

# THE HUNSLEY WAY



## TIME CAPSULE

**Thursday 27 September**

Our school recently marked a truly memorable milestone with the burial of a time capsule, carefully prepared by students and sealed to be opened in 50 years' time.

The project began with a group of students from Years 7-12 working closely with the building company Helix CMS, who are responsible for our new school building Ferriby. As part of their social value programme, Beth Bellingham, Business Development Manager, from Helix organised meetings with pupils where they learnt about the design and build process behind the new facilities. Additionally, there were follow-up meetings in which it was discussed how the time capsule could reflect both the new building itself and the wider life of the school. *Continued on page 4...*

## IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome from the  
Headteacher

Remembrance Day

Christmas Fair

Year 9 Options Evening  
& Careers Fair

New York City Visit

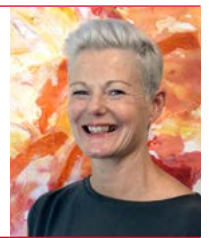
Luke's Bakery Visit

Curriculum Spotlight:  
Year 10 Advice for  
Options





Welcome to this latest edition of The Hunsley Way! I am delighted to share that our new building Ferriby is award winning! Congratulations to Alessandro Caruso Architects Ltd and Helix on the World Design Award. We continue to feel very fortunate to have such a wonderful building to teach pupils in. To further mark the opening of the building, a group of students buried a time capsule which you can see on the front page.



Sticking with the theme of buildings, the major refurbishment of Humber building is now in phase 2. As is often the case with older buildings, the renovations have not been straight forward and I want to thank staff and students for their patience. Alongside a number of classrooms, the building will be home to the SEND team and will eventually include the relocated Nest, an intervention space, sensory circuits, Be Well Spaces to support student's mental health, a personal care room and upgraded library.

As always, the Middleton Hall Winter showcase was a personal highlight of the half

term. 240 talented students contributed this time, treating a sell-out audience to accomplished performances in dance, drama and music. Well done again to all the students who took part and the staff who worked extremely hard to produce another magnificent show. To those who came along, I hope you enjoyed the evening as much as I did.

Lastly, we have ended the term with some festive cheer in the form of the Christmas fair, lunchtime activities such as bingo and karaoke and Christmas jumper day. We have also been very fortunate to receive some incredible gifts from local companies which

we are using as rewards for attendance this term. A big thank you to Amazon, Humber Business Supplies, James Ray Recruitment, Principal Resourcing and The Enablement Group.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. Enjoy reading more about the half term's events which include numerous visits, sporting achievements and a number of recommended reads which could make great last-minute gifts.

Merry Christmas and best wishes for the new year.

**Michaela Blackledge**  
*Headteacher*



## FILMING OF JOHN GODBER SHOW 'TEECHERS'

Monday 27 October

During the half term break we opened the school up to film cameras to assist the team at John Godber Company in producing their updated version of popular classic 'Teechers' for post Covid times.

The original was first performed in 1987, then again in 2010, and now the reboot will feature South Hunsley School (or should I say Whitewall Academy!). Director Martha Godber, a former pupil, knew the areas that would be perfect for the excerpts so she reached out and we were more than happy to accommodate.

They have been very generous in giving us some prizes for a competition which will be running next term, so keep your eyes peeled! For anyone who is interested in seeing this show on it's 2026 tour, it is at various locations across the UK from January-June next year, click [here](#) for more details.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Tuesday 11 November

We observed two minutes of silence for Remembrance Day to honour those who have lost their lives in service during and since the First World War. We held a Remembrance Service in the school's memorial garden where the Last Post was performed by Year 10 pupil, Naomi. A wreath was laid by Ms Blackledge and pupils laid poppies representing different faiths. Several of our cadet students came in uniform.

All last week we also marked Remembrance in assemblies and students reflected on the impact our past has on our communities today.







## TIME CAPSULE

**Thursday 27 November**

...continued from Front Cover. These discussions helped pupils think carefully about what future pupils might experience in 2075, as well as reflecting on what it means in 2025 to be a member of the South Hunsley community.

Pupils worked alongside Mrs Bidder, Miss Mooney and Beth deciding what would go inside the capsule. Items were chosen to represent everyday school life and pupil experiences. Some created handmade contributions, while others selected objects linked to the school such as a school tie and also items like a Sixth Form lanyard.



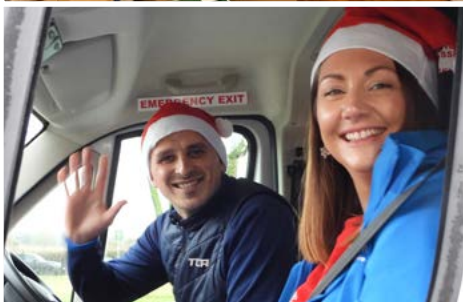
The time capsule was officially buried near the new build during a formal ceremony, attended by Beth, South Hunsley staff and members of the Student Leadership Committee. The event marked not just the sealing of the capsule but the importance of pupil voice and involvement in shaping the school's future. Speeches were given by Ms Blackledge and Beth. Moreover, a South Hunsley Alumnus, Josh, who is now an apprentice at Helix attended, which was also poignant.

Pupils played a central role throughout the ceremony, from helping place the capsule to reflecting on what it means to leave a message for future generations about life at South Hunsley through their speeches. There were student representatives from all year groups in the South Hunsley community. Beth also read a poem which was included in the capsule

written by the students about the school houses:

*"Orion, Indus, and Vela  
Draco, Pegasus, and Hercules  
These are the houses of our school  
Our communities are all  
so cool  
They show who we are  
And inspire us to go far  
In our houses we help others  
by raising money  
And do sports day in our  
houses when its sunny  
Our houses are our school  
families where we thrive  
And they keep our school  
community alive."*

A commemorative plaque will be placed at the burial site to mark the occasion and explain the capsule's significance. When the time capsule is opened, it will serve as a reminder of that moment. The time capsule is preserving a piece of today's school life for the South Hunsley pupils of the future — a message from us to them, sealed in time.



## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

**Monday 1 - Wednesday 16 December**

Thank you to all who donated to our Reverse Advent Calendar, we chose to support East Riding Food Poverty Alliance this year.

Mr Duerden and Mrs Holtby delivered 26 boxes of cupboard food items and 80 loaves of bread, which will help many families who rely on the community this Christmas.

We've had an amazing response and feel very lucky to have your continued support with activities like this. Thank you for all of your donations from the Reverse Advent.



## HELIX QUIZ

**Thursday 11 December**

Last academic year, Year 9 pupils attended a tour of the new Ferriby building construction site, ran by Helix CMS. They set a quiz for everyone to complete on the day. Beth from Helix presented £10 Amazon vouchers to Izzy S, Zach P, Keziah J and Elsa R.



## 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

**Thursday 18 December**

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our local business for their incredible donations in support of our attendance incentive. Pupils who attended every day during the 12 Days of Christmas were entered into a prize draw, and we are thrilled to see so many excited students receiving these amazing gifts. Some Amazon staff, instead of partaking in Secret Santa, bought gifts for our pupils based on a wish list which is pictured below. Ian Ashbee from Humber Business Supplies donated an iPad, Principle Resourcing donated £300 worth of vouchers and many more (prizes are shown on Headteacher's Message).

Your generosity has made this initiative truly special and has helped motivate and celebrate our pupils' commitment to attendance. We can't thank you enough for your support.





## WINTER SHOWCASE - THE ADVENT CALENDAR

**Wednesday 26 November**

Around 240 of our creative arts students headed to Middleton Hall Theatre for our annual winter creative arts showcase. Another sold out audience arrived for the 7pm showing, filling the auditorium with excitement and fantastic, festive support.

Our 'Advent Calendar Showcase' consisted of 25 acts across music, dance, drama and spoken poetry over the course of the evening, with many acts centring around the theme of Christmas festivities.

Backstage, the dressing rooms were filled with nerves, excitement and anticipation as the performers geared up for their stage performances of the pieces they had worked so hard on over the first term of the year within their extra-curricular clubs and GCSE/A-level classes. With our highest number

of performers to date, there was a buzz in the air during both the rehearsal and performance days, with many students making new bonds and friends throughout the cast. We'd like to take this opportunity to once again congratulate all students who showcased their work this year; you made us all very proud and brought a smile to our faces.

**Save the date for our whole school musical: The Addams Family, coming on Thursday 5 & Friday 6 March, 2026 @ Middleton Hall Theatre.**

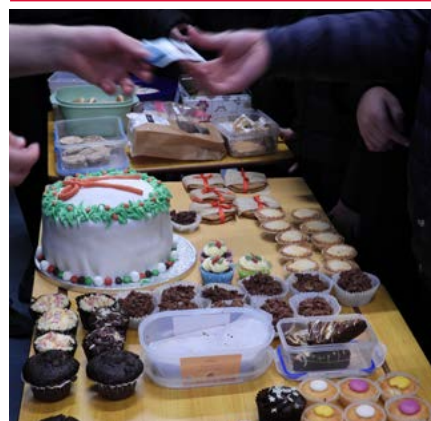


## CHRISTMAS FAIR & ACTIVITIES

**Thursday 18 December**

During the last week of term, we held several festive activities during lunch, such as Christmas films, karaoke, a sing-a-long and the Christmas Fair. The fair organised by the Head Students had lots of fun games such as Pin the Nose on Rudolph, Reindeer Antler Toss and Guess the Teacher all in the sound of live music by our pupils. On the cakes stall we had some amazing donations and were very popular with everyone.

**We managed to raise £409.80 from this event, which will go towards the Year Charities. Thank you to all involved in this event.**





## YEAR 9 OPTIONS AND CAREERS FAIR

**Thursday 27 November**

All 25 different subjects were present, with current pupils and teachers on hand to explain how each subject works, and the destinations and careers they can lead to. Pupils now have until Monday 23 February to make their options choice.

An online options form will be shared with parents/carers in the week beginning 26 January.

At the same time as our options evening, we were thrilled to be able to provide a careers fair for all students in Years 9 to 13. 16 different

employers were on hand to talk to pupils about careers in fields as diverse as construction, engineering, healthcare and accountancy. Alongside the employers, 17 different education and training providers attended, meaning pupils were able to find out about the widest possible range of future opportunities.

Feedback from parents, carers and from our employers and providers was overwhelmingly positive, although with the amount of interest generated, our

Space and Hub were pretty busy for a while. This meant that over 1000 cups of tea or coffee were provided over the course of the evening, and the tray bakes needed a complete restock the following day.

**We would like to say a big thank you to everyone who was involved and who attended, who helped make this such an informative evening. We know that many of young people who attended were able to make some positive progress in deciding their next steps.**





## ADDITIONAL SIXTH FORM EVENING & CAREERS FAIR

Thursday 27 November

Our additional Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 27 November proved to be another highly successful event, offering Year 10 and Year 11 students a valuable further opportunity to speak with staff and current Sixth Formers about the wide range of courses and pathways available.

Interest in joining the Sixth Form continues to grow. At the time of writing, more than 180 South Hunsley students have already submitted applications, along with a further 25 applicants from other schools. This strong response reflects the enthusiasm of the Year 11 students as well as the reputation of our Sixth Form as a vibrant, supportive and academically ambitious community.

Mr Jacobs has been busy meeting applicants for interviews, with many more scheduled to take place

as we move into the New Year. We look forward to welcoming our next cohort of students and supporting them as they take their next steps.

