



# Christmas 2025 Newsletter



## Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter.

It's hard to believe that it's that time of year again and Christmas is just around the corner.

This last term has been particularly difficult due to some staff changes but as always, the team have rallied around to ensure that disruption to the education of pupils has been minimal.

We have welcomed back from maternity leave Mrs Rogers who I know has got straight back to it with attendance and punctuality. This is a major focus for us here at the PRS. If pupils aren't in school, they can't learn and make progress. Please do not be in any doubt that we are here to support you and your child and will listen and offer guidance if you feel you need it.

As you can see from the articles in this newsletter, we have had lots of things going on over the last term. As always, the PRS is a busy place with staff and pupils being involved in lots of things both in and out of school.

In particular some of our pupils took part in the Macmillan morning and other pupils have been completing a plastering and joinery course based at The Gallows Close Centre with great success!

We have also been working with Arcade Arts who we have previously formed a partnership with. This term's project involved work with Beat Boxer Conrad Murray who worked alongside pupils

I really hope that you had the opportunity to join us for the Christmas Lunch and also attend the Parent Afternoon to celebrate the positive aspects of the pupil's lives at the PRS. As always, this time is to share the achievements and hard work, this is not a time to discuss negative aspects but focus on the ways the individual pupils are achieving and being successful.

I would like to end this newsletter by acknowledging and thanking the staff team here at Scarborough PRS. 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 am very proud and grateful to them all.

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**



## Art

POP! BANG! WHIZZ! CRASH! PLOP! BING! BANG! BOING!

Back by popular demand, it was time to talk all things Pop Art. Pupils had seen previous artwork by other pupils on the walls and asked if they could have a go at making their own Pop Art sculptures.

This academic year it was decided we would approach our art lessons a little differently and work more collaboratively, playing on the strengths and skills we have and discussing how we each can contribute these to our topic work.

Not everyone feels comfortable free styling their talents and not everyone feels confident enough yet to tackle a bit of research... but together we can show a well thought through topic.

Lots of thought went into our decision making when we looked at shape, colour, pattern and of course a well-considered onomatopoeic word.

Seeing what others were up to helped inspire our own ideas.

There was lots of curiosity shown when looking through 'Our Big Art Book' and this started a bit of healthy competition.

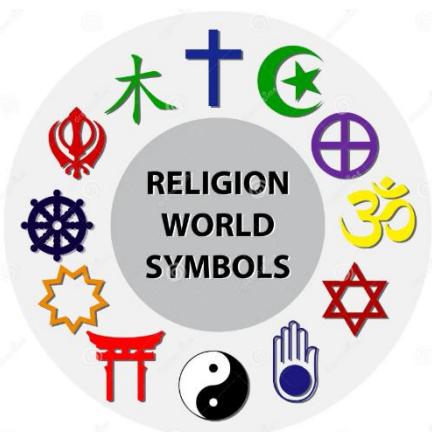
**Mrs Aveyard, Art Lead**



## Humanities

This term in Humanities, pupils have been learning about the four major world religions. They have explored the key beliefs, practices, symbols, and traditions within each faith, developing a clearer understanding of how these religions shape the lives of millions of people around the world.

Pupils have produced thoughtful and detailed pieces of work, including fact files and written reflections. Their work shows strong engagement and curiosity, as well as a growing ability to explain how different religions influence everyday life—from routines and celebrations to values and relationships.



Overall, pupils have shown positive attitudes in the RE lessons and are building a respectful awareness of different cultures and beliefs. This foundation will continue to support their understanding of the wider world as we move into next term.

**Mr Brannan**





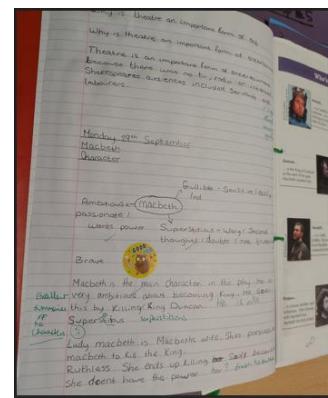
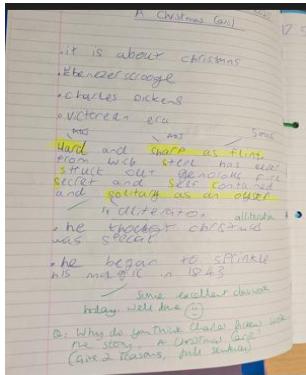
### Miss Oldham



## English – KS4

Year 10 and 11, pupils have been studying Macbeth. The play follows the progress of the title character as he becomes increasingly powerful, using any means to get what he wants - even murder!

