



# Christmas Newsletter 2024





## Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter.

I would like to start this newsletter by acknowledging the staff team here at Scarborough PRU. Everyone works so hard to ensure the pupils not only display academic progress but more importantly that they feel safe and enjoy coming to school. I hope that this dedication to the school and its pupils is demonstrated in the articles and photographs in the newsletter.

As always, the Autumn term has been long and tiring for everyone (pupils and staff), we are all ready for the Christmas break. We have seen new pupils and staff arrive and also (more importantly) pupils transitioning successfully back to their mainstream school or on to other educational establishments. As you are aware life at the PRU is very fluid and because we want the very best for our pupils, we work closely with other schools to ensure they receive the support and opportunities they deserve, as they move on in their educational journey.

Our pupils came back into school at the beginning of September prepared for the hard work ahead of them and although there has been some unsettlement, for the most part we have seen progression in lessons and also in social aspects of learning as you will see from the pupil reports.

We have also had 'The Visit'. As you are aware Ofsted inspected the school in November. This was expected and was a full inspection. You will all have now received a copy of the report that is also published on the Department of Education and Ofsted website.

I am immensely proud of the hard work that has been done to maintain the 'Good' credibility of this school and I am sure you will join with me in giving high praise to all of the pupils who showed maturity and resilience during what was a very gruelling 2 days. We know what we need to work on as we move forward and as always are grateful of your support in the role we play in your child's life.

I hope that you had the opportunity to join us for the Christmas Lunch and also attend the Parent Morning to celebrate the positive aspects of the pupil's life at the PRU. As always, this time is to share the achievements and hard work, we don't discuss any negative aspects but focus on the ways the individual pupils are achieving and being successful.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas. Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

**Mrs Jo Fox**  
**Head Teacher**

## Subject News

### English- Mrs Ford

Since September there has been some excellent work produced by all the year groups. I have been really impressed with how pupils have reacted to the focus on English Literature including: Of Mice and Men, A Christmas Carol, Macbeth, The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe and Gothic fiction.



Key Stage 4 pupils have completed work on Macbeth, which means in February they will have the opportunity to attend the Stephen Joseph Theatre and watch a production which includes David Tennant.

We now have a 'Wow' Wall this is a celebration of pupils outstanding work. If pupils are lucky enough to get their work displayed, they receive a praise postcard home and a chocolate bar. This has become a great competition which provides a headache in deciding who's work wins but one that I relish.



I've really enjoyed this term and am looking forward to more hard work and resilience in English in the Spring. Merry Christmas!

### Art – Mrs Aveyard



KS4 - What is a line? "Line drawing is boring." Or is it? Line, one of the formal elements in art, can be interpreted in endless ways, we just need a bit of imagination. There are straight lines, curvy lines, jagged lines and lines that never seem to end, like those used by Picasso in his continuous line drawings.



KS3 pupils also had a taste of other formal elements. We looked at colour and discovered that we only needed the three primary colours to make every other colour possible. For a minute there we were thinking Mrs Aveyard was being quite mean by not sharing her paints but we worked out that we didn't need them.



Who would have thought it, when trying to decide if we should paint our bedroom 'duck egg' blue or 'early dawn' that colour theory starts with just three simple colours?

## RE – Miss Oldham

In RE pupils have studied why we study RE meaning of being an atheist, agnostic and theist, sparking some interesting debates on the existence of God. We have also looked



at religious freedoms and compared our own in the UK to Syria.



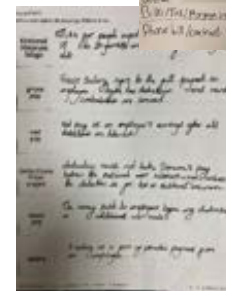
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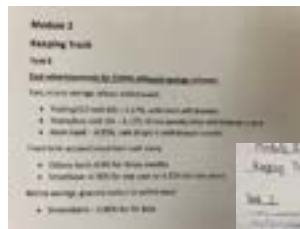
This term we have moved on to looking at religious opinions of war; a Just War compared to a Holy War and evaluating if certain wars were Just Wars.

## ASDAN Personal finance Short Course – Miss P

During Module 1 and 2 we learned about money and personal finance. We looked at how this will help pupils develop a good understanding of income and outgoings. Pupils have learned meanings of several financial terms like National Minimum Wage; gross pay; net pay; National Insurance many more.



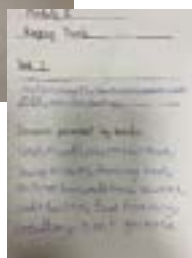
and



Pupils explored different services of banks and building societies,

researched various financial statements like Council tax

bill, loan statement, electricity or a gas bill and looked at advertisements of saving account and explored their advantages and disadvantages.



