



Handball Success!

Congratulations to the team 😊

See the tournament report from Mr Barrass on page 3.



Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parent / Carer

As you will be aware, the past few weeks have been challenging with students, families and staff alike experiencing the ongoing impact of Covid 19. We are keenly aware of the impact that is felt by students when they are not able to be taught by their usual teacher or, as happened last week when they are not able to attend school due to reduced staffing. The whole staff team have shown incredible resilience in trying to keep things as normal as possible for students in school. We appreciate your patience and support.

Speaking of resilience, we are hugely proud of our Y10 Handball team who faced down every challenge thrown their way to be crowned u15 North East and North Yorks champions. Proud coach, Mr Barrass has more to say on this on page 3. Our Year 11 cohort are also demonstrating great resilience as they take on round 2 of the mock exam preparation for May / June final exams. They have also been able to start looking ahead to plans for their Prom at Ripley Castle.

This week we were pleased to invite our Local Authority Education Adviser into school to observe lessons, meet students to discuss their learning and progress and discuss curriculum development with teachers and members of the leadership team. As ever, our students were great ambassadors for our school in their attitude to learning in lessons and the way they were able to articulate their views about their school experience. It was also another great opportunity to explore how our ethos and values underpin all the work we do in school from our approach to supporting the development of reading to the ongoing development of our class based subject curriculum and the NiddVenture curriculum.

Kath Jordan, Headteacher

Make Your Mark

Make Your Mark / Member of Youth Parliament Results

In total 20 schools and youth settings signed up from across North Yorkshire to take part in the national elections, hosted by the British Youth Council. 7 campaign themes were voted on for Make Your Mark, as decided upon by UK Youth Parliament. 9086 votes were counted and submitted from 11-18 year olds across the county, the biggest turn out we have ever experienced in North Yorkshire.

The top campaign themes for North Yorkshire were "Health and Wellbeing" and "Education and Learning"; these were also the top 2 topics that were voted for nationally by young people across the UK.

The newly elected Members of Youth Parliament (MYPs) for North Yorkshire, are Brando Na'im Halloum for West, Connor Fox for Central and Adria Beattie for East areas of the county. They are currently receiving induction training through the British Youth Council as they begin their 2-year council funded term. These candidates were shortlisted by members of the county's Youth Cabinet – a group of young people who represent all Youth Voice groups from across the county.

Jan Ashton



Youth Club Volunteers needed!

North Yorkshire Youth's Youth Development Team (funded by NYCC) offers ongoing support to communities and volunteers to set up, develop and sustain their own youth club, project and/or events for young people.

By creating a safe, accessible and warm space for young people to meet, we can engage young people in fun positive activities to ensure they are happy, feel included and are listened to.

We are looking for local adults who are keen to volunteer their time in a number of ways, to help set up and run a youth club in Pateley Bridge

Volunteer on a regular basis

Volunteer every so often on a rota

Run a one-off activity/workshop with the young people sharing your skills

Be a youth club committee member

*** Youth Club Volunteer Consultation Meeting - come and find out more, drop in to Nidd Plus on Saturday 2nd April between 11.30-1pm ***

Rachel Rabjohns, Youth Development Worker, 07500 787621, Rachel@nyy.org.uk

Theatre Trips are back on!

During March, two groups of Year 11 students attended performances of Macbeth at Leeds Playhouse.

The production was an effective evocation of Shakespeare's fast-paced, bloody drama about civil strife, ambition and their deadly consequences, delivered by a cast who performed with gusto to a packed house.

The trip was both entertaining and supportive of Year 11 GCSE Literature studies.

Ms Lester

Handball Success!

The PE curriculum has developed in the past 5 years. We have introduced a number of new activities. These include handball, parkour, futsal, ultimate frisbee, stoolball, table tennis, volleyball and many more! We also ensure that all students have the opportunity to participate in new activities and more traditional activities in PE and in extracurricular PE.

On Wednesday 16th March, our year 10 boys became the North East and North Yorkshire under 15 boys handball champions in Gateshead.

