

Winter 2025



**Mr Scales and scholars
with the Yorkshire
Prestige Awards'
Secondary School of the
Year prize**

We're secondary school of the year!

SCHOLARSHIP



THE school has been named the Secondary School of the Year at a top awards ceremony.

It was crowned at the Yorkshire Prestige Awards. Judges noted the school had a continued focus on improving the lives of scholars.

The school was recognised for making significant and rapid progress under the leadership of headteacher Mr Scales.

The culture within the school, which

gives free musical instruments to all new Year 7 and 8 scholars, has been transformed, judges said.

The school was nominated for the award by an anonymous admirer, then judges had the final say.

Mr Scales said: "To be named secondary school of the year in the whole of Yorkshire shows that we have created a warm, welcoming and academically rigorous learning environment for our scholars.

"As the judges rightly noted, this is a school transformed, it is now a calm disruption-free place for scholars to

study. At Woodfields, we believe that background should not be a barrier to success, that every child can achieve at the highest level. We make no excuses for setting exceptionally high standards. We don't just want to stop at being the best in Yorkshire, but the best in the country.

"These awards are wonderful but what underlines that is a school where there are no limits to what our children can achieve. We are setting them up here to move on to the best universities in the country or real alternatives, like sought-after careers and apprenticeships."

'Some stunning performances'

Principal Mr Scales reflects on the term

Astrea Academy Woodfields is an academic school committed to getting young people to university or a real alternative, so they live a great life. We teach our family values of duty, community, and scholarship so our scholars excel in their studies while developing a strong character. In this collective endeavour we find joy – this term has been our most joyous yet.

We are delighted to share that our class of 2027 scholars achieved the school's best-ever attainment this summer. Our departed Year 11s benefitted from additional classes in holidays, at weekends, before and after school; as well as completing two hours a night of homework. Such tenacity led to Calvin and Ryan gaining nine of the top grade 9s between them, among other exceptional performances. This has enabled them to study A-levels and go on to study at top universities.

While we have seen stunning academic performances, we have witnessed exceptional achievements on stage. This summer, we collected a special award from Poetry by Heart for our approach to poetry at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Every child learns 19th-century poems and recites them daily. Such was the interest that we will appear in a film, Poetry by Heart – the Movie at Easter. It provides us with a source of inspiration to see our scholars recite this poetry with such enthusiasm.

This September we welcomed our latest Year 7s, the Class of 2032. In October we loaned them trumpets and trombones,



SPORTS DAY: Year 11 sports leaders refereed and coached primary school scholars in a variety of sports including rounders, football and badminton. The day formed part of their BTEC Sport leadership assessment and will count towards their final grade.

Year 11 Sam said: "The event helped me develop many skills including leadership. It made me more patient working with younger scholars. It gave me a better understanding on how to lead. It also helped me develop teamwork and communications skills because I had to work alongside other sports leaders."

QUESTION TIME: Scholars quizzed their local MP as the school marked Parliament Week. Labour MP Sally Jameson fielded questions as diverse as potholes and climate change. She met with the scholar council before taking part in a question-and-answer session with Year 9.

Scholar Council chair of Key Stage Three Advika said: "She was great, really open and honest about the answers she gave to our questions. We asked her about how you get into being an MP, what it's like being part of the government and how you deliver on promises. It was a very inspiring visit."

Family values give food for thought

COMMUNITY

SCHOLARS and staff come together each lunchtime to share a chat on the topics of the day as part of our "family dining" experience.

Discussions over freshly prepared meals can be anything from the Oasis reunion to the importance of kindness.

They sit on tables in groups to encourage inclusion and new friendships, with teachers dining alongside the scholars. They also help to serve the food and tidy up at the end of the mealtime – just like a traditional family household. No one is left out and no one eats on their own, fostering a sense of belonging and being valued.

To show gratitude, scholars are invited to speak publicly, thanking someone who has helped them.

Headteacher Mr Scales said: "It is about creating a family-style atmosphere at school, which is inclusive and caring. We want scholars to develop a sense of



Teachers and scholars have lunch together

responsibility, to grow in confidence and develop an attitude of gratitude.

"These are the qualities that will serve them beyond the walls of this school into the world of work and careers. All the food is made from scratch, there are no canned foods, children eat a good meal in good company. Families have been remarking that their children are better behaved at meals times now and are trying a wider variety of foods."

complementing the Class of 2031 who have been learning flutes and clarinets. Music is the beating heart of the school and it is exhilarating to witness them learn these

instruments and gain mastery.