Pupils have been exploring some of the key themes of the play including ambition, love and relationships, loyalty and betrayal, good and evil, and fate. In lessons pupils delved deeper into the theme of ambition, which drives the plot of the play and is Macbeth's greatest downfall.



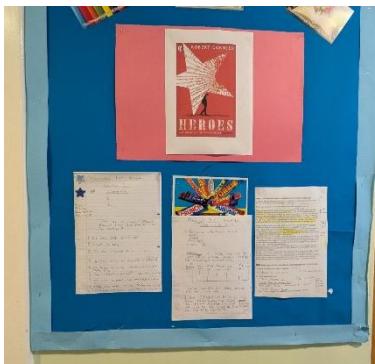
In the weeks up to the Christmas break, pupils read the Christmas story, *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens. On Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by a series of ghosts, starting with his old business partner, Jacob Marley. The three spirits which follow, the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Yet to Come, show Scrooge how his mean behaviour has affected those around him. At the end of the story, he is relieved to discover that there is still time for him to change and we see him transformed into a generous and kind-hearted human being.



## English - KS3

**'Heroes'**, by Robert Cormier is a novel set in the fictitious town of Frenchtown, Massachusetts, in the north-east of the United States of America.

The story is written in the first person, narrated by Francis Cassavant and tells of his life and experiences in Frenchtown; growing up, falling in love and later going to war. The opening paragraph is short and shocking, ending with the dramatic line: I have no face.



The book's opening intrigues the reader and invites them to read further. The novel questions what is meant by a hero, and pupils have explored this theme.

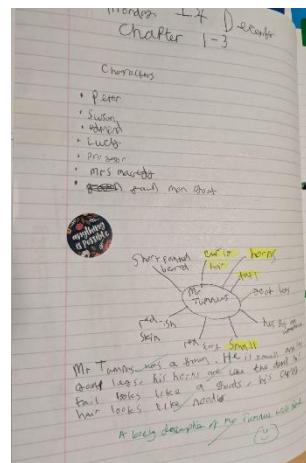
Pupils have completed guided reading activities which focus on extracts of the text with questions to analyse the writing style and choice of words as well as analysing the main character.

On our 'wall of Wonder' we have showcased excellent writing skills

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The term was ended by looking at C.S. Lewis, 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe'. It is a classic fantasy story often read during the Autumn and Winter months. One of the main characters is Aslan, a very important lion who is the rightful ruler of Narnia. When the four Pevensie children, Peter, Susan, Edmund and Lucy, visit his kingdom through a wardrobe, they have many trials to face, including defending Narnia against the White Witch and her followers.

Pupils have explored the effects of the Second World War on Britain, in particular, the terrible bombings of some of our major cities.



Ms Lydiate – (Long Term Supply) English Teacher



## Life Skills

This term in Life Skills, our pupils have explored what it truly means to live a healthy lifestyle. We unpacked the "why" behind staying healthy, discovering how good choices boost our bodies, brains, and muscles and how small habits can make a big difference. From fun discussions about physical activity and the power of movement, to eye opening conversations about the harmful effects of nicotine on our bodies.



We also inspected food labels, focusing on sugar and salt levels and classified each item as high or low based on the amounts, some of which we found shocking! The topics sparked enthusiasm, curiosity, and plenty of thoughtful questions as we worked together in groups, to understand how and why we strive to be our healthiest, happiest selves.



**Miss Oldham**

## PE

This term in PE, pupils have taken part in a wide range of activities designed to develop both their physical skills and their social confidence. One of our most popular sessions has been at the Scarborough Snooker Centre, where pupils have been learning to play American Pool.

Other groups have been attending gym sessions at Compass and Sunset Gym, where pupils have been introduced to fitness equipment, strength training, and cardiovascular exercises.

We have also made the most of our local surroundings by playing football on the beach. These sessions given pupils the chance to enjoy the outdoors, work together, and experience sport in a fun and unique environment.

