



**GEORGE  
PINDAR  
SCHOOL**

# The Pindar Postbag

## 6 October 2024 Edition

### Message from the Principal

I can hardly believe that we are six days into October and that September has already passed us by! It has been a fantastic five weeks at George Pindar School - we have been delighted to welcome our wonderful new Year 7s to the school and to see other year groups as they move through the school. I have been so #ProudToBePindar when visiting classrooms this year - the attitude to learning of our students is better than ever and classroom behaviour is the best it has ever been. The new academic year gives every child the chance to make a new start and it has been wonderful to see so many students returning to school so ready to learn and showing the PINDAR values on a daily basis - keep this up #TeamPindar! One of the nicest parts of my job is reading the #PINDARPositives nominations sent to me by staff and reading the responses from families when you get one - thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts; it means a great deal to me.

### Sporting Success

We are extremely lucky at George Pindar to benefit from a superb range of sporting facilities and a fantastic team of PE teachers who go above and beyond to take our students to fixtures near and far. The year has been extremely successful so

far with our football teams being victorious against St Augustine's Year 11s, our Year 7, 8 and 9 teams all winning their matches in the District Cup competition at Whitby School and our Year 7s coming back from 2 - 0 down to win 4 - 2 in the Cup Fixture in Tadcaster! 43 students participated in the Cross Country event at the end of September and showed that they know their way around a competition too! Keep up the great work #TeamPindar - we might need a bigger trophy cabinet!

### The Independent Learning Zone (ILZ)

The ILZ is a new Trust wide initiative which we are really excited about and which your child might have mentioned over the last few weeks. The initiative allows students to work on independent tasks in all lessons to allow teachers to see what students can do on their own and really push them out of their comfort zone and elevate their learning which will have a positive impact on their outcomes. The initiative has been shared with students and received well; students know that the ILZ enables them to make progress and show their PINDAR value of determined by having a go at the hardest tasks on their own before teacher input. Students have been told that the ILZ is to be undertaken in silence so they can really concentrate on completing the task to the best of their ability. After the task students are provided with support and feedback to ensure progress can be made and misconceptions addressed.



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The ILZ fits into our revised learning cycle of:



Please encourage your child to really embrace this challenge and show determination in their lessons to ensure they are getting the most from this exciting initiative. To help all lessons proceed at pace, we would also very much appreciate you ensuring that your child comes to school equipped with a blue or black pen, a green pen, a pencil, a ruler, a calculator and a reading book. It makes the start of lessons as efficient as possible and your support would be appreciated!

## Beyond The 25

Our school day might have changed, with extensions to tutor time, break and lunchtime, but core lessons still last 25 hours per week. However, life at George Pindar does not end at 3.15pm and we would love to see your child participate in any or all of our 'Beyond the 25' activities. Activities range from GCSE English revision to Line Dancing, a board games club to table tennis, darts to lego club and much, much more. Students can check with their Form Tutor for more details. We would be delighted to see your child beyond the 25!

## House Competitions

The rivalry between the five Houses in school - Falcon, Kestrel, Kite, Osprey and Owl continues in 2024! In school Miss Simpson produces a weekly update for tutor groups showing how stamps,

attendance and behaviour all contribute to the House Point Totals and we encourage all students to achieve their very best to help their House! Students can currently participate in the Times Tables Rock Stars competition to gain extra points for their House as well as completing their Blooket optional homework for French to boost their House points total. Falcon look impressive at the top of the table at the moment - can your child's House reach the top?

## Attendance

Our attendance target for all students is 95%; recent research shows that there is a direct link between attendance and outcomes at the end of school so every day counts! Students who achieve 100% each week are given a ticket to enter the '100 Club' prize draw where students can choose to win £100 vouchers for gaming, shopping or Amazon. Students need to be in to win so aim for 100% every week!

If for any reason your child is too ill for school, or if you have booked a holiday, it is incredibly important to update us in the morning. You can do this by ringing 01723 582194, using the Edulink App or emailing [hello@gps.hslt.academy](mailto:hello@gps.hslt.academy) or [news@gps.hslt.academy](mailto:news@gps.hslt.academy) Please let us know the reason for your child's absence. If you have any queries about attendance, you can contact our attendance team via the school office.



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## How to Get in Touch

Telephone: 01723 5822194  
Email: [hello@gps.hslt.academy](mailto:hello@gps.hslt.academy)  
Email: [news@gps.hslt.academy](mailto:news@gps.hslt.academy)  
Edulink: Use the App or go online

Communication between home and school is of vital importance to ensure that all students can strive for success. Therefore, in order to ensure that this is as effective as possible, please can we politely remind parents / carers to contact reception to book meetings with staff as colleagues are not always available for an immediate meeting. Heads of Houses have a teaching commitment so there will be a delay in responding to parental contact on occasion. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding with this matter.

## Reporting a Concern

If you have a concern about a student or anyone else in our school community please report it. Mrs Welsh is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Miss Pickles is the Advanced Safeguarding Practitioner. They lead safeguarding in school with a team of colleagues who can support your child.

You can contact colleagues by calling the main school telephone number on 01723 582194 or via email to [safeguarding@gps.hslt.academy](mailto:safeguarding@gps.hslt.academy)

## If you need help

At George Pindar School, we are continually working to support students in feeling safe and well at school and to enable them to flourish both within and outside of school. Students are encouraged to seek support from their form tutor or teachers in school and will be directed to pastoral and safeguarding colleagues when appropriate. Students who prefer to report a safeguarding concern by text can send a message to the school's safeguarding mobile number on 07895132530 or email [safeguarding@gps.hslt.academy](mailto:safeguarding@gps.hslt.academy) The safeguarding mobile is available from 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday during term time.

Students who need support beyond the school day, on a weekend or over the holidays should look at the range of information on our website: [If You Need Help](#)

## Helpful Links

You can read all about the latest George Pindar news on our social media channels:  
<https://www.facebook.com/georgepindarschool>  
<https://www.instagram.com/georgepindarschool>

Our website contains a huge amount of useful information:  
<https://gps.hslt.academy/>