

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:

- ⇒ Shared history of Barnsley
- ⇒ Mental Health
- ⇒ Resilience and stress management
- ⇒ Stress awareness month
- ⇒ EID
- ⇒ Thank a Teacher Day
- ⇒ PRIDE
- ⇒ Summer safety



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

As we bring this academic year to a close, we take a moment to reflect on all we've achieved together—the challenges overcome, the lessons learned, and the countless moments of growth and connection. It's been a year of resilience, creativity, and community, and we're so proud of what everyone has accomplished. While we celebrate the end of this chapter, we're also looking ahead with excitement to the fresh opportunities and new beginnings that the next academic year will bring. Thank you for making this year unforgettable—here's to finishing strong and returning with even greater energy in September!



We want to say a huge thank you to those of you that support us each term by completing our parent voice survey. Summer term's survey has been completed and we will use the information provide to keep driving the school forward in the next academic year

To all our fantastic parents and students – we hope you have a safe, happy and restful summer break! Enjoy the sunshine, make great memories, and we can't wait to welcome everyone back in September full of energy, positivity and enthusiasm. Let's make next year another amazing journey of learning, growth and fun together!

See you in September – refreshed, ready and raring to go!

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic) education plays a vital role in schools by equipping students with essential life skills and knowledge to navigate the challenges of growing up and adulthood. It covers important topics such as mental health, relationships, financial literacy, and personal well-being, helping students develop resilience, empathy, and decision-making skills. PSHE fosters a safe space for open discussions, encouraging students to understand themselves and others better while promoting respect and inclusivity. By addressing real-world issues, PSHE empowers young people to make informed choices, build healthy relationships, and contribute positively to society, making it a cornerstone of holistic education.



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

Year 7: Building healthy relationships, safe online relationships, banter Vs bullying, managing conflict Pressure in relationships, consent, respect, smoking and vaping, road safety, public transport and travel safety, railway safety, water safety and rule of law.

Year 8: Vaping, illegal Vs legal drugs, drugs and alcohol in the media, what are county lines, signs of county line and support available, anti-social behaviour, relationship values, different types of long term relationships, conflict in relationships, influences and relationship expectations, sexual orientation, consent and assumptions.

Year 9: Risk behaviours, online behaviour, criminal gangs, knife crime and joint enterprise, ABD, offenders, rule of law, different families, respectful relationships and boundaries, commitment in relationships, ending relationships, communication in relationships, abuse in relationships, respect.

Year 10: Challenging harmful beliefs, what is extremism, how do people become radicalised, how can we challenge extremism, democracy, healthy lifestyles, fueling your body and brain, healthy sleep routines, looking after your mental health, tolerance.

Year 11: Being independent, post-16 options, effective study skills, organisation in year 11, producing a curriculum vitae, reframing negative thinking, take home pay, budgeting, different types of employment at 16.





Studying RE 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.

Our RE curriculum involves the 'ways of knowing' associated with the academic disciplines that engage with religious and non-religious worldviews. It involves developing the specialised knowledge and specialised skills associated with studying religion and worldviews.

When we are talking about this in the classroom, it can be helpful to talk about looking through the lenses of believing, living and thinking.

These different lenses have been mapped throughout our curriculum and include Theology, Social Sciences and Philosophy

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

Year 7: What do Abrahamic Faith stories tell us about God

Year 8: What does it mean to be good?

Year 9: What is the love of wisdom?

Year 10: What is the most useful approach to take when making medical ethical decisions?

Year 11: Sexuality, relationships and family

Sports Day 2025:

Against all odds – and in sweltering heat – our students absolutely shone at this year's Sports Day! Their energy, teamwork and enthusiasm were incredible, making up for last year's rain-out in spectacular style. From sprint finishes to hilarious relay races, the spirit was unbeatable. A huge well done to everyone who took part, cheered on, or simply survived the heatwave with a smile – you were amazing!

Netherwood triumph at the Yorkshire Speak out finals

We are absolutely thrilled to share some fantastic news with you. One of our very own students won the Yorkshire Speak Out Final after an outstanding performance on Wednesday 9th July.