Scholars are rehearsing for our first ever production, which I can reveal will be Bugsy Malone. We hope that you will join us.



Scholars will take part in a camping expedition next May

Going on an adventure for Duke of Edinburgh award

DUTY



SCHOLARS will volunteer, learn a skill, and go on a camping expedition to complete their bronze Duke of Edinburgh award.

They have spent three months gathering evidence for their award, including volunteering in the school and community.

Year 9 scholar Mufaro joined art club for his skill and walked around Doncaster for his physical.

He said: "I really enjoyed taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh award. It has

got me out of my comfort zone doing the different activities."

Year 9 scholar Zahra said: "I'm really looking forward to the expedition, to doing the walk and camping with my friends. I feel like I have learned a lot of skills while doing this award, like teamwork, and my communication is a lot better."

The scholars take part in their camping expedition in May next year.

Meanwhile, Year 10 scholar Denver is in the middle of her silver six months Duke of Edinburgh award. She has been coaching the Year 7 and 8 football team for her volunteering.

The silver award scholars will undergo a gruelling 16km hike across three days at Sherwood Pines in March next year.

Denver said: "The Duke of Edinburgh really pushes you. It's huge opportunity to take part in lots of different activities that can help you become a better person. It's made me realise that you can't take things for granted. That you should be respectful and be more grateful for the support you receive.

"It is hard work but in the end it is worth it. When you complete the expedition, you know it's done and you feel proud of yourself."

Speaking out on decision-making

DUTY



SCHOLAR Amarachi left the stage to rapturous applause at The Speak Out Challenge after her impassioned talk on whose advice you take.

The Year 10 scholar narrowly missed out on a prize at the public speaking competition for Yorkshire Schools, coming in a highly respectable fourth. The self-penned and delivered talk, on the dangers of taking and giving advice to and from friends, won praise from judges.

Olivia was also selected to represent the in the Speak Out Challenge after taking part in a public-speaking workshop at school.

She said: "I have watched people make really bad decisions after listening to bad advice and I wanted to share that.

"I was a bit nervous when I went out on stage, but I used those nerves to really give it my best shot. I was surprised to do so well."

The Speak Out Challenge is the world's biggest youth speaking event with communication skills training delivered by Speakers Trust.

Back to school

COMMUNITY



LAST YEAR's Year 11 scholars got to come back to the school to say a final goodbye. They received applause as they collected GCSE certificates at a ceremony. There were awards for outstanding effort and outstanding attainment in each subject as well as a headteachers award.

Mr Scales said: "It was wonderful to welcome back our former scholars for a proper send off before they head out into the world. We wanted to have a public recognition of how hard they worked."



Leading the line

DUTY



YEAR 11 scholar Dion (pictured above) was brimming with pride after leading the school's Remembrance Day parade.

The Army Cadet formed all his fellow cadets and gave them the orders to march in the playground where they laid a wreath. You could have heard a pin drop as staff and scholars observed a two-minute silence. There were also poetry readings from scholars and a rendition of *The Last Post*.

Dion said: "If it was not for the sacrifices made by those who died serving this country we would not have the life we have today."

"I was so proud to lead the cadets out on the Remembrance Day parade. Being a cadet is amazing, it really gets you out of your comfort zone."

'I was really proud to win this award'

DUTY



THE winner of this year's Paul Chappell Tenacity Trophy has spoken about the honour of receiving the award.

Year 10 scholar Kenny was nominated by staff for always turning up for school and giving his best every day.

He said: "It was very special to get the award because I know it is in honour of Mr Chappell who was very well liked and respected by scholars."

"I think it is important to give it your all every day because you only get one chance to be in school and you must make the most of it."

"I was really proud to win this award. It is nice to know that your hard work is being recognised by the teachers."

The second annual Woodfields prize-giving ceremony saw scholars receive awards in several categories.

The Curiosity Cup went to Amarachi, who displayed academic curiosity in her studies.

She said: "I was surprised that I won the cup because I won an award last year and so I didn't think I would get another one."

"I think I was chosen because I get



involved in lots of extracurricular activities at the school, I try to put myself out there."

The new Community Cup award was given to Olivia for her contribution to the Speak Out Challenge, where she performed vocals to a packed audience.

The Scholarship Shield was awarded to Jakob (pictured above), who has the highest average grade across all subjects.

The Ad Astra Award went to Charlie for showing consistent improvement over the school year and demonstrating the school values.

Work and play

SCHOLARSHIP, COMMUNITY & DUTY



Our Year 11 scholars enjoyed a jam-packed weekend of GCSE revision sandwiched between fun activities.



