

Personal Development at Netherwood Academy.



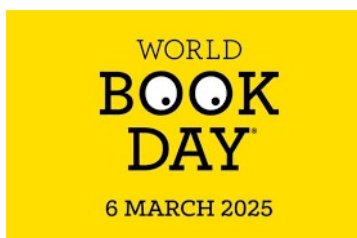
**NETHERWOOD
ACADEMY**

Astrea Academy Trust
INSPIRING BEYOND MEASURE

Character Education: Assembly Programme

Each Year group has an assembly every week where we address key issues that occur, globally, nationally and locally. The assemblies have included:

- ⇒ Chinese New Year
- ⇒ Holocaust memorial day
- ⇒ Y9 - options
- ⇒ Making informed option choices
- ⇒ LGBT+ history month
- ⇒ Careers week
- ⇒ World book day
- ⇒ Science Week
- ⇒ Women's History Month
- ⇒ Random Acts of Kindness
- ⇒ Safer internet day
- ⇒ South Yorkshire police on use of social media



As we successfully complete the second term and move into the final term of this academic Year, it's an exciting yet crucial time to stay focused and motivated. With GCSE exams on the horizon, it's important that our students maintain a positive attitude, manage their time effectively, and revise consistently to achieve their best. It is important to remember that good behaviour and a strong work ethic will not only help students excel academically but also create a productive learning environment for everyone. We want our students to stay determined, as we move into the final school term, ask for support when needed, and finish the Year with pride and confidence in their achievements



We want to say a huge thank you to those of you that support us each term by completing our parent voice survey. Spring term's survey has been completed, we will complete a final survey in the summer term, to help us put plans in place for the next academic Year.

Netherwood Academy now has its very own WhatsApp channel where you can keep up to date with the latest news and information.



To follow the channel please use the address below:

[https://whatsapp.com/
channel/0029VaxyUME5PO12YRVJITIN](https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029VaxyUME5PO12YRVJITIN)



Key stage 3 and 4 students have been covering the following content in their PSHE lessons in this term:

Year 7: Health & puberty and Diversity and equality: Healthy and unhealthy lifestyles, vaping, smoking, personal hygiene and puberty, Identity, prejudice, discrimination, stereotyping and bullying. Protected Characteristics and the Equality Act 2010.

Year 8: Emotional & physical health and Labour market information: Mental health, healthy and unhealthy coping strategies, energy drinks, caffeine, digital resilience & body image and Professional behaviour, health and safety, LMI. Action planning.

Year 9: Opportunity awareness and Intimate relationships: Decision-making, work motivation and challenging stereotypes and Relationship and sex education including consent, contraception, the risks of STIs and attitudes to pornography.

Year 10: Mental Health and Healthy relationships: Looking after your wellbeing, impact of drugs and alcohol, managing pressure, benefits of sleep, relationships, consent, sexual harassment, sexual pleasure and challenges, including the impact of the media and pornography

Year 11: Self-examination & sexual health and Families and relationships: Sexual health & self-examination. Pregnancy outcomes. Routes to parenthood, fertility and the menopause and Parenting and family conflicts. Different long-term commitments, marriage and forced marriage

In the Summer term, the following topics will be covered in PSHE:

Year 7: Digital safety and self-awareness

Year 8: Citizenship and financial decision making

Year 9: Drugs and Health and employability skills

Year 10: Citizenship and financial awareness

Year 11: Being independent, Financial decision-making including budgeting, saving and take-home pay



Studying RE (Religious Education) in school is crucial for fostering understanding, respect and tolerance in an increasingly diverse world. It provides students with the opportunity to explore different religions, beliefs, and cultures, helping them develop a deeper appreciation for the values and traditions that shape societies. RE encourages critical thinking and reflection on ethical and moral questions, equipping students with the tools to navigate complex issues with empathy and open-mindedness. By promoting dialogue and mutual respect, RE plays a key role in building cohesive communities and preparing young people to engage thoughtfully in a multicultural world.