We are proud of the enthusiasm and progress shown by all pupils, and we look forward to expanding our PE lessons even further next term with more exciting opportunities.



**Mr Brannan**



## Science

In **Key stage 3** pupils have studied the unit on Elements and compounds. Pupils have looked at identifying elements and compounds, separating mixtures and describing polymers. We also used our knowledge of making compounds to make gunpowder in the lab during the bonfire night week.

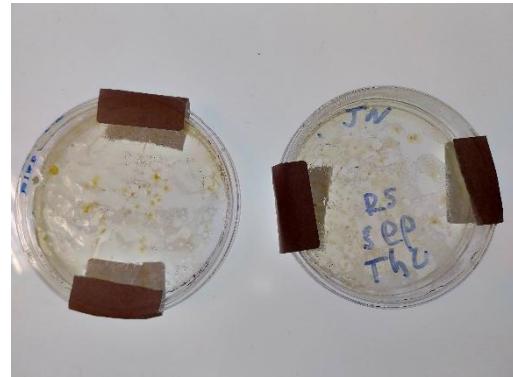
In **Key stage 4** the year 11s have been revising using past exam papers in Biology to identify gaps in knowledge and then complete revision to fill these gaps in knowledge. And also completing the 10 required practical assessments in the Biology GCSE course.



The pupils have been completing the osmosis practical with potatoes and looking at their own cells under the microscope.



In year 10 pupils studied Cells and disease and have grown bacteria on agar plates to study where the most bacteria grow around the school.



**Mr Togwell – Science Lead**

## Enrichment – Arts and Crafts



In our Arts and Crafts enrichment lessons, we've explored a variety of creative and relaxing activities. We started with calming colouring and Christmas diamond art to decorate Miss Oldham's Christmas tree. We also made handmade Christmas cards to deliver to local care homes, adding a personal touch to brighten someone's day. To finish, we designed personalised placemats for our school Christmas dinner.



## **Enrichment – Golf at Snainton Golfing Range**

Our pupils have been taking part in an exciting new enrichment activity this term.

For many pupils, this has been their very first experience of the sport, giving them the chance to try something completely different and build new skills in a calm and enjoyable environment.

During the sessions, pupils have been learning the fundamentals of golf, including how to position themselves correctly, how to hold the club, and how to drive the ball with power and accuracy.

Overall, the golf enrichment programme has been a great success, we look forward to seeing even more pupils take part in future sessions



and

## **Enrichment – Hair and Beauty**

Welcome back to the salon.

We are glad you were pleased with your last hair style...please don't forget to leave a tip.

This term we have been learning different types of thermal styling, such as straightening and curling the hair. We have been mastering these techniques and now we are starting to work towards shampooing, conditioning and blow-drying hair. Some pupils and members of staff have taken advantage of our new skills and been treated to a well-earned pampering session.

We have researched different hair and beauty treatments from local salons in the area and their pricing, to help us in developing our own salon menu. We have even created our own salon branding complete with logos.

Keep an eye out in the near future for Macurley's and Mia.



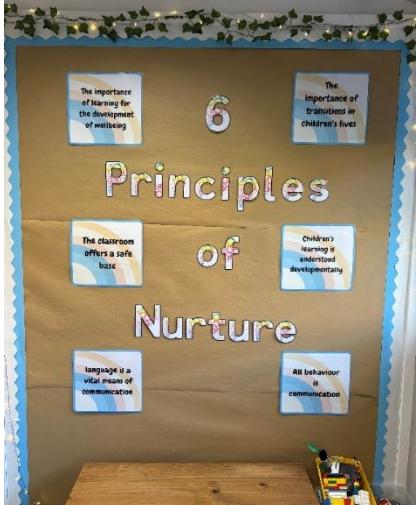
## National Nurturing Schools Award from Nurture UK

We are proud to announce that our school has been awarded the prestigious National Nurturing Schools Award from Nurture UK. This achievement recognises our ongoing commitment to creating a warm, supportive, and inclusive environment where every child feels valued, understood, and empowered to thrive.



**National Nurturing  
School Award  
2025**

The award highlights the work we do every day to embed the six principles of nurture across our school community. From the relationships we build to the spaces we create and the personalised support we provide, nurturing practice has become a central part of our ethos. Staff across all roles have worked together to ensure that children's wellbeing is at the heart of our approach, and this recognition is a celebration of that shared dedication.