The PGL trip blended subject-specific study with activities such as canoeing, wall climbing and zip wire.



Year 11 scholar Evie said: "It was a really fun trip because it gave us a



Archery was among the breakout activities amid the revision

break from school, but also kept us on track with revision.

"Year 11 can be hard work because we are really focused on our exams, but this gave us a chance to relax as well."

Year 11 scholar Oskar said: "I found studying easier after we had

done the activities because I was more relaxed, we had a break from it then came back ready to learn."

"I enjoyed the canoeing because it was something fun to do with my friends. I had never done it before so it was nice to have little competitions with your friends."



Five schools combined for the Play Away Day run by Music in Secondary Schools Trust

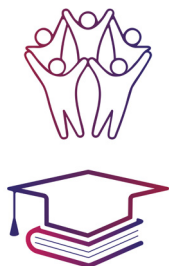
Schools unite in harmony

SCHOLARSHIP & COMMUNITY

SCHOLARS hit the right note when they teamed up with musicians from local schools to form a freeform orchestra for the day.

The school hosted the Play Away Day run by the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST) this term.

The event saw our youngsters join



forces with scholars from four other schools to create one huge musical ensemble.

Scholars took part in workshops, ensemble rehearsals and informal performances, all led by specialist teachers.

Year 7 scholar Ethan, who plays the trumpet, said: "It was so much fun because we were all playing together as a group but there wasn't a piece of music to follow it was all improvised.

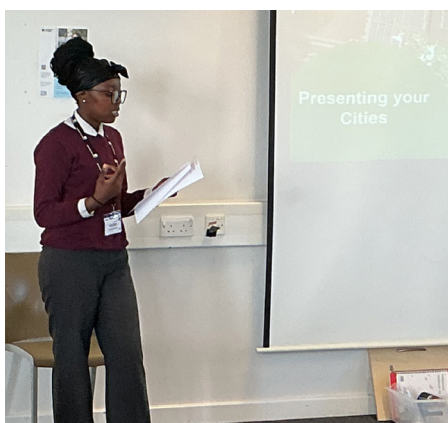
"It was great to come together with

other musicians to create something new in just one day. I love playing the trumpet."

Head of performing arts Ms Atkins said: "We were so proud to host this event and are immensely proud of all the scholars who took part.

"Their energy, creativity and willingness to support one another made the day truly inspiring.

"We are very grateful to our friends at MiSST and all of the musical tuition and opportunities that they have made available to our scholars."



Shanelle presents ideas at the University of Leeds

Exploring the campus grounds

SCHOLARSHIP

SCHOLARS got a taste of life at a top university during a campus visit to the University of Leeds.

The Year 10s were invited to take part in interactive workshops on geology and civil engineering, on the Beneath the City: A Discovery of Civil Engineering and Geology course, led by academics.

They were split into groups to investigate the ground's role in



construction and reimagine the cities of tomorrow. Each group presented ideas to the panel of academics. They also got to meet scholars at the university.

Year 10 scholar Andree said: "I always wanted to become an engineer, I just didn't know what type I wanted to be. It gave me a better insight into what it would be like to be an engineer."

Year 10 scholar Shantelle said: "I really enjoyed being on the campus. It made me feel like I really could go to a top university."

EXAM READY: Scholars prepared for the pressure of GCSEs by taking their mock exams this term. They attended an assembly where the results were given out, followed by parents' evening to discuss achievements and development.

Year 11 scholar Leonardo said: "We got our first set of mock results in Year 10 and that was a bit of a wake-up call. It meant we needed to get our head down and get good results. I am happy with the mock exam results. Scholarship to me means paying attention in class not getting distracted by others, not distracting others. I also pay attention to what other people are asking in class because it could be relevant."

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

Scholars learned about their future education and career pathways at the careers fair held in the main hall. There were more than 20 colleges, universities and employers, including Doncaster Sports College, York University and Doncaster New College.

Year 11 scholar Oskar said: "I am likely to choose Doncaster New College because it is the only one I know of that does economics at A-level."

Evie said: "I am interested in sports leadership, so I was looking into that at the fair. It was helpful because I am still a little unsure what I want to do."

SPORTS SCENE: Primary school scholars tried new sports thanks to an event run by our sports leaders. The sessions were attended by more than 100 scholars from Woodfield Primary and Carr Lodge where they tried badminton, table tennis and dodgeball.