Alongside the additional Open Evening, many of our Sixth Form students in Year 12 and Year 13 also took the opportunity to attend the Careers Fair. This event enabled them to speak directly with a wide range of local employers, gaining valuable insight into possible next steps beyond Sixth Form, including apprenticeships, degree

pathways and employment routes.

Our Year 13 students have been particularly busy this term. They have now submitted over 130 UCAS applications, with many more expected in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, our apprenticeship students have been actively involved in a host of activities led by Mrs Barley, designed to support them in exploring high-quality apprenticeship opportunities and preparing for the application process.

Click [here](#) for our prospectus.





## NEW YORK CITY VISIT

Thursday 16 October

Over October half-term, a group of Sixth Form students set off on an unforgettable visit to New York City—a trip filled with history, culture, and extraordinary experiences that will stay with them for years to come.

One of the most powerful moments of the visit was their time at the 9/11 Memorial & Museum. Walking through the exhibits, hearing survivor accounts, and seeing the scale of what happened on that day created an atmosphere of quiet reflection. What made the visit even more meaningful was the opportunity to hear from Chief Joseph Pfeifer, one of the first Battalion Chiefs to respond on 9/11.

Chief Pfeifer spoke with honesty, humility, and great compassion about the bravery of first responders, and the importance of caring for one another during times of crisis. His words resonated with all of us. Afterwards, he shared this message for our students:

*"It was a pleasure speaking*

*with your students, who were deeply engaged. Much of that is due to the teaching you provide. All the best to your students, the next generation of ordinary heroes. I saw glimpses of that in the kindness they showed to one another as they walked through the Memorial."*

The students also travelled across the city to some of New York's most iconic landmarks. They sailed across the harbour to visit the Statue of Liberty, taking in breathtaking views of the skyline, and later wandered through the paths of Central Park: a calmer side of Manhattan.

A literal high point was visiting Summit One Vanderbilt, where mirrored walls and glass floors created the surreal sense of floating above the city. Top of the Rock boasted

panoramic views that stretched from the Empire State Building to Times Square.

And, of course, no visit to New York would be complete without Broadway. Watching *Hamilton* and *Wicked* were highlights for everyone.

Throughout the week, students represented the school with maturity, curiosity, and kindness. Whether exploring historical sites, engaging in thoughtful conversation, or simply supporting one another through a very busy itinerary, they made the trip something truly special.

**As Chief Pfeifer reminded us, our students showed themselves to be "the next generation of ordinary heroes," and we couldn't be prouder.**

## CYBER SWITCH UP

**Tuesday 25 November**

Nine students from our Computer Science course travelled to the University of Hull to attend the finals of Cyber Switchup - a competition organised by Yorkshire & Humber Regional Cyber Crime Unit.

Out of 4555 students who took part in the online qualifiers in October, Year 10 pupils Zeus C, Ethan K and Year 12 and 13 students Eugene L, Harry B, Ben P, Ben R, Thomas W, Ben A and Alex M managed to place in the top 25 highest scoring students of their key stage. 75 students were invited to the finals in total (from all over the Yorkshire and Humber region) and nine of them were from South Hunsley! An excellent opportunity for them and one that deserves to be recognised.



## MEDICS MOCK INTERVIEWS

**Wednesday 19 November**

Our Year 13 budding doctors and dentists were given the opportunity to take part in some mock mini medical interviews in November.

They faced 8 different stations where they were asked to perform a series of tasks ranging from explaining their motivation to medicine, carrying out drug calculations, sharing their insight into the NHS and even had to take part in some role play, where they

explained to a 'patient' that their blood test results had been lost and they had to have another blood test. Mr White and Mrs Henderson threw themselves into the role of patient and partner for this task and put the students through their paces!

The students performed exceptionally well and demonstrated their superb communication skills and ability to show empathy in challenging situations. We wish them all the best and are happy in the knowledge that the future of healthcare will be very safe in their hands.





## INTER MILAN VISIT

**Friday 24 - Wednesday 29 October**

During the October half term, 50 students and 5 staff members travelled to Milan for South Hunsley's annual sports tour. Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to train with professional AC Milan coaches and compete against strong local opposition. All three teams performed exceptionally well, each securing victories to proudly bring back to England.

Alongside the sporting experience, students also enjoyed a range of cultural activities. They explored Milan's vibrant city centre, toured the Inter Milan headquarters, and visited the iconic San Siro Stadium.

During the stadium tour, students were granted exclusive access to both home changing rooms and were able to walk through the tunnels and around the historic grounds.

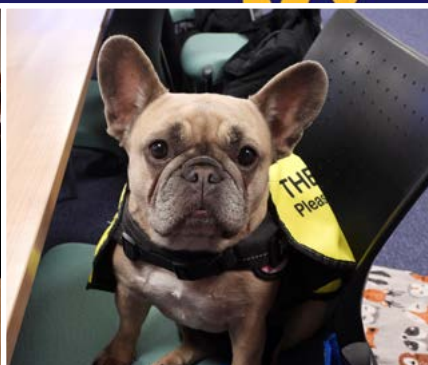
Every student represented the school brilliantly. Their behaviour, teamwork, and enthusiasm made the trip a great success, and they should all be very proud of their achievements both on and off the pitch.



## ANTIBULLYING WEEK

**Monday 10 - Friday 14 November**

We held our termly Wellbeing Week to coincide with Antibullying Week and Odd Socks Day. Pupils were invited to wear odd socks on Monday, along with a programme of events for the week, including Mandala Pattern Colouring, breath work, crafting, visits from Mind and Listen Loud and, back by popular demand, Monkey the Wellbeing Dog!



10,000

apprentices, undergraduates  
and graduates over the last  
5 years



## BAE VISIT

**Friday 17 October**

After a successful visit to BAE last year, we were excited to return back with a new group of Year 11, 12 and 13's to explore a potential career path and provide apprenticeship application support.