## Citizenship – Mr Brannan

This term in Citizenship the main focus has been on the difference between adult and children's rights in the UK.

Each class has also had some really good discussions on how they see their lives in 20 years times and how their responsibilities might change from now until then.



## KS3 Humanities – Mrs Aveyard

### RE

Learning about the main world religions helps us appreciate cultural differences and have a better understanding of the people who make up our community. As we researched Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism and Sikhism, it became clear that while there were a lot of differences, there were also some very similar shared values. There were plenty of celebrations, food, a special place of worship, rules, significant scriptures and recognisable symbols. Whether we believe in a god or not, we understood that tolerance, acceptance and peace was of utmost importance.



### History

“What is a revolution?” Well one kind of revolution that had occurred became very evident when comparing the British countryside of the 1700s to that of the 1800s. A change so seismic that there was no escaping the industrial scale in which the landscape changed forever.



Some changes were great and some not so much.

Machines that made life at work easier, creating jobs and growing businesses compared to slum living conditions



“Children worked how many hours?!” We concluded that coming to school each day might be preferable to scavenging in the local cotton mill or pushing a heavy coal truck somewhere underground.

## Life Skills – Mrs Abdel-Karim

This term, we've been focusing on key topics to help pupils navigate friendships and relationships with confidence and kindness. We explored what it means to be a good friend, how friendships evolve, and the qualities of positive, respectful relationships. Pupils also learned how to recognize unsafe or negative relationships and the importance of setting boundaries.



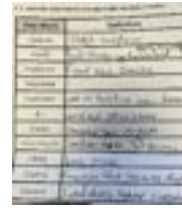
Through project work on bullying, pupils developed a clear understanding of what bullying is, how to address it, and how to stay safe. Additionally, we discussed peer pressure, helping pupils identify it and develop strategies to make independent and positive choices.

These lessons aim to equip pupils with essential skills to build healthy relationships and handle social challenges effectively.

## Digital Functional Skills – Miss P



Being able to use computer and other digital devices has become part of our daily lives, whether it is using a mobile phone, laptop, computer or a game console.



This term we have focused on using devices and handling information and creating and editing. Knowledge and skills gained throughout these modules are important and transferable across the curriculum, as well as being essential in the life of work or further study.



## Reading

Reading is a very important part of our everyday life at SPRS. Pupils have the opportunity to read on various platforms and have a choice of 1000's of books and



magazines both from the library and online.

We are also currently developing a Reading page on the website so please watch this space...



## DEAR

Every Wednesday for 45 minutes everyone participates in DEAR time- this stands for Drop Everything And Read.

This is a chance for everyone (including staff) to read a book as a group or their own personal reading book. We also have a well-stocked library where pupils can loan any book which interests them and take it to read at home.



## Jackanory with Fordy

During DEAR time Mrs Ford has a Jackanory Storytime session in the library – she reads the book and pupils listen. As you can see, we have altered the library and have purchased bean bags and comfy chairs to help pupils feel able to go into the room and not feel threatened or unsettled. As you can see for the photos the pupils love it!



### Food Studies – Miss Oldham

The dishes created in Food Studies this term have been incredible. Our focus has been on 'Fakeaways' and how we can



incorporate these into our diet whilst keeping them lower in cost and calories than a takeaway.

The feedback from all pupils has been extremely positive and many have said they will recreate the recipes at home. In Food Studies pupils take their cooking and presentation very seriously as they battle



for the "Chef of the Week".

### Science – Mr Togwell

In Key Stage 3 pupils have studied the unit on Elements and compounds. Here the pupils looked at separating mixtures and describing polymers.



In Key Stage 4 the Year 11s have been revising using past exam papers in Biology to identify gaps in knowledge and then complete revision to fill these gaps in knowledge. They have also been completing the 10 required practical assessments in the Biology GCSE course.

In Year 10 pupils have studied cells and disease. In the photo a year 10 pupil has made a slide to look at their own Cells and find the nucleus containing DNA. This is



the view down the microscope lens of the cell.



## Social, Emotional, Aspects of Learning (SEAL) – Mrs Abdel-Karim

This term, our focus has been on fostering an understanding of *resilience* and the power of *emotions*, essential skills that help our pupils navigate life's ups and downs.

To bring these topics to life, we engaged in meaningful discussions and activities centred around two inspiring films:

- **The Pursuit of Happiness:** This heartfelt story of perseverance allowed us to explore the importance of determination, hope, and the strength it takes to overcome challenges.



- **Inside Out 2:** Through this animated journey inside the mind, pupils reflected on how emotions shape our decisions, relationships, and personal growth.