We didn't make the best of starts in the competition, losing our first game against St Mary's Newcastle 6-2. St Mary's were able to expose our flat 6 defence. Playing with a 4-2 defence, our fortunes changed in the second game as we convincingly beat Oxclose Academy Sunderland 5-2. In a tense third game, Ponteland High School snatched a late goal to secure a 3-3 draw. We were tied on the same points as Oxclose Academy and sneaked through to the semi-finals via the head-to-head rule.

We played the winners of group 1 John Spence Community Academy North Shields in the semi-final. Due to defensive mishaps, John Spence were able to level the game late on to force extra time. During a tense extra time period, we were able to lead and control the game in extra time eventually winning 5-4. Due to defensive solidity, bravery and discipline we restricted them to backcourt shots which were easily blocked and saved by Ethan.

In the final, we met the impressive St Mary's again as they ran out 1-0 winners in the other semi-final. Playing with a resolute and disciplined 4-2 defence and a 5-1 fast, effective and patient attack, we led the final 2-0 courtesy of goals from Dylan and Dom. Dylan from the left wing and Dom from the right back position. Ollie and Lewis defended bravely in front of the flat 4 and Ollie was pivotal in keeping their star player at left back quiet. Lewis had a good chance on the counterattack to make it out of reach for St Mary's but narrowly missed. St Mary's right-wing player then exploited a gap in the flat 4 defence to make it a tense finale. Dom with the assistance of Brendan on the right wing managed to exploit a gap in the St Mary's defence to make it 3-1. St Mary's managed to get another one, however due to excellent teamwork, effort and putting their own body on the line, the boys had won the game. At the final whistle, raucous celebrations began and were short as the boys paid their respects to the opposition. They showed incredible resilience to beat St Mary's who had the psychological advantage having beaten us 6-2 in the opening game. We were crowned under 15 champions and move on to represent the North East and North Yorkshire in the national school's handball finals. Date TBC.

I wish I could give a better more detailed account of the group games and semi-final however the sheer elation and stress of the day had blurred my memory! I am immensely proud of the achievement and the way the boys conducted themselves on and off court. The students who represented us and the students who didn't take part have all embraced handball since its introduction to our PE curriculum in 2018. Isn't it incredible what you can achieve with an open mind, hard work, dedication and respect?

I am aiming to further develop handball in our school this year and next year. I hope to enter the under 13 and under 15 competition next year. If any students are interested, extracurricular handball takes place every Monday. In PE, year 7 students will participate in the introductory handball unit with years 8, 9 and 10 moving onto the next stage of handball learning next year.

Mr Barrass.

Equalities scheme

The current Equalities Scheme for our school is published on our website for your information.

Please [click here](#) to read the scheme and our current priorities, which are informed by the local and national agenda and our own findings from feedback within our school community.

Election of Parent Governor

Mr Richard Jones was duly elected as a new Parent Governor on 2.3.22.

Full details of the Governing Body are available on the school website. [Click here](#).



NiddVenture

We have greatly embraced the arrival of spring in our Niddventure adventures over the last fortnight!

The Yr 10 Outdoor Education course spent a day completing a variety of useful jobs around school including jet washing our new fleet of kayaks, cleaning the polytunnel, repairing bikes and clearing storm debris from the school grounds. Their hard work was much appreciated and will also contribute towards the community service section of their bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

This week the Yr 10s also conquered Buckden Beck, which was a step up from previous walks we've done and involved some simple scrambling moves on steeper terrain. All participants rose to the challenge, supported each other and successfully made it to the top on a glorious sunny day!

Our primary school project with St Cuthbert's continues to benefit both schools. We've visited Trollers Ghyll and Scar House Reservoir in the last fortnight with the focus being on appreciating our wonderful local environment and improving knowledge of its history & geography.

We've also spent some very happy hours at Corn Close Farm feeding lambs, dry stone walling, washing wool and constructing fences. Thank you to Corn Close for their continuing support of our students.

Long may the sunny weather continue..!

Ms Tuffs