Earning this award is not only a reflection of the efforts of our staff, but also of the resilience, kindness, and positive engagement of our pupils. Their voices, experiences, and successes continue to shape the nurturing culture we strive for. We are equally grateful to our families, whose partnership and trust play a vital role in helping to sustain a supportive school community. Being recognised by Nurture UK strengthens our commitment to further developing our nurturing practices. We will continue to ensure that every child feels safe, heard, and ready to learn; that emotional wellbeing remains a priority; and that our school is a place where relationships and belonging underpin academic and personal growth.

We are delighted to receive the National Nurturing Schools Award, and we look forward to building on this success as we continue our journey of nurturing excellence.

Please check out our beautiful plaque in the reception area.



**Big shout out to Miss Grainger for all of her hard work in ensuring the school accreditation.**



## Beach/Forrest 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.

They also learned how to make a campfire safely and toast marshmallows.



## **Sidewalk Mentoring & Change Direction – Ongoing Support for Our Pupils**

We continue to receive support from Sidewalk Mentoring / Change Direction, with mentors visiting us weekly to work with pupils who benefit from additional Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) support. They have been working with us for some time now and provide consistent, caring guidance for our pupils.

During their sessions, pupils are given a calm and confidential space where they can talk openly about their feelings, challenges, and day-to-day worries. The mentors help pupils explore strategies for managing emotions, improving communication, building self-esteem, and strengthening relationships. They also support pupils with problem-solving, goal-setting, and learning to make positive choices both in and outside of school.

This tailored support helps pupils feel heard, understood and empowered.

We look forward to continuing this valuable partnership and ensuring all our pupils feel supported, encouraged, and able to thrive.



## Knife Crime Awareness Session – North Yorkshire Police

In November and December, we held Knife Crime Awareness sessions in conjunction with North Yorkshire Police. Pupils were involved in different activities and encouraged to discuss and debate their thoughts and opinions on knife crime and the risks of carrying a weapon.

Pupils were amazing in their approach and attitude to these sessions and Sgt Heidi Lewis praised them saying how they interacted well and showed great maturity to a subject that is often difficult to discuss. They make us as a team here at the PRS very proud. PCSO Lorna Pearcey was also present and made herself available to speak to pupils and answer any questions they had.

These are some of the comments that staff made:

***The knife crime session was very well received by my tutor group, they stayed engaged from start to finish and contributed actively with questions and strong opinions about how "stupid" carrying a knife can be. They interacted well with the PCSO and we had great discussions throughout.***

***Pupils were very intrigued by the details of the incident. They talked maturely about it. I'm not sure they truly got the gravity of it though***

*They were surprised that the knives shown were illegal. They all knew what they were and some pupils had seen them before. They asked about sentences for carrying knives as again they all knew people who had carried knives before.*

*They were all interested in the Solomon murder and they all sat quietly during the interview with the woman. They couldn't put it into words how they felt about it but they were all listening. They were engaged and they listened and answered the questions well.*

***Video was shocking – One pupil felt angry at the perpetrators. One knew the victim. Informative and lots of discussion – lots of talk over how knife crime affects whole family not just victim, but victims' family and perpetrators family as well.***