The visit offers students the opportunity to engage with current apprentices, program leaders and experienced engineers. They gained insides into what a career at BAE systems involves, how apprenticeships function and the application process. For more information on BAE Apprenticeships, visit [Apprenticeships in the United Kingdom | BAE Systems Careers](#)

2,300

new apprentice and  
graduate roles in 2026



## LUKE'S BAKERY VISIT *by Year 10 pupil, Amelia C*

**Wednesday 19 November**

We visited Luke's Bakery in Brough to establish the process it took Luke, the owner, to get to where he is today. He explained to us about what he does, how long it took him to get to where he is now, what he hopes for in the future and what inspired him to do what he does.



We also got to sample some pizza for lunch, which everyone really liked. It was made with sourdough, and it was very interesting to hear how they made it.

Luke shared how he started in a small building and has worked his way up to where he is now. He was very open with us about how much it takes to set up a business. Luke answered lots of our questions about his business. He told us that he had always loved baking and that he used to do it a lot with his grandma. He always knew this is what he wanted to do.

We got to watch some of the pieces of equipment in use too, such as the industrial-sized oven and fridges, as well as a machine that cuts the dough into squares so that it is ready to go into the fridge to proof.

Luke told us about how he sold his car to buy a van to

transport all the ingredients and products from the bakery to the retailers. Now, he has employed a delivery driver to ensure a stable supply chain. One student had asked so many interesting questions that Luke rewarded them with a prize, which they greatly appreciated! He also offered for us to do work experience, which would help us with our CVs and to get a job.

**Overall, our visit to Luke's Bakery was a great success, and I would definitely recommend it. The experience is one that will help me in the future, whether it is returning to the bakery for work experience, or potentially opening a bakery one day in the future. Hearing Luke's story has inspired me to set goals for the future and to persevere. In his words, it is important never to give up, no matter how tough it may be.**



**DO A JOB  
THAT SAVES  
THE PLANET**  
#GCW2025

## GREEN CAREERS WEEK

**Monday 3 - Saturday 8  
November**

Green Careers Week (GCW) is a one-week celebration of green careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK. Visits from Hull College and CATCH took place during assemblies as well as receiving LMI (Local Labour Market information).



## HULL & EAST RIDING APPRENTICESHIP FAIR

**Wednesday 19 November**

We took a group of year 11 students to The Hull and East Riding Event which was hosted at Bishop Burton. This annual event provided our students with the opportunity to find out more about apprenticeships and connect with local providers as employers from across our region who offer apprenticeships. Over 30 organisations attended across the following industries, Engineering & Construction, digital & IT, Hairdressing & Beauty, Law, Media & Creative Arts, Education, Health Care & Nursing, Business & Finance, Sports & Fitness, Hospitality & Leisure and Defence.



## CRANSWICK ESCAPE ROOM

**Thursday 20 November**

A small group of Year 7 students were asked to test/trial a Portable Education Escape Room in conjunction with the Hull & East Yorkshire Careers Hub.

The Escape Rooms have been designed by Humber Learning Consortium for Cranswick Plc & William Jackson Food Group to offer opportunities for Key Stage 3 that supports the new 'Work Experience Guarantee'. You can read more about that here: [Modern Work Experience | The Careers and Enterprise Company](#)

South Hunsley students were the first in the region

to test the interactive escape rooms, this is what they had to say....

*"It wasn't easy but it also wasn't super hard, I would say it did teach us as it told us all about facts about the company and we had to figure those out to open the locks. We would recommend it. We got to use our problem solving brains. The best part of it was the chocolate cake at the end".*

Welcome to our Inspiring Reading news page. At South Hunsley, we recognise the importance of reading in improving life chances for young people. We share our love of reading through promoting a culture of reading, providing students with access to a range of texts in all subjects and supporting students who struggle with reading with interventions and in class support. We aim to develop independent readers who have a good understanding of texts - both fiction and non-fiction.

The purpose of this page is to provide practical support for parents to support students with reading outside of school.

### 1. Audiobooks to Build Confidence and Fluency

Audiobooks allow children to hear fluent reading while following along in the text.

#### Benefits:

- Supports reluctant or struggling readers
- Helps children understand pacing, tone, and expression
- Builds vocabulary and comprehension

*Examples: Audible, Libby, YouTube read-alouds, school library apps.*

### 2. E-Readers and Reading Apps

Kindles, tablets, and reading apps often come with built-in tools to support understanding.

#### Helpful features:

- Adjustable font size for comfort
- Instant dictionary lookup
- Highlighting and note-making tools
- Built-in dyslexia-friendly fonts

*These features help children read independently and confidently.*

### 3. Read-Along and Interactive Books

Digital books with 'read-along' narration highlight words as they are spoken.

#### Why it helps:

- Strengthens word recognition
- Supports early readers and children with dyslexia

- Makes reading feel fun and active

*Apps like Oxford Owl, Epic!, and Vooks are great examples.*

### 4. Reading Platforms for Interest and Motivation

Online libraries and reading platforms offer thousands of books at the tap of a button.

#### Benefits:

- Children can choose texts that interest them
- Encourages regular reading
- Includes fiction, non-fiction, comics, and magazines

*Choice is one of the biggest motivators for reading.*

### 5. Speech-to-Text and Text-to-Speech Tools

These tools support children who find decoding difficult or who struggle with writing.

- Text-to-speech: Reads any text aloud (useful for complex topics).
- Speech-to-text: Helps children record ideas without worrying about spelling.

*Great for SEN learners or those who are easily discouraged.*

### 6. Digital Note-Making for Comprehension

Children can use apps to highlight, summarise, or create mind maps from what they've read.

#### Why this matters:

- Helps them process information more deeply
- Strengthens revision and study skills
- Builds independence

*Tools like Notability, OneNote, or Google Keep work well.*

### 7. Educational Games That Support Reading Skills

Phonics and vocabulary games can make learning feel enjoyable rather than like homework.