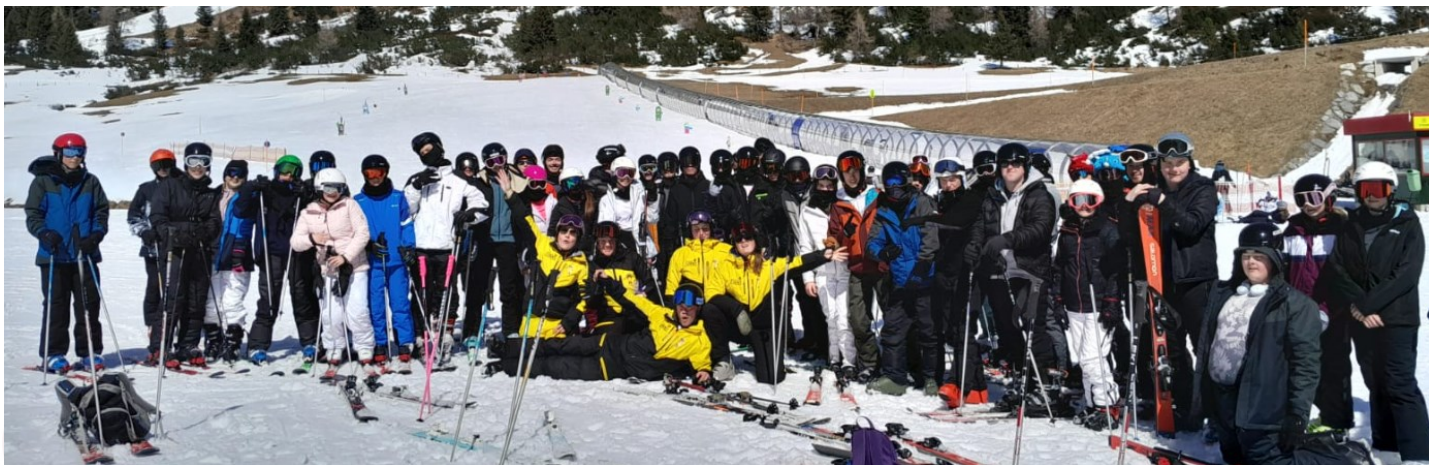
This is an extraordinary accomplishment, especially considering that 35,000 students took part in the competition across the UK, which was then narrowed down to just 16 finalists. He not only represented our school with pride but emerged as the champion—a testament to his hard work, talent, and dedication.



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.



Ski trip 2025: We're incredibly proud of our students who embraced the challenges of the ski trip with determination, positivity, and fantastic teamwork. From mastering new skills on the slopes to supporting each other through every fall and triumph, they showed true resilience—and did it all with outstanding behaviour. Well done to all; you've done yourselves and the school proud!



Holland trip 2025: Our Year 9 and 10 students delivered an outstanding performance on their football trip to Holland, playing brilliantly in scorching heat and showing fantastic teamwork. The trip was packed with highlights, including a visit to a professional football ground and an exclusive training session with top Dutch coaches—an unforgettable experience that honed their skills and passion for the game. Well done to all involved



Year 10 Mock Interview Day: We're incredibly proud of our Year 10 students who took part in our recent Mock Interview Day, stepping out of their comfort zones to showcase their skills and ambitions. Dressed professionally and armed with preparation, they engaged with local employers and volunteers, gaining invaluable feedback and confidence for their future careers. It was a fantastic opportunity to practise real-world skills, from communication to resilience—well done to all involved!



Enrichment Day for year 10 students: On Friday 18th July, our Year 10 students took part in an exciting Enrichment Day designed to support their transition into Year 11 and beyond. The day focussed on post-16 and post-18 options, employability skills, and mental wellbeing, equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about their futures. Through workshops, guest speakers, and interactive sessions, they explored career pathways, developed key skills, and learnt strategies to stay resilient during the year ahead. This was a fantastic opportunity to prepare, reflect, and set goals—it really was a day to remember

CULTURE DAY AT NETHERWOOD:

Our students embraced a whirlwind of global traditions during our fantastic Culture Day, designed to foster respect and appreciation for our wonderfully diverse school community. From Day of the Dead mask-making and Aboriginal dot painting to Bollywood dance, Māori performances, and samba drumming, the energy was electric! Through creativity, movement, and collaboration, they explored the richness of different cultures—and hopefully had loads of fun along the way. A huge well done to all for diving in with such enthusiasm and open minds. Let's keep celebrating what makes us unique!





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. We managed to raise over £200 for comic relief.

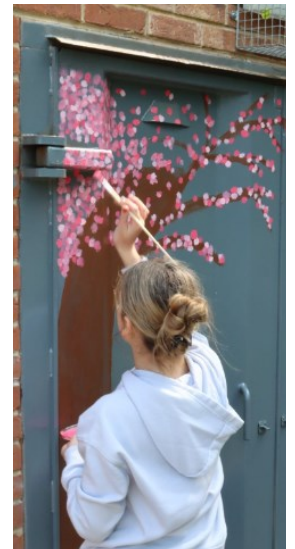


Netherwood 3K charity event:

Huge congratulations to our amazing students who showed fantastic energy and teamwork in our charity 3K event! From sprinting the course around the school field to tackling fun sports challenges, their enthusiasm was unstoppable—and thanks to their efforts and your generous sponsorship, we've smashed our target, raising over £3,400 for BIADS! A brilliant day of fun, fitness, and making a real difference. Well done, everyone!



Netherwood students showing off their art skills: At our school, we take pride in actively supporting and improving our local community. One of the ways we do this is by empowering our students to design and paint vibrant murals in public spaces, transforming dull walls into inspiring works of art. These projects not only brighten the neighbourhood but also instil a sense of pride, teamwork, and civic responsibility in our students. Together, we're making a lasting, positive impact—one brushstroke at a time!



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



[@Netherwood_Acad](#)