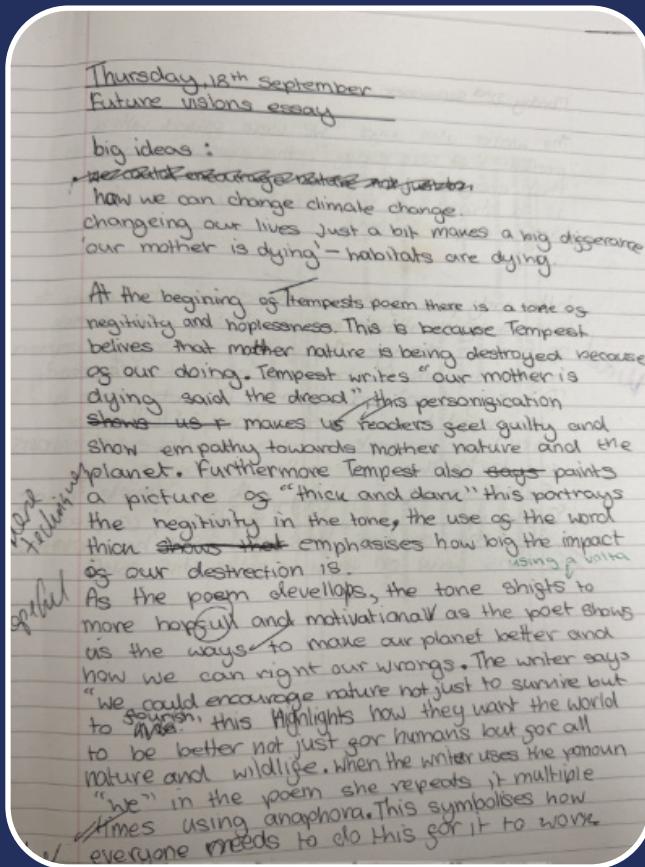
0-2 Abbey Grange  
4-0 Coop Academy  
0-1 Prince Henry  
**POM: Grace A**

# YEAR 9



## POETRY

In English, Year 9 worked hard on writing essays about poetry. The students studied poems on the theme of protest and rebellion and shown great sensitivity and consideration on issues such as climate change, the plight of refugees, women's rights and Black Lives Matter. The year produced some of the best poetry essays we have seen from this age group. Their analysis and attitude have been outstanding. The theme of rebellion continues as students will be writing their own speeches in character against an imagined oppressive government in our dystopian topic!



# YEAR 10



## 90 MINUTE PROJECT

Our 90 minutes project with West Yorkshire Police is up and running again this half term!

The students have been amazing so far and have engaged really well with all activities including last week's input from the Cyber Security team!

Well done all!



## SPORT

The girls football team played their first matches of the season and played really well. Only losing narrowly to a strong Farnley team but also picking up a win and two draws. Player of the day Beth W.

The boys also played their first game this week with an excellent 4-1 win against Guiseley. Player of the match Lucas W.

The boys rugby team played out a thrilling 18 v 18 draw. Leo F player of the match with an amazing debut.



## ART TRIP

Year 10 Art and Photography students had an amazing trip to Newcastle visiting an art gallery.



# YEAR 10



## TECH SUPPORT

A massive thank you to the KS4 students who helped out doing the Year 7 party. They were a massive credit to the school and made it an amazing experience for their younger peers.



## SPORTING SUCCESS

Year 10 Netball v Guiseley - Won: 16-4 - POM: Frankie L

Year 10 Boys football v Abbey Grange - won: 2-0 | v Cardinal Hennan won: 1-0  
POM: Lewis B- Scored all 3 goals!

Year 10 Boys: 4 league games and 4 wins!

## CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL SPORT

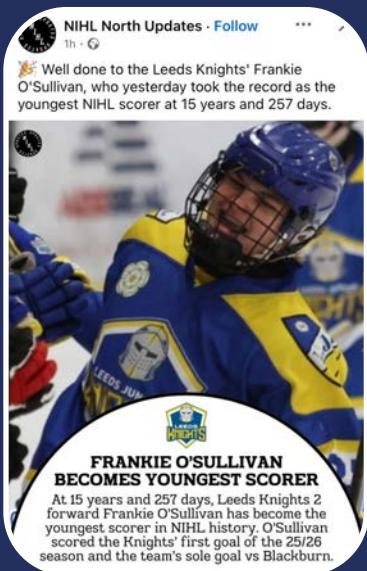
Our Year 10 students took part in a practical workshop to prepare for Task 2.

The session brought theory to life, with activities ranging from testing buoyancy aids to using climbing harnesses (and even some stylish attempts!). Students showed curiosity, teamwork, and commitment—asking thoughtful questions and applying their learning.

These hands-on experiences boost confidence and strengthen the skills needed for success in their upcoming coursework.



# YEAR 11



## SPORT

**GIRLS FOOTBALL** - The girls football team played their first matches of the season and played really well. Only losing narrowly to a strong Farnley team but also picking up a win and two draws.

**ICE HOCKEY** - Congratulations to Frank in Year 11, who became the youngest scorer in NIHL history, scoring for Leeds Knights' – what an achievement!



## TRAMPOLINING

Elliott H had a fantastic weekend at the Trampoline British Championships Weekend. He came away with a silver in trampoline for National Age Group 15-16yrs. This got him into the Junior semi finals on the Sunday where he got through semi finals and finals to gain another silver. He also came away with a silver in synchronised trampolining in the junior category. Congratulations on a very successful weekend!



## SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS

We hosted our Sixth Form Open Evening. To apply for your place, visit our website:

<https://bentonpark.aplicaa.com/year12>

# YEAR 11

## SPORTING SUCCESS

Year 11 Netball Vs Guiseley

Won: 14-5, POM: Iona F

## NETBALL SHOWDOWN

Year 11 Netball Showdown: Team Chattaway vs Team Craig

### Episode 1: The Netball Saga Begins

It was the clash of the century (or at least the term) as Team Chattaway and Team Craig faced off in the first-ever GCSE PE Year 11 netball grudge match. The crowd was buzzing, the players were hyped, and the atmosphere was electric — like a Taylor Swift concert but with more pivoting.



#### Enter the Legends...

Team Chattaway started strong with an amazing shooting treble threat. Josh W — the netball ninja. He glided across the court like he'd been raised by netball gods. Passes? Pinpoint. Movement? Mesmerising. Swagger? Off the charts. Also, Frank showed amazing shooting skills and really shone in quarter 2 and 3, working so well with Josh,

Euan was basically Usain Bolt as a netballer — intercepting everything, sprinting like the ball owed him money, and pivoting with such flair he could've been on *Strictly*. Even when he hit the deck, he did it with style.

Freddie for Team Craig was a brick wall in GK. The GS had less space than the corridor at lunch time. Rebounds? All his. Confidence? Unshakable.

Team Chattaway's Iona in GD was on a mission. Interceptions, transitions, and pure netball wizardry. She moved the ball up the court like she had a satnav built into her trainers.



Millie and Jess were the heartbeat of Team Craig — consistent, committed, and absolutely everywhere. If effort was a stat, they'd be off the charts.

And then there was Isaac. The Pivoting Prince. Every time he got the ball, the WD vanished like a magician's assistant. His spins were so slick, even the opposition had to admit: "*Isaac played really well.*" Royalty confirmed.

#### Final Score: 10-1 to Team Chattaway

Team Chattaway took the win and the bragging rights, but Team Craig are already plotting their comeback. Next Friday's rematch promises drama, redemption, and possibly more falling over.