#### What these support:

- Phonological awareness
- Spelling
- Vocabulary growth
- Confidence

*Examples: Teach Your Monster to Read, Nessy, Reading Eggs.*

#### Final Thought

Technology should **enhance** reading, not replace traditional books. Used thoughtfully, it can:

- Make reading more accessible
- Boost confidence
- Support struggling readers
- Encourage enjoyment and independence



## THIS HALF TERM'S RECOMMENDED READING

### **Storm Quest** by Andy Prentice



Do you have what it takes to sail into the eye of the storm? Prepare for terrifying sea monsters, waves the size of mountains and a desperate race

against time as you try to find the only thing in the world that can save the person you love the most. With an exciting dice-based combat system (complete with a link to an online dice-roller), beautifully illustrated puzzles to solve and a heartfelt story full of twists and turns, this interactive adventure will have you gripped from beginning to end.

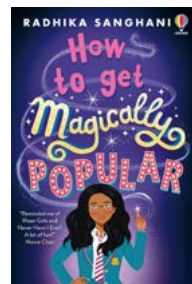
### **The Snow Angel** by Lauren St. John

Growing up in vibrant, crowded Nairobi, Makena has only one dream: to climb Mount Kenya like her hero, her mountain guide father. But when her beautiful world is shattered, she finds that in the city's dark places there are a thousand ways to fall, each more deadly than any crevasse.

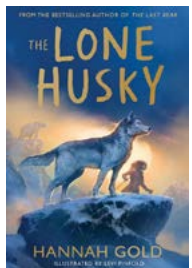


### **How to Get Magically Popular**

by Radhika Sanghani



Sabina Patel has never been popular. And in her new school, in a new town where she doesn't know anyone, Sabina feels more out of place than ever. When she accidentally unlocks magic powers and starts to see visions of the future, Sabina worries that she'll be even more unpopular than before. But she quickly becomes one of the most popular girls in school, with everyone desperate for her to predict their test answers, prom dates and class election results. Then she starts seeing futures she'd rather not know about and Sabina's not sure if she's unlocked a gift or a curse.



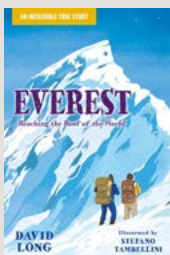
### **The Lone Husky** by Hannah Gold

April Wood is no stranger to adventure. After all, she lives in the Arctic and her best friend is a polar bear. But when April finds herself volunteering for the Polar Race – a long-distance dog sled race across the frozen tundra – even she wonders if this may be an adventure too far. April will need all the help she can get if she's to make it to the finish line. And competition is fierce – with experienced dog sledders, including new boy Finn, who will go to any lengths to win. But April has something the other teams don't: Blaze, a solitary husky with a troubled past, who may just prove to be her secret weapon...

## DYSLEXIA FRIENDLY



### **Edgar & Adolf** by Phil Earle and Michael Wagg

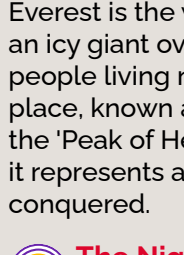


When he inherits a special football badge, German teenager Adi sets off on a mission to fulfil his grandfather's dying wish and return

the badge to its rightful owner, former England footballer, Edgar Kail. After tracking Edgar down, Adi gets the chance to learn more about the achievements of his grandfather, Adolf Jager, and the story unfolds of a special friendship that spanned twenty years and survived the horror of the Second World War.



### **Everest** by David Long



Everest is the world's highest mountain, towering like an icy giant over the Himalayas. For the millions of people living nearby, it has always been a magical place, known as 'Goddess Mother of the World' or the 'Peak of Heaven'. To explorers and adventurers, it represents a perilous but thrilling challenge to be conquered.



### **The Night House Files: The Dead Soul Project** by Dan Smith



Kyle and Lauren Dempsey believe their soldier stepdad is dead, killed in action in Northern Ireland. But then he turns up at their flat in the Alpine Heights tower block, terrifyingly changed. One day later, a mysterious virus seems to be running rampant through the building and many residents are dead. Nobody has ever discovered what really happened – until now...





## THE SIXTH FORM EXPERIENCE

At South Hunsley, we have the privilege to witness many students grow up from small, enthusiastic eleven-year-olds to fully-fledged adults, ready for their futures of independence and success. Some may depart at sixteen, however, many choose to cross the threshold and join our Sixth Form family. As a current Year 12 pupil, this community and its Sixth Form experience were what drew me to continue my journey at Hunsley, and I am positive that many others would be in agreement. But what is the Sixth Form experience?

This time last year, fifteen-year-old me was juggling mocks and, more importantly, was stuck in a place of limbo. The question which was driving my predicament was simply: where do I want to spend the next two years of my life? I wanted something new, a change and even a thrill maybe. Yet, I also craved comfort, familiarity and frankly every opposite! After a long time of exploring all my options, something deep inside me finally made the decision to stay at South Hunsley.

Joining in September, my hope for a familiar welcoming greeting was immediately fulfilled. The teachers already knew my name and, more importantly, they knew me. However, the transition also gifted me something I did not expect: It brought me the change which I had so dearly desired. Indeed, the staff, peers and basic community of the school remained prominent and strong,

but there was a new feeling of independence, freedom and ultimately family. And this is what defines the Sixth Form experience!

The common room is a crucial factor in building these new foundations. It is a place of sanctuary away from the hustle and bustle of the younger students, and it gives you the chance to connect with others in a manner that the lower school hadn't offered. Having free periods also provides a newfound sense of liberty in being able to decide how to build on your learning. Whether you find focus in returning home to review your studies, want to utilise the fully equipped LRC or even prefer to crack on with some homework in the common room alongside your friends, the choice is still the greatest encouragement to succeed in my opinion. Another layer of the Sixth Form experience

is the immense support that is available. Your future is just as important as living in the moment, but at Hunsley, we do not expect you to combat these important life decisions alone.