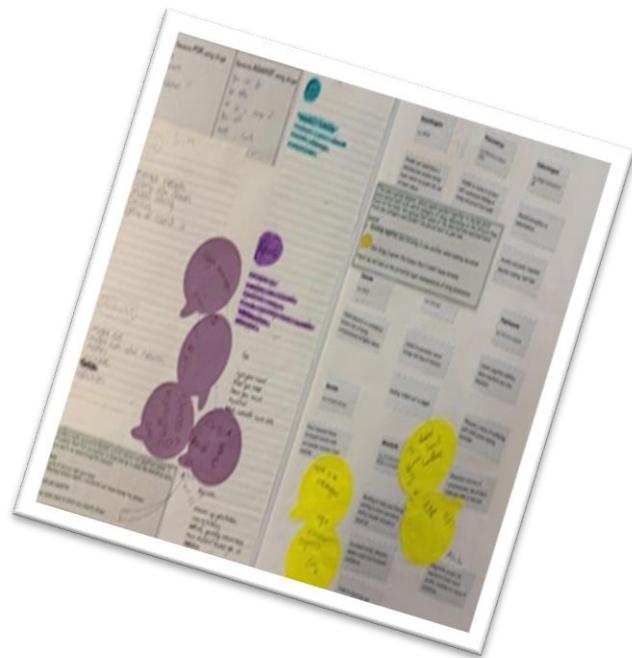
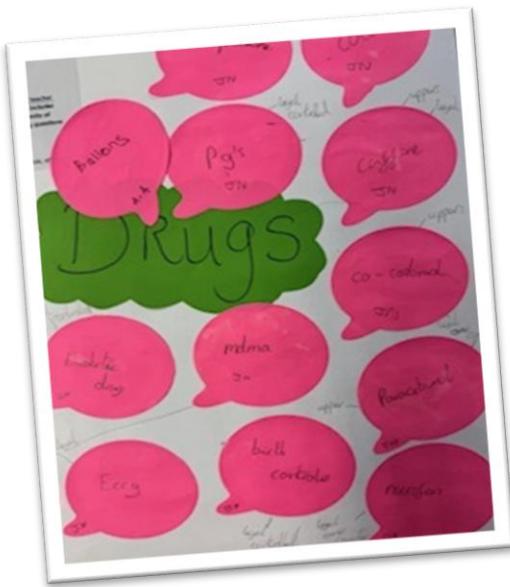


## PSHE

Let's 'Talk to Frank'. He knows all the information about drugs. We revisited one of our regular topics this term and discussed attitudes towards drugs, both legal and illegal. There are so many different ways we could categorise drugs.

We now know the long- and short-term effects they can have on us and those around us. They can be grouped by class and we have read what the law says about them too. We agreed though, that the hardest part of all was saying no to peer pressure. "But all my mates are doing it".

We investigated how true this was and researched statistics. Some of us were surprised to learn that not EVERYONE is doing them. We need to remember this when we are faced with tricky decisions in the future maybe. And if we are ever in doubt, we know where to go if we need help and advice.



**Childline [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk) Phone - 0800 1111**

**Visit NHS Live Well: [www.nhs.uk/live-well](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well)**

**Talk to Frank - [www.talktofrank.com/get-help](http://www.talktofrank.com/get-help)**

**Young Minds: [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)**

**To anonymously report a crime: [www.fearless.org](http://www.fearless.org)**

**Mrs Aveyard PSHE**

## Literacy

This term in Literacy, our pupils became creative event planners as they designed their own Bonfire Night event from start to finish. They started in the brain storming stage, picking their venue, costs and what they could offer, through to advertising, posters and leaflets for the event. We wrapped it up by tackling realistic challenges, responding to community complaints, allowing us to work on our formal writing techniques.

Pupils also put their persuasive skills to the test when writing formal letters to Mrs Fox, for consideration to adjust the school day to how they'd like it, if they had the ability to decide.

Pupils have produced some great independent work in Literacy this term, they should be proud of themselves.



## Reading and Thinking Reading

Here at the PRS, we implement reading as a core part of our school culture, recognising its vital importance for both academic success and personal development. All pupils take part in a shared reading session with their tutor group, helping to build confidence, fluency, and enjoyment.

Across the curriculum, every lesson offers opportunities for students to read, ensuring that reading is embedded into daily learning rather than confined to English alone. We are committed to supporting every pupil in strengthening their reading skills while they are with us, providing consistent practice, texts which are appropriate to each

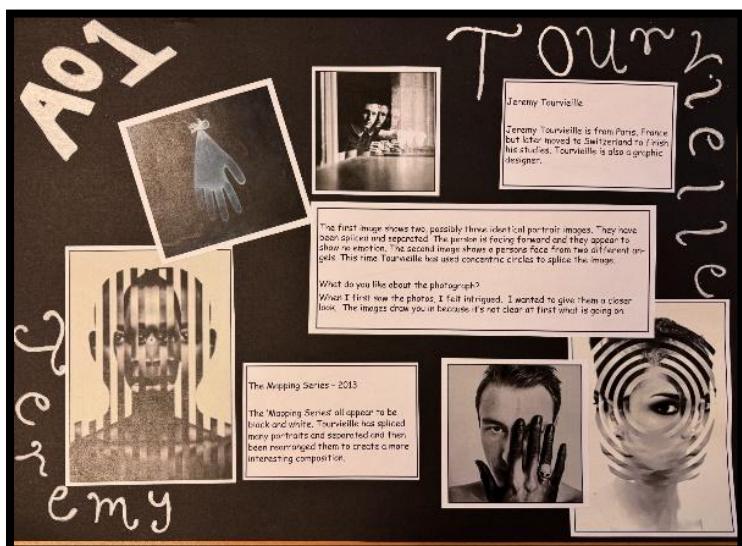
individuals reading age and a supportive environment that nurtures progress.