Pupils were able to create a collage to express all emotions. It was a dynamic and engaging activity that encouraged pupils to explore their feelings through art. By combining images, colours, textures, and words, they can visually represent a wide range of emotions, from joy and excitement to sadness and anger. This creative process allows them to reflect on their own experiences, develop emotional literacy, and communicate their feelings in a non-verbal yet impactful way.

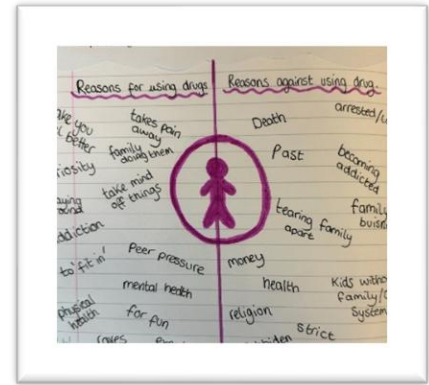




## PSHE – Mrs Aveyard



One of our regular topics was up for discussion once again this term, drugs and alcohol. We had not long completed our Growing up in North Yorkshire



Survey. Local trends are indicating that when children are choosing to drink alcohol, there appears to be a preference for spirits. We needed to understand the risks and consequences associated with consuming 'hard' alcohol and the latest 'in' drugs.

We discussed reasons why people drink or take drugs and the impact that this can have on not just the user but their friends and families.

A local service known as NYRISE is somewhere we highlighted as a place we could go to get help if we needed to.



## Maths – Mr Tostevin

This Autumn has been a busy one across both Key Stages. Year 11 pupils are preparing for their exam year as their GCSE examinations are approaching. Pupils are also entered for their Functional Skills Levels 1&2. The GCSE mathematics examinations for Year 11 consist of one non-calculator and two calculator papers. These examinations assess pupils' skills in problem solving skills relating to real life maths situations. In addition to this problem solving and justification of their solution has become an integral part of our pupils' mathematics lessons.



learn their Times Tables.

This school year has also seen a continuation of the Maths White Rose scheme of learning. These tools encourage pupils of all abilities to learn and engage whilst also reducing barriers and misconceptions. Worksheets are always differentiated making maths simple and enjoyable.



## Extra-Curricular Activities in Term 1

### **Beach/Forest school**

In Beach School sessions pupils have been working on 'My place in the world' by completing 'point to point' exercises. They are given a map and have to find their way from one point on the map to another by



navigating over country side in the North York Moors.

### **Clay workshop**

Pupils had an opportunity to work with a local clay artist and enjoyed making pots and Christmas decorations.



Sessions were very successful and felt almost therapeutic.



### **Tuesday Afternoon Enrichment**

In Enrichment sessions pupils can choose an option from the following, Crafts, art and mural painting, Gym session or cooking



## **Gym and our after-school club sessions.**

Pupils have attended the local gym with both Mrs Ford and Mr Brannan. This has been a huge success whereby pupils have engaged with all aspects of fitness.

Some pupils have requested to attend the gym as part of the E-Praise rewards in school. The pupils use 25 points and they attend a session at the gym with Mrs Ford and Mr Tostevin.



## **World Food Wednesday**

Our wonderful chef Jenny came up with the fab idea of broadening all of our culinary tastes by having 'World Food Wednesday'. This means that each week we eat from a different country.

Pupils, staff and visitors have all been lucky enough to enjoy the wonderful food that she has prepared including:

Chow Mein from China, Butter chicken from India, Poutine from Canada, Schnitzels from Germany, Jollaf rice from Nigeria and Jerk chicken from Jamaica.

We can't wait to try more in the future.

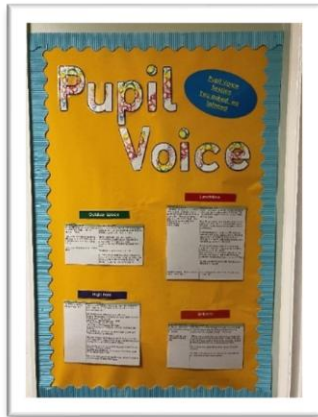


## **Pupil Voice**

At the PRU, we are committed to integrating 'Pupil Voice' into the heart of our school community. We are fortunate to have James Koppert, Youth Voice and Creative Engagement Officer for North Yorkshire County Council, join us every half term to support this initiative.

Pupil Voice is a whole-school approach to listening to the ideas, experiences, and concerns of our pupils. We believe in valuing and respecting what our pupils share with us, ensuring their feedback is heard and thoughtfully considered.