Key stage 3 and 4 students have been covering the following content in their RE lessons in this term:

Year 7: Why are religions so diverse?

Year 8: Why is Christianity the way it is?

Year 9: How did Islam begin and develop? What are the challenges of being Muslim in 21st century Britain?

Year 10: Are religious views on crime and punishment reflected in modern day society?

Year 11: What influences people's views on human rights and social justice

In the Spring term, the following topics will be covered in RE:

Year 7: How do creation narratives shape what it means to be human?

Year 8: To what extent does religion reflect or react to society?

Year 9: What is the function of religion?

Year 10: How can we learn about the real lives of those who lived and died during the holocaust?

Form time curriculum:

Tutor time each day is a vital part of the school routine, providing structure and support to help students start their day positively. It's an opportunity to receive important notices, ensuring everyone is informed about school events, deadlines, and updates. Attendance checks help maintain accountability, while equipment checks ensure students are prepared for their lessons. Tutor time also sets the tone for the day ahead, allowing students to mentally prepare and organise themselves. Additionally, it complements PSHE lessons by covering topics such as well-being, resilience and current affairs, fostering personal development and creating a safe space for discussion. This daily practice strengthens relationships, builds routines, and supports students' overall growth and readiness for learning.



Attending extra-curricular clubs in secondary school is incredibly valuable as it offers opportunities to develop both personally and socially. These clubs help students build strong relationships with peers who share similar interests, fostering teamwork and a sense of belonging. They also provide a platform to develop new skills, whether it's through sports, music, drama, or academic societies, helping students discover and nurture their talents. Participation in extra-curricular activities enhances time management, leadership and communication skills, which are essential for future success. Beyond the classroom, these clubs encourage confidence, resilience and a well-rounded education, making them an integral part of the secondary school experience. A number of our amazing students have completed a sports leaders qualification and have supported a variety of primary sports events so far this year. The feedback they have received has been outstanding and we are looking forward to see how they develop as leaders in our school and within the local community.



In the summer term we are starting a 'Go Lead' programme with our Year 7 and 8 students. Training is being arranged for these students and they will support whole school secondary and primary competitions.

Our Year 7 students visited London in January this Year, taking in the sites and seeing shows, they were so well behaved and really engaged in all planned activities. They were a credit to the school.

We have also run various trips across all Year groups to Magna, GCSE Science Live, HeppSY Go Further Go Higher university visits and we have visited a climate conference where students, teachers and schools discussed their climate education journey. From reducing carbon emissions in their school to moving on in society as active citizens with respect for the world environment.



We are continuing to add to our enrichment offer, and have included some new trips to our schedule this Year. Our students are going skiing in the Easter Holidays in Obertauern, where The Beatles filmed their music video 'Help', and our students will be going on a football trip to Holland in July, where students will play against Dutch opposition and visit the Ajax stadium.



CAREERS INFORMATION ADVICE AND GUIDANCE:

This term we have focused heavily on preparing our Year 9 students for the options process. We have had guest speakers in to discuss various options pathways and provide advice and guidance on the different options available and how these decisions can impact post-16 and post-18 pathways.