Over the term, one-to-one meetings with the Heads of Year and form tutors have been provided, alongside the careers fair which occurred recently. Booths and stalls were specialised to various career pathways so there truly was something for everyone! Many students took aid from the fair and hopefully, clarity was gained. Year 12 student Isobel L who attended the fair, stated that *"I could truly now see what inspire, aspire was all about."* For me, this is what makes the South Hunsley Sixth Form so special. You have the support to succeed with the freedom to breath. And that is truly the epitome of education.

*By Georgina H, Year 12*





## ELEANOR E-H

Eleanor competed at the British Junior Championships 2025 over four days in Sheffield, playing against the top junior squash players in Britain.

We are proud to announce Eleanor finished 4th in Britain in the girls U13 category.

**Keep up the hard work Eleanor. We are really proud of your results.**



## ISABEL P

Isabel attended the Disability British Championships where she gained medals: 1st for Floor, 1st for Vault, 2nd Overall and 3rd for Beam

**Well done Isabel, that's such a great result.**



## AMIRA R

Amira R competed with Team Presto, part of Sheffield Synchronised Skating Academy, in Skate London competition and received a Gold medal.

**Well done Team Presto!**

## LYDIA E-H

Lydia played in the Yorkshire Junior County Closed competition in the girls U13 category, despite just going up into the U13 age category, finished 8th in Yorkshire, a great achievement.

**An amazing achievement Lydia. Keep it up!**



## FLORENCE

Florence became Champion on the Fulbeck IKR sprint championship this weekend. Not only that but she pulled the fastest lap of the weekend in her class. She is now concentrating on the Teeside Winter Series which takes us to Cumbria, North Wales, Teeside and Wigan. After that she will be taking on The SuperOne series. That's the big national series.

**We're so proud of her!! An incredible achievement.**

## CURRICULUM SPOTLIGHT: YEAR 9 OPTIONS

Our Year 9 pupils started their options journey in November, with a launch assembly followed by our Options Evening.

The options process has changed slightly this year following the Government's curriculum review that was published at the start of November. In an effort to promote more engagement in the arts and creative subjects, the Ebacc qualification will no longer be reported in school performance tables. For the last few years South Hunsley pupils have had four option choices, with up to two of these 'guided'. Now pupils need to choose at least one subject from the humanities and languages pool. We are

still encouraging all of our pupils to consider choosing a language and a humanity to maintain the breadth of their studies.

As a school we are very fortunate to be able to offer three modern languages and we know from our current Year 10 pupils that they are keen to continue their studies in languages for the following reasons:

- GCSE language courses have been redesigned in recent years to make them more accessible to all pupils

- South Hunsley School GCSE language outcomes over the last three years have consistently been the highest in the school

- Pupils generally achieve their highest grades in their language

- Pupils studying a language do better in their remaining GCSE subjects, particularly English

Pupils studying a language are more likely to progress to Further and Higher Education.

Here are some words from our current Year 10 pupils about their choices last year:

*"I found the options process easy as I utilised the subjects I enjoyed. I chose MFL (German) at GCSE because you learn about the cultures and day-to-day language in that country or in German speaking countries. The staff are passionate about languages and make the lessons engaging so you can achieve top grades. Having another language is useful and is a good asset to your CV." - Ava E*

*"Personally, I found the process of deciding options very intuitive. I have always had an idea of what I wanted to do at GCSE, but I felt that the assemblies and open evenings we had were really beneficial in helping me ensure what I wanted to do would be right for me. I also found the process of filling in the form easy to understand, which was certainly a nice bonus!" - Jacob R*

*"Throughout KS3 I was always unsure of what I wanted to be in the future. I found enjoyment in my Religious Studies lessons – especially in the topics on ethics and philosophy and Crime and Punishment. My passion stemmed from my enjoyment of the KS3 curriculum. Now, as a Year 10 student, I enjoy developing my knowledge and gaining confidence. Choosing my options was great experience as all the teachers are so caring and convincing. My favourite thing about RS is that it's a nice change from STEM subjects and I develop my writing skills as well as my analytical capability. A common misconception is that it is all religion- in fact it is a lot more than that. We study many topics including morals, ethics and real-life situations. That's what I love about RS. - Aimee S*

*"My passion for history stemmed from my enjoyment of the KS3 curriculum. Having taken majority STEM subjects, I felt I needed to additionally take a subject like history where I can help develop my critical writing skills whilst still enjoying and looking forwards towards my lessons. Furthermore, my experience in picking the subject was brilliant and such an easy process since my previous history teachers were very convincing and supportive." - Farrah K*

**Pupils now have until Monday 23 February to make their options choice. An online options form will be shared with parents/carers in the week of 26 January.**





## TIPS FOR AN ECO-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS

This Christmas it would be great if we could all make at least one change that will help the environment. If we all change one thing, it can have a big impact overall. We have come up with different ideas that you can choose from to help you on your journey to being eco-friendly this Christmas.



### Use reusable gift bags or recyclable paper

You may not know that most wrapping paper isn't actually eco-friendly. It contains a small layer of plastic to give it the shiny look. To check if your paper is recyclable scrunch it up, it stays scrunched then it is recyclable.



### Make homemade gifts

Not all gifts need to be homemade but making just a few is very thoughtful – think handmade fudge or cookies. It also reduces waste going to landfill: around £42 million worth of gifts are thrown out each year. This is 30% of the waste produced during the festive period.



### Reuse decorations and lights

We don't need different colour themes each year. If the decorations were good enough last year, then they still will be this year. 125,000 tonnes of decorations and 500 tonnes of lights are thrown away each year. If you are wanting new ones, why not make some out of paper or fabric scraps.

