



GEORGE
PINDAR
SCHOOL

The Pindar Postbag

April 2025 Edition

Message from the Principal

The last half term has once again flown by and as you will see below, it has been packed with a huge raft of activities. We hope all members of the George Pindar community are looking forward to a restful and relaxing holiday. For our Year 11 students, we expect the holiday will be busy with revision but the end is in sight! We are looking forward to the next half term and seeing all our students on **Tuesday 22nd April 2025 at 8.40am**. Happy Easter #TeamPindar!

Attendance pays off!

We were delighted to draw our 100 Club prize draw on Friday morning where not one, but six (!) £100 vouchers were up for grabs for students who have achieved 100% attendance each week. Research tells us that students who maintain higher attendance achieve higher grades and we encourage every child to be in every day. Students need to be in to win!

George Pindar on tour

The last half term has seen students from GPS participate in two foreign visits and both have been a roaring success! In February half term Year 10 students participated in a fantastic four day visit to Paris, seeing the sights of this beautiful city and enjoying every second at Disneyland Paris where brave students (and staff!) went on every

ride imaginable. Mrs Hamilton organised a fantastic programme for students who made us extremely #ProudToBePindar, including when a follow-up email arrived in school from two motorcyclists who met our group on the ferry to congratulate our students' behaviour. We are already looking forward to our next adventure!



Miss Mills led her second foreign visit of the year with the superb visit to Château d'Ebblesham with Year 8 and Year 9 students who had a packed programme of activities in France and Belgium. Students found out more about the fascinating history of the area with a visit to a World War One and Two cemetery and had the chance to experience artefacts from that time. The sun shone on students as they enjoyed their visit to the zoo, a trip to a local French market and a snail eating challenge! Staff were super proud of our students who all took the opportunity to practise their French skills throughout the trip and who



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embraced every activity. Where will #TeamPindar travel to next?



Next Stop - careers!

Our careers programme offers an incredible array of activities designed to raise student aspirations and the last half term has again been packed with opportunities for students.

We are hugely grateful for the support of Anglo American who fund our Achieve programme and their support means we can offer our Meet The Professional series to all students. Over the last half term we have been lucky to meet TV Journalist Carla Fowler of Look North fame who gave our students a fabulous insight into the world of television. Ernie from Stephen Joseph Theatre brought puppetry to Pindar as students learnt how to create a puppet from simple beginnings in a fantastic creative experience for all those who participated. A man of many talents, Ernie visited us again later last month to deliver a mask

workshop which was hugely successful. We are grateful to all businesses who show our students what the future could hold for them!



We were also delighted to host Jack and Tom from Dobomusic event sound & lighting who gave our Y10 & Y11 drama students an insight into all things backstage during a special event in school. Performing Arts is a hugely popular option at GPS so finding out more about what a career in this area could look like was hugely beneficial!



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As a school we have good working relationships with a number of post-16 and post-18 providers and over the last half term we have benefitted from our link with York St John University. Year 8 and Year 9 students have started to find out all about university life as part of the Making Waves programme whilst Year 10 visited the YSJ Campus as part of the Inspiring Choices workshop and had an incredible experience. Once again this was a great opportunity to develop our PINDAR Value of ASPIRATIONAL!



Enrichment Opportunities

At George Pindar School we are very proud of our 'Beyond the 25' enrichment programme in which students are encouraged to participate in one or more of our after school activities which include homework club, sporting clubs and activities, Culture Club, a Darts Club and much more! This half term Mrs Raisin's Hospitality & Catering skills

club made the most of their after-school time to create some stunning bakes including focaccia bread, the Tunnocks Teacake Challenge, sharing platter with homemade flatbreads, hummus, dips and crudités and, to fit in with the Easter spirit, some hot cross buns to round off the term! We are very envious of all the families who were greeted with tasty treats every week!

Our wonderful PE department took our students on tour twice this half term to see professional sport and our Y7s thoroughly enjoyed the Hull City vs Oxford City match at the MKM Stadium, whilst our Y9 netballers spent a chilly Friday night seeing Leeds Rhinos play in a super league netball match. We are really grateful to all the staff who made these events happen!

Some of our hardest working students have been completing the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award over the last year and this culminated in their March expedition walking and camping on the Cleveland Way! All the students agreed that this was an incredible experience and they have learnt so much about themselves during the trip.

Mr Virr and Mr Dowson led the hotly contested House Darts competitions in school over the last few weeks and after several rounds, Kestrel House were victorious in Year 8! We cannot wait to see who wins next!

Miss Matson ensures the library is a fantastic place for all students to spend breaks and lunches and



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she runs a series of special events to encourage students to enjoy this space. This half term's Chess Tournament was hugely successful and after some matches, the winner was awarded a magnificent chess board! Congratulations to everyone who took part!



Hard work pays off!

Our Key Stage Three students worked incredibly hard over the last term to complete their Endpoints assessments and their hard work was rewarded in a special series of rewards assemblies in February