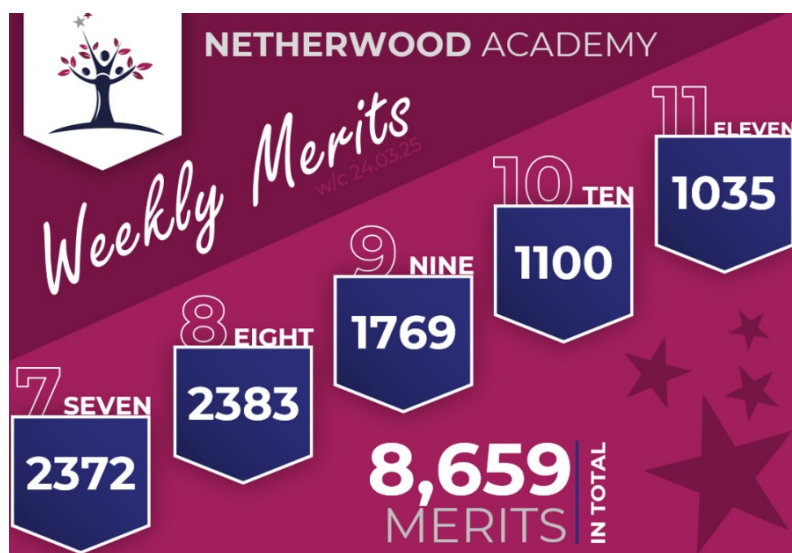
Shortly after we return from the Easter holidays, our Year 10 students will be taking part in a mock interview event. Mock interview day is an invaluable experience that prepares students for the real world by simulating professional interview scenarios. It helps build confidence, improve communication skills, and teaches students how to present themselves effectively to potential employers or colleges. By receiving constructive feedback, students can identify their strengths and areas for improvement, refining their interview techniques. Mock interviews also encourage self-reflection, allowing students to articulate their skills, achievements, and career aspirations clearly. This practice not only reduces anxiety around real interviews but also equips students with the tools to make a positive and lasting impression, setting them up for future success in their chosen pathways.

And as always, we have been meeting with Year 11 students to discuss their chosen post-16 pathway, offering advice and support in completing applications and how to prepare for interviews. If your child/dependent in Year 11 hasn't had a guidance meeting yet, please don't worry. We are still arranging appointments throughout the remainder of the academic year.

REWARDS AT NETHERWOOD:

Rewards play a vital role in motivating students, reinforcing positive behaviour, and fostering a culture of achievement in secondary schools. By recognising effort, progress, and excellence—whether academic, social, or extracurricular—rewards boost students' self-esteem, encourage perseverance, and inspire them to aim higher.

The top 5% of our students were invited to have 'Pizza with the Principal', owing to their progress, positive attitudes and achievements this term. As you can see, the students really enjoyed this reward and loved the opportunity to chat to other students in different Year groups, as well as speaking with our principal about school improvement.



SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

On the last day of this term our Year 7 students were invited to attend a charity disco to raise money for Comic Relief.

Our student council and Year 11 prefects supported the planning of the event, organised stalls and competitions and managed the tuck shop. The donation for the price of the ticket and money raise from the tuck shop will all go to Comic Relief.



Last term a number of our Year 8 students sent Christmas cards to a local residential home. This term we have been asked if some of our students want to be pen pals with the residents of the care home and as you can imagine, our students jumped at the chance.

Being a pen pal to elderly residents at a local care home is a truly heart-warming experience. Not only does it bring immense joy to the residents, who cherish the connection and companionship, but it also reflects positively on our school, showcasing our commitment to kindness and community spirit. These meaningful interactions brighten the residents' days, combat loneliness, and remind them how valued they are. At the same time, our school's reputation grows as students demonstrate empathy, respect, and a dedication to making a difference. It's a small gesture with a big impact—spreading happiness while fostering intergenerational bonds.



From all at Netherwood, we wish you and your families a joyful and restful Easter break! We hope this time allows you to relax and recharge. As we look ahead to the final term of the school Year, we're excited to support our students in finishing strong, with a focus on their progress, well-being, and achievements. Thank you for your continued support and partnership—it plays a vital role in your child's success. We can't wait to see what the final term will bring and are committed to making it a positive and productive end to the academic Year.

Happy Easter, and we'll see you refreshed and ready for the term ahead on Tuesday 22nd April.



Please follow our very own X (used to be Twitter) account @Netherwood_Acad to see our recent highlights, including:

- Sporting achievements and results
- Student council updates
- Events and activities at Netherwood Academy



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