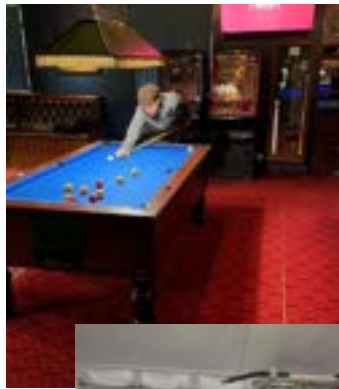


In our most recent meeting, the pupils discussed several topics, including:

- More PE Sessions
- To have a PRU pet
- Work Experience for year 11
- The reward system to include outdoor trips.

The outcomes from these discussions are then taken to Mrs Fox and Miss P who will discuss the ideas and make decisions based on them. We have Pupil Voice boards around the school for everyone to see.

### **PE – Snooker / Gym / Just Dance**



As you know here at the PRU we have no outside space. We have had some difficulties with our usual PE hall and so we decided to split the school into three different groups for this term.

All the pupils have responded well to this and were able to choose their activity. KS4 pupils have taken a strong interest in the gym and Just Dance. Whilst KS3 have spent their Thursday afternoons at Scarborough snooker centre playing snooker and pool.



### **Macmillan Coffee Morning**



Every year we have a great turn out for Macmillan. Pupils and staff all bake their hearts and a raffle is held to raise money.

**This year we managed to collect £103.90 which is just amazing!**



## Epraise



Our new Positive Behaviour system is working really well. Our pupils (and staff) have developed a real sense of competition to obtain the most points.

Each Monday we have a praise assembly where pupils and staff look at the leader board to see where they are.



Pupils have worked hard for vouchers, pizza and not forgetting the Tutor Trophy which is given weekly to the Tutor group with the most points.

This is creating some great competitiveness between pupils and staff.



## ROAK (Random Acts of Kindness)

This term pupils have been involved in an initiative to be kinder to one another. They came up with their own ideas regarding how they could put other people first.



## November

Once again, our wonderful male staff have braved the shave and grown magnificent moustaches in aid of male mental health, suicide and male cancers. What a worthy cause, thank you Mr Moore, Mr Tostevin and Mr Togwell!



## Children in Need



As always here at the PRU we try our hardest to involve ourselves in charity events that are going on. This year for Children in Need we help a raffle and raised nearly £50!



## Pupil Praise

Mrs Aveyard would like to express how delighted she is with all of the hard work an individual pupil has put in to Art over this term. Chloe has worked tirelessly to complete this amazing piece and should be so proud of herself.

Well done Chloe!



## Charity Sponsored Silence



One of our pupils decided that she would like to do a sponsored silence in aid of a local charity 'Westway Open Arms' This is a community charity that helps out people who are struggling and need some support.

Izzy raised £178 which is amazing.

She bought toys and pet food and treats for the centre and went and delivered it all.

Great work Izzy, we are so proud of you!



## Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance continues to be a huge concern throughout the school.

The school day starts at **8.45am**

**Pupils must be in school for 8.45am to ensure they are ready for lessons to start at 9am – if they are not here they will not receive their morning mark.**

There have been changes to the legislation around attendance and the issuing of fines. This is the link to the new guidance for parents:



**DID YOU KNOW?** If you are 15 minutes late each day you will have missed 2 full weeks of school in one year?

[School attendance and absence: Overview - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-and-absence-overview)

**Please keep in contact with us here at the school, we will always work with parents to help or give advice.**

Please keep an eye on our website where there will soon be lots of advice and help regarding attendance and support.

You can find our blog by heading to the school website

[www.scarboroughpru.n-](http://www.scarboroughpru.n-yorks.sch.uk)

[yorks.sch.uk](http://www.scarboroughpru.n-yorks.sch.uk)), click on the header 'News' and you will see "Our Blog" in the drop down section, in here you will find all of our blog entries.



This is where we showcase and celebrate our joys and achievements along with news, events and other exciting things that happen here at the PRS.

### **A final word from our Chair of Governors**

The Management Committee continue to work together to support the work of the PRU and also to make sure that leaders do their jobs and give us good value for money.

We were very pleased with the school' s recent Ofsted report that judged so much that the school does as good or better. And of course, we want as many pupils to attend as possible to get the benefit of what we provide. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Fox and all the staff for all their hard work and dedication and to say a big thank you to the parents and carers and especially the pupils for doing us all proud. We are indeed a small school with a big heart.

Wishing all a very happy Christmas and all the best for 2025. Onwards and upwards.

**Rosemary Rayne, Chair of the Management Committee**

### **Dates for your diary**

6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - Return to school

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> January 2025 - Year 10&11 Functional Skills Exams

Week Commencing 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025 – Year 11 Mock Examinations

14<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Half Term Holiday

24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 – Return to school

4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 – Positive Parent Day

4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 - Easter Holidays

