



GEORGE
PINDAR
SCHOOL

The Pindar Postbag

February 2025 Edition

Message from the Principal

I can hardly believe that the half term holidays are already here - the last six weeks have flown by in school and have been particularly busy for staff due to our recent Ofsted inspection. I hope you have managed to read the report which was emailed to you yesterday. We are very proud of the improvements which have been recognised and ready to tackle the areas for improvement. We need your help to improve student attendance and hope that you can encourage your child to attend every day - students need to be in, to win! We are looking forward to the next half term and seeing all our students on **Monday 24th February 2025** at **8.40am**. I hope you all have a lovely half term break.

Attendance Matters

Evidence shows clearly that students who maintain higher attendance achieve higher grades and here at George Pindar School we want to encourage every child to attend as much as possible! The Government's 'Education Hub' released some data recently showing that in 2019, secondary school pupils who didn't achieve grade 9 to 4 in English and maths missed 10 more days on average over the key stage than those who achieved grade 9 to 5 in both English and maths.

Being in school is important to a child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development and every moment in school counts, and days missed add up quickly. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments. At George Pindar School, students who achieve 100% each week are given a ticket to enter the '100 Club' prize draw and they can drop these in the attendance rewards cabinet for a chance to win gaming, shopping or Amazon vouchers at the end of the next half term. Students should aim for 100% every week when we return to school because attendance truly matters. We are currently working on some additional attendance competitions so please tell your child to keep a close eye on announcements in tutor time!

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 or news@gps.hslt.academy Please let us know the reason for your child's absence. If you have any queries about attendance, or need any support for your child, you can contact our attendance team via the school office. Thank you for your support as we seek to improve in this hugely important area.



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Sporting Success

Our sports teams have continued to embrace all opportunities to represent #TeamPindar both at home and away in the last half term! Our Year 7 team came third in the District Basketball Competition in January whilst a team of Key Stage Three students supported by Mr McFarlane and Miss Pummell were victorious in the annual Panathlon at Scarborough Sixth Form College. We are super proud of these students! Our Year 10s came second in the District Handball event in February whilst another group of Year 10s came third overall in an away match for basketball at Lady Lumley's. A special commendation must go to our three Table Tennis superstars Jude, Ben and Jack and their families who represented our school on a Saturday in the North Yorkshire Championships - well done boys, you made us very proud! Students who wish to participate in sporting activities should speak to their PE teacher in the first instance for advice.

Maths Matters

We are absolutely delighted to report that George Pindar School was the highest scoring Secondary School in North Yorkshire and the 8th highest secondary school in the country during the recent Times Table Rock Stars competition which took place online to support the NSPCC. Our maths wizards from Years 7, 8 and 9 embraced the times tables challenges and blew us away with their fast maths brains! We would like to thank Miss

Ward-Gow and the maths department for organising our participation in the competition and say congratulations to everyone who took part! Keep up the great work!

Careers in Sight

The five years of secondary school pass by very quickly and with our PINDAR value of Aspirational firmly in mind, we ensure we run a fantastic programme of careers-based activities at George Pindar School. In February our Year 9 students took part in a fantastic workshop provided by NYBEP and Jackson Civil Engineering, learning about routes into engineering careers and using problem solving skills to look into the future of engineering. We are very grateful to everyone who made this visit possible.

A very different career was considered during the Achieve visit to Scarborough Town Hall where Zakon Business & Training Consultancy ran a Crime Scene to Courtroom experience for our students - this offered an incredible insight into the world of law for our students and was enjoyed by everyone!

In January we welcomed professional playwright and author Saviour Pirotta into school to showcase the stories of Greek mythology to our budding writers - well done to everyone who planned then wrote their own stories using Saviour's tips and thank you as ever to Anglo American who fund



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this exciting series of events.

Our GCSE Art students dealt with the challenges of a power cut when participating in a workshop with Scarborough Sixth Form College in January - despite being plunged into darkness, students managed to create some incredible pieces in the Cyanotype workshop and boosted their portfolios in the process!

Tuck Shop Treats

We are running two trips to France in the next two months and to boost the balance sheet to allow students to enjoy more activities during the visits, our wonderful students have dug deep and bought cakes, sweets and crisps during the last half term to give themselves a tasty treat and support their friends' trips. Thank you to everyone who has spent a penny! You will definitely read more about our visits in the next Pindar Postbag!

A window to the world

Our wonderful Languages Department take every opportunity they can to bring languages to life and during the last half term they have excelled themselves once again. Mesdemoiselles Mills and Dubois firstly celebrated Epiphany with their Year 9 classes, embracing traditional French activities of creating a crown then enjoying a tasty slice of Galette des Rois, or King's Cake, which is a pastry cake filled with frangipane almond cream, to

celebrate the arrival of the Three Wise Men in Bethlehem.

Students who attend Culture Club celebrated the Year of the Snake with a Chinese-themed evening eating fortune cookies, making lucky red lanterns and learning how to say Happy New Year in Chinese! 新年快乐 everyone!

Enrichment Opportunities

At George Pindar School we are very proud of our 'Beyond the 25' enrichment programme - students are encouraged to participate in one or more of our after school activities which include homework club, sporting clubs and activities, Culture Club and now a Darts Club! Inspired by Luke Littler, we have 180 (well, not quite!) young darts players who join Mr Smith, Mr Dowson and Mr Virr for a club like no other. Speak to Mr Smith for more details!

Revision Matters

With only ten school weeks until the first written GCSE exam, we strongly encourage all Year 11 students to revise over the half term break. Mr Thompson has uploaded revision ideas onto the Google Classroom and teachers have provided revision materials online. Make every minute count Year 11 as hard work really does pay off! The next set of 'mock' exams or PPEs are in March and will provide a final practice before the real papers. Good luck Year 11!



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How to Get in Touch

Telephone: 01723 5822194
Email: hello@gps.hslt.academy
Email: 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

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 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/>