As well as reading throughout the curriculum, we run an intervention called 'Thinking Reading'. This is a one-to-one intervention designed to give pupils highly personalised support in developing their reading skills. Because the programme is tailored to each pupil's reading age rather than their chronological age, it meets them exactly where they are and helps them move forward at a pace that suits their needs. As a result, all pupils who take part make clear, measurable progress, gaining confidence, accuracy, and fluency in their reading.

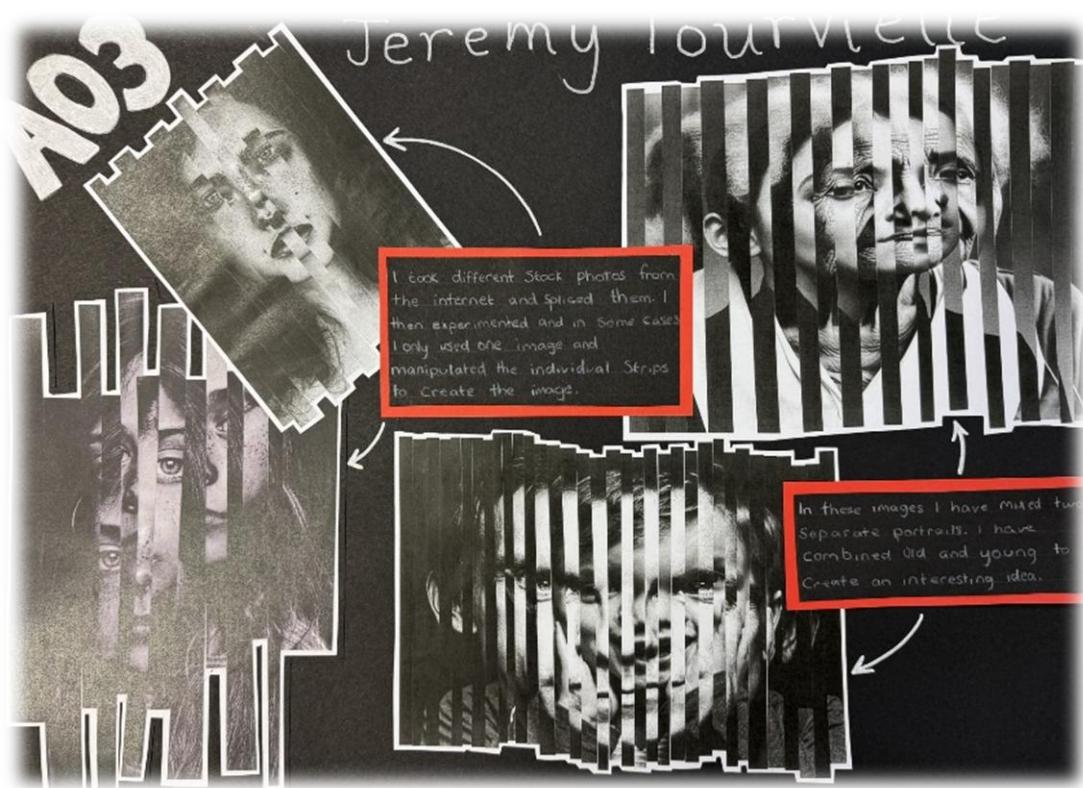


## GCSE Photography

Photography GCSE is new to us at the Pupil Referral Unit, on offer for the first time this year. It is great to have something a bit different for us to get our teeth into.