**Chattaway's POM:** Iona F and Millie B

**Craig's POM:** Josh W and Freddie H

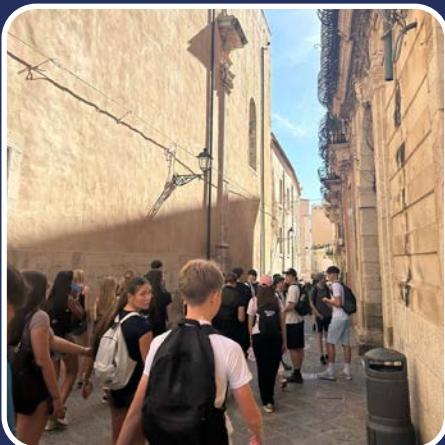
Stay tuned. The saga continues...



# YEAR 11

## SICILY TRIP

Y11 Geographers travelled to Sicily to explore the geography of the island. The trip included a boat trip around Ortigia, pizza making in Taormina and an expedition to the summit of Mount Etna. Students did an excellent job of engaging in the geography and Italian culture around them.



# SIXTH FORM



## DIVING SUCCESS

Year 13 student Joseph Verity visited California Baptist University in September, where he intends to begin his studies next year. As an elite diver, Joseph is preparing to take the next step in his athletic career by training and studying in California following the completion of his A levels at Benton Park School in 2026.



## FOOTBALL SUCCESS

Sophie F is having a fantastic season representing Guiseley Lionesses. Over the weekend, she played in a dominant 17–0 win against Ryburn United Women, contributing with one goal and one assist. In another match for Guiseley Juniors, Sophie helped secure an 11–0 victory over Howden Clough, scoring once and assisting twice. She played left wing in both games and continues to impress with her performance and commitment.

Guiseley AFC U19 Academy Squad - We're proud to have 20 of our Year 12 and 13 students representing Benton Park Sixth Form as part of the Guiseley AFC U19 Academy Squad. These students successfully balance their A Level studies with the demands of competitive football. Last year's leavers progressed to a variety of exciting destinations, including American football scholarships in Colorado and Illinois, and university courses such as Sport and Business Management at Leeds Beckett. This year, we're thrilled to support applications to prestigious institutions including the University of Cambridge (Economics), Loughborough University (Sports Science), and Durham University (Economics with Management).

On the pitch, our students continue to shine—most recently with a 3–0 win against Strachan, where Year 13 student Jacob P was named Man of the Match.

# SIXTH FORM

# SIXTH FORM CSI DAY

Year 12 and 13 students joined a CSI workshop led by Think Forensic specialists. They practiced investigative techniques such as fingerprinting, foot casting, blood spatter analysis, and DNA profiling using professional forensic equipment. Wearing protective gear, students recovered evidence from a simulated crime scene and solved the case by analyzing alibis and entomology data. The workshop also strengthened key transferable skills - teamwork, leadership, initiative and problem-solving for future academic and career success.



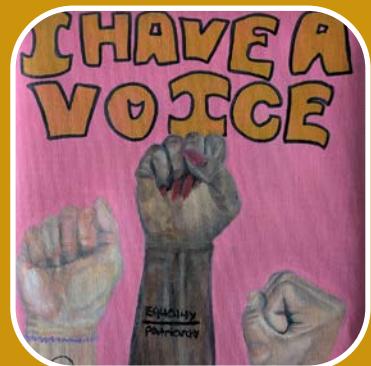
## CHARITY ACHIEVEMENT:

Year 13 student Thomas F completed the Great North Run in Newcastle, covering an impressive 13.1 miles.

Through his efforts, Thomas raised £545 for the Bone Cancer Research Trust—a fantastic achievement that reflects both his dedication and compassion.

# NATIONAL FEMINISTA

Some of our amazing Sixth Form and KS4 students entered a competition with UK Femista to produce a poster which highlights female empowerment and tackles issues of gender discrimination.

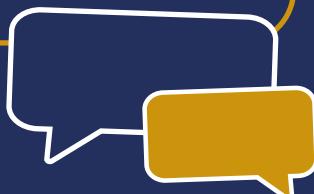




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