Buy from charity shops – we have mentioned how much goes to landfill, so why not stop this and buy from charity/vintage shops. You can find so many decorations and gifts. It might take you a bit longer to do your shopping, but giving something a second life is worth it, and RECYCLE!

*By Thomas L-W Year 7*



### Recipe for homemade fudge:

500g milk chocolate  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
A large knob of butter  
1 can (395g) condensed milk

Add ingredients into a slow cooker and heat for 2 hours on high, stir every 15 minutes. Pour into a lined tray, add toppings if you want and leave to set in the fridge.

# We're in your school!



**We're Hull and East Yorkshire Mind, your local mental health charity. We're here to ensure that everyone has access to the support they need, when they need it most.**

For the past four years, we have been working directly in schools across Hull and East Yorkshire, equipping thousands of young people with the tools they need to navigate the challenges life can bring. This support is happening right now in your child's school.

## How Your Child Benefits

Through our 'Mind in Education' package, we provide preventative support directly within the school environment. This bespoke mental health service is delivered by an expert staff member and includes:

- Targeted 1:1 support
- Small group sessions
- Workshops and drop-ins



This means your child has ready access to professional mental health support to help create a healthier, happier, and more supportive environment for them to learn and grow.

## What does Mind in Education aim to do?

- Promote good mental health and wellbeing to everyone as a right.
- Support everyone with poor mental health to live happy lives.
- Find causes of poor mental health and find ways to keep everyone well.
- Respect diversity and promote equality.
- Build external partnerships with local community organisations to support children and young people to achieve their best, and to support parents/caregivers and school staff.

If you're a child, speak to your tutor or your Wellbeing Team, who will be able to signpost you to us to receive support. This can be offered during or after school hours.

If you're a parent/carer, you also deserve support. At Hull and East Yorkshire Mind, we offer a friendly, six-week program that gives you simple tools to improve your mental health, meet others who understand, and find support in a relaxed setting. We also offer 1-1 support (subject to assessment). To access please visit [heykind.org.uk](http://heykind.org.uk).



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR TIMETABLES

The extra-curricular timetable has now been updated for all the activities we have to offer. There are two timetables, one for the Sixth Form and one for the School.

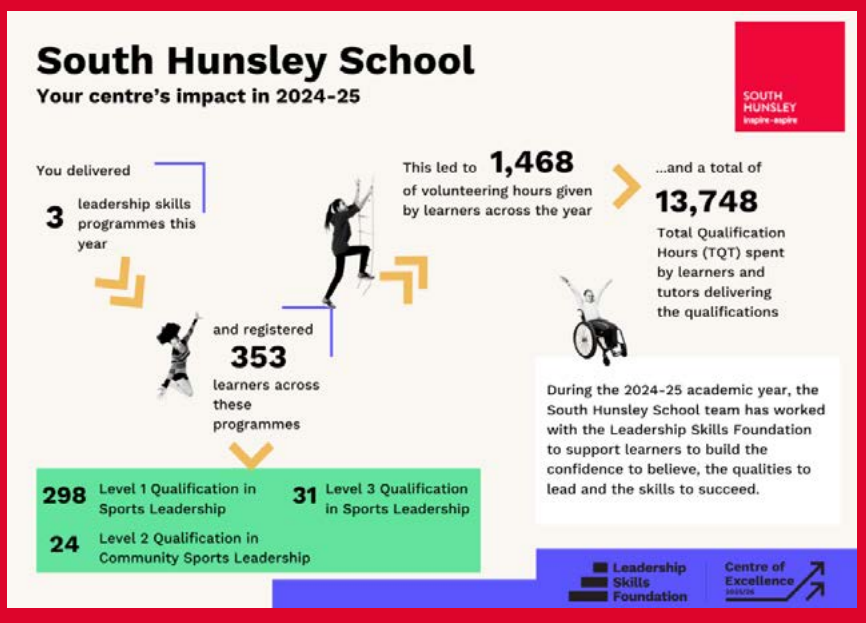
Click [here](#) to view the PDF for further information.

## YOUR CHOICES

Year 11 pupils will be given a Your Choices Booklet which is a comprehensive guide to Post-16 options, some useful advice and what is available in the East Riding of Yorkshire, if you'd like to see a digital version of this booklet, please click [here](#).

## CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE 2025

Our school has been awarded Centre of Excellence by Leadership Skills Foundation again for 2024/2025. This status recognises centres that put their learners' development of leadership skills at the heart of their delivery, embedding our programmes into their support and education they provide. This involves going beyond the awards and qualifications and bringing the skills to life throughout their work with learners and delegates.



**TICKETS ON SALE SOON**

SOUTH HUNSLEY SCHOOL CREATIVE ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# The Addams Family

THE MUSICAL COMEDY

**THU 5 - FRI 6 MARCH 2026**

MIDDLETON HALL, HULL UNIVERSITY

## SIX STRATEGIES FOR EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE IN THE WINTER MONTHS

Here are six key strategies families can implement in the home to ensure great attendance and punctuality:



### Proactive Prep - Beat the Winter Rush

The night before, ensure all uniform, warm layers (thermals, hats, gloves, thick socks), school bags and any required materials (like PE kit or textbooks) are laid out and placed near the door. By having everything ready, you eliminate the morning panic and reduce the opportunity for delays or arguments. Implement a strict "Five-Minute Rule": Once you've agreed it's time to leave, there is a no-delay rule for exiting the house. Stick rigidly to the routine to prevent lateness.



### Prioritise Sleep

The dark winter months are when our immune systems are most challenged. Help your child fight off cold-weather germs by setting and strictly enforcing a consistent, early bedtime. Teenagers need 8-10 hours of sleep per night. Crucially, remove all screens (phones, tablets, game consoles) from the bedroom an hour before lights-out. Better sleep strengthens the immune system and makes it easier to wake up and face the cold morning.



### Combat Germs with Consistent Handwashing

Make a habit of constant hygiene a family routine. Ensure your child washes their hands thoroughly upon returning home from school, before meals, and after coughing or sneezing. Stock up on hand sanitiser for their school bag. This simple action is one of the most effective ways to break the chain of infection and prevent those minor illnesses that lead to missed days.



### When to Stay Home vs. Power Through

Be firm and realistic about symptoms. A mild cold, a cough or the occasional 'sniffles' is often manageable and children should still attend school. If your child is making an excuse related to the weather, offer a warm drink and encouragement, but don't allow them to stay home. Only symptoms like a high fever, vomiting or persistent diarrhoea should warrant an absence. If in doubt, call the school for advice.



### Schedule Appointments Wisely

Plan ahead and book non-urgent appointments (dentist, doctor check-ups, haircuts) after school hours or during the planned Christmas holiday break. Every hour of learning time is vital and even a partial day of absence disrupts the educational flow. If an appointment is unavoidable during school hours, ensure your child attends school prior and returns to school immediately afterwards. Please can you provide the school with evidence of the appointment so we can update our registers.



### Maintaining Routine Through the Holidays

The excitement and late nights of the holiday season can quickly derail your child's body clock. While we encourage relaxation, try to maintain routine stability by keeping wake-up and bedtimes as close as possible to school-day routines, especially in the week leading up to the return date. This ensures a smooth transition back to school in January, preventing that post-holiday slump that often leads to low motivation and poor attendance.

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

### Termly Update

All parents/carers should have received a Curriculum Overview for their child, showcasing the various topics that they will be learning in each subject. Please click on the links below to access the documents per year group.

Year 7	Year 8
Year 9	Year 10
Year 11	



# 25-26 UPCOMING EVENTS



## Calendar

Click to view our school calendar.



## Food Menus

Click to view our food menus for the upcoming term.

## DECEMBER

### THURSDAY 18 DECEMBER

Last Day of Term

### THURSDAY 25 DECEMBER

Christmas Day

### WEDNESDAY 31 DECEMBER

New Year's Eve

## JANUARY

### THURSDAY 1 JANUARY

New Year's Day

### MONDAY 5 JANUARY

Staff Training Day -  
School Closed to Students

### TUESDAY 6 JANUARY

Terms Starts - All Students  
Year 9 Progress Evening  
(A Half)

### THURSDAY 15 JANUARY

Year 9 Progress Evening  
(B Half)

### SUNDAY 18 JANUARY

World Religion Day

### WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY

Science Triathlon 2026

### TUESDAY 27 JANUARY

Holocaust Memorial Day

### THURSDAY 29 JANUARY

Year 11 Progress Evening  
(A Half)

## FEBRUARY

### FEBRUARY

LBGT History Month

### THURSDAY 5 FEBRUARY

Year 11 Progress Evening  
(B Half)

### TUESDAY 10 FEBRUARY

GCSE Science Live 2026

Safer Internet Day

### FRIDAY 13 FEBRUARY

Last Day of Half Term

### FRIDAY 13 - SATURDAY 21 FEBRUARY

Year 11 Ski Residential Visit -  
Austria

Sixth Form Ski Residential  
Visit - Italy

Sixth Form Iceland Visit

### SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY

Book Giving Day

### TUESDAY 17 FEBRUARY

Random Acts of  
Kindness Day

### WEDNESDAY 18 FEBRUARY

Ramadan

### MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY

Half Term begins

### TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY

Year 11 GCSE Support  
Evening

### THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY

Year 13 Progress Evening

Dates correct at time of print and can change without prior notice

# WINTER POEMS LIBRARY COMPETITION

The winners of the Winter Poem Competition ran by the library are featured below, The first prize went to Year 7 pupil, Olivia G, the second place went to Zak W, in Year 8 and third place was awarded to Year 8, Katie B. Thank you all for entering and we hope you enjoy your prizes of books and sweets.

## The Breeze

The ease when  
Christmas arrives,  
My woolly hat and scarf  
sing a song,

The dark night hums  
and the bells chime,  
As I shout  
"It's Christmas time!"

*by Kaie B, Year 8*

## My X-mas Poem

Snow is falling,  
Mistletoe is calling,  
Sparkling bright,  
Owning the light.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Glorious snowmen galore  
Challenging fights lots more!  
Stacking up snow high,  
Reaching up to the sky.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Shine bright like  
Bethlehem's star  
Find it and you'll be  
achieving far,  
Christmas carolling,  
Christmas lighting.

Merry Christmas everyone!

It's just us,  
And it's not the  
same as it was,  
The candles glow  
the dishes gleam,  
Soft laughter dances  
through the steam.

Merry Christmas everyone!

For love that never  
fades or fails  
God's grace is where  
our story dwells,  
The truest fight this  
X-mas night.  
Is family bound by  
Heaven's Light

Merry Christmas everyone

*by Olivia G, Year 8*

## Bitter In The City (February's Painting)

The air was bitter in the city,  
as snow fell onto  
my damp coat,  
in a white burst.

The black ice  
began to melt,  
As I look back  
over Winter's home.

The tides are swaying,  
the leaves are sprouting,  
Winter is turning,  
as Spring gently drips  
into the streets,

with a watercolour green.  
The nights were crisp,  
the wind biting  
at the window,  
but the warmth kept it out.

Winter is not dying,  
But handing down its love,  
To April's child.

The winter was bitter  
in the city,  
a cold breeze  
through dazzling lights,  
a beautiful spectacle  
on the high street.

*by Zak Wilson, Year 8*

**SOUTH  
HUNSLEY**  
inspire · aspire

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East Yorkshire  
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