For the first half of year ten, pupils were shown photographers whose work included, or is predominantly based on portraiture. We used this as a starting point and chose which ones we liked best. We analysed their work and tried to understand how the images were created. This new understanding was then used to create our own versions of these works of art. This formed the basis of what would be used to create an personal in-depth study, where we experimented with our own ideas. What is great about learning how to use creative digital software, is that the outcomes are limitless, so long as we let our imaginations go wild.



**Mrs Aveyard**  
**Photography Lead**



## Tutor Reports

### Year 11 (Group 1 & 2) Mr Brannan & Mrs Hayes

Year 11 have made a positive start to the new term, showing steady focus as we head into the final stretch of the school year. A particular highlight has been seeing members of our group take part in a plastering course, giving them the chance to develop hands-on skills and explore a potential career pathway. Their enthusiasm and commitment have been brilliant to see.

As we look ahead, one key area for improvement is attendance. With only half a year left before the end of school, it's more important than ever that everyone is in regularly and making the most of every lesson. Consistent attendance will give all pupils the best possible chance of success as they prepare for exams and future opportunities.

### Group 3 – Miss Oldham

This term, our tutor group has grown together through a range of activities, including restorative sessions, group reading, numeracy challenges, and our weekly check-ins. One of our most engaging sessions focused on knife crime, where we were joined by a visiting PCSO. Pupils took part in thoughtful discussions, explored realistic scenarios and reflected on how they would handle difficult situations. By the end, the group agreed on how dangerous and unnecessary it is to carry knives, showing real maturity and awareness.

Our tutor group has shown an outstanding improvement in attendance this term, rising to an impressive 87.5%. We're now one of the highest attending tutor groups! Everyone in Group 3 should feel proud of themselves, we have doubled our attendance percentage!

Not only has our attendance risen but our points have risen too! Group 3 have earnt a whopping 4367 (and rising!) meaning several pupils are well on their way to their Ruby certificate.

Well done Group 3!

### Group 4 – Ms Grainger

It's been a pleasure getting to know my Tutor Group this term. We have had a lot of comings and goings but I'm hoping that in the new term we will be more settled and can prove we are the best group ever!

### Group 5 – Mrs Aveyard & Mrs Truman

We might be biased but we think we are THE BEST tutor group because our attendance is consistently in the 90s. We work well together and staff members say we are a pleasure to have in lessons, so we must be doing something right. Things we have achieved that we are most proud of are gaining 'ruby' certificates on Epraise and putting lots of tickets in the 100% attendance draw. We need to keep up this winning streak next term too because points mean prizes!

### Group 6 – Mr Togwell

Our tutor group mostly consists of pupils who have adapted timetables so Tutor Time has not always consisted of all the tutees however when we are together it has been great getting to know everyone and I hope this continues into the new term!



## Careers

This half term we have been focusing on ensuring all Year 11 pupils have had a careers interview to prepare them for Post 16 options. College applications will be due in the new year, we will be preparing personal statements for applications after Christmas.

A careers session has been allocated once a week for all pupils, this gives pupils the opportunity to start thinking about what they would like to do once they leave school. Careers in school boosts pupils' knowledge and confidence about what their future could look like.

## Gallows Construction Project



Gallows Close community centre in Barrowcliff invited some of our pupils to start a fantastic course which involves plastering, brick laying, joinery, tiling, painting, wood work and lots more taught by PCSO Steve.

Our pupils are interested in this type of work Post 16 this is an exciting opportunity to get a feel for what college course they would like to pursue in the near future.



Miss Broadbent is very proud of them all for their enthusiasm and hard work on this course.



## Macmillan Morning

As always, our Macmillan morning was a great success – we raised £63.14, staff and pupils gave generously and had a great time!



## Arcade Arts Project



Conrad Murray and the team from Arcade Arts came into school for a week long project writing lyrics, beatboxing and generally overcoming fears.

Everyone worked really hard (including staff) and it was a great success- we look forward to working with Arcde in the Spring Term!



## Dates for your Diary

School closes for Christmas Break 12pm 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### Spring Term

- Reopens for all pupils **8.45am Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**
- Year 11 Mock Exams will start on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026
- Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – school will open for all pupils at 9.30am for staff training
- School closes for half term holiday Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February and re opens on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026
- World Book Day 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- End of Spring Term Reward Trips 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March
- Positive Parent Afternoon 26<sup>th</sup> March
- School closes for Easter Holidays 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