Year 11 scholar Leonardo said: "I enjoyed teaching them the new sports and they seemed to have a good time learning. Being a sports leader has boosted my confidence and developed key skills that will benefit me."



ORCHESTRAL MANOEUVRES: Every child in Year 7 has a brass instrument to take home.

'Best thing I've ever done': ready to Shine at uni

SCHOLARSHIP



AN ASPIRATIONS programme helping youngsters get to university gave our scholars the chance to shine this term.

The Shine initiative was created by York University to encourage bright scholars to apply for university.

They meet with current and former scholars who help demystify many aspects of academia including concepts like lectures and group presentations.

In Year 9, scholars visited the university for the first time, getting a tour of the campus and sitting in on lectures and tutorials.

A year later in Year 10, they trialled

university life with a three-day residential exploring the academic and social side of higher education.

They met for the final time in Year 11 at the Shine Programme Summit, where they were given revision tips for GCSE.

Year 11 scholar Dion took part in the programme. He said: "It was the best thing I have ever done. It was such a great experience meeting new people."

"I made loads of friends with scholars from other schools, found out about what university is like – not just the studying side but the social side, too."

"I am now determined to go to university because I had such a wonderful experience and I am now used to what it is like."

Showcase evening tunes up with musical introduction

SCHOLARSHIP

YEAR 7 scholars started their musical journey at Woodfield by collecting their new instruments at our musical instrument evening.



The scholars took their new trumpets and trombones home with them so they can practise outside of school.

The evening is part of the school's involvement in the Music in Secondary Schools Trust (MiSST), which provides funding for instruments, regular tuition and opportunities to perform, including the recent Play Away Day.

Year 8 scholars also performed a flute ensemble during the evening.

Lexi said: "I was assigned the trombone, which I absolutely love. I went home and played it all day and night.

"My parents on the other hand had to cover their ears because, as I'm just starting, I'm not so good at it yet. I'm getting better."

She added: "I really enjoyed the performance from Year 8 scholars. They are all playing the flute so it was calming music, but it also had a great beat to it. I was dancing in my chair a little bit.



Council focuses on wellbeing

DUTY

THE new president of the Scholar Council says she will make supporting the mental health of scholars a top priority.



Year 9 Nenyasha (*pictured left*) came through a rigorous selection process, which included an interview with headteacher Mr Scales.

She wants the Scholar Council to become a wellbeing resource for those who need help.

She said: "Scholars should be able to express themselves and talk about what is going on for them. We want them to feel like they can talk to members of the Scholar Council. They might not want to talk to a grown-up, they might need to talk to someone their own age. We can be a resource for those scholars. We can then signpost them to extra help if it's needed."

Scholar Sonum was selected as vice-president. The Scholar Council got the chance to quiz MP Sally Jameson this term.



Scholars were given certificates for their 100% attendance

Scholars celebrate their 100% attendance rates

DUTY

THE school is leaving nothing to chance in its bid to drive up attendance at school.

Woodfields has twice been recognised as among the most improved schools in the country for attendance in the past two years.

A whopping 214 scholars had a 100% attendance in the last year, while half the scholars in the school are



meeting the 97% attendance criteria.

Assistant principal Mr Ayres puts the improvement down to the warm, welcoming atmosphere at the school.

He said: "As a school we have worked very hard to create a warm and welcoming learning environment where scholars can reach their potential.

"Scholars are polite to one another and the school is a safe place where they can learn in calm classrooms free of disruption.

"The school is a nice place to be where scholars and staff get along in an environment of collaboration and academia."

Associate vice-principal Mr Clifford said: "We set up our school with the most vulnerable children in mind.

"That means we strive to make every area of the school a very safe space, free of bullying and bad behaviour.

"We have very robust rules on behaviour, which can add structure and order to the children's lives."

Viva España

COMMUNITY

OUR scholars learned how to flamenco dance from an expert as part of a Spanish culture day.

They took part in a workshop where they practised new dance moves and discussed Spanish culture.

The session was run by a representative of the Spanish Embassy, who managed to get Mr Ayres on stage to demonstrate his dance moves.

Year 9 scholar Elvis said: "My favourite part was when Mr Ayres got up on stage and danced. He had good dance moves.

"I really enjoyed learning about the



The session was run by a representative of the Spanish Embassy



history of the dance and how that had impacted Spanish culture."

Year 9 scholar Frankie said: "I liked that there is a dress that goes with every dance. The flamenco dress

is red with black dots.

"It has inspired me in my Spanish class to learn more of the language and culture. Now I can order food in Spanish, but I want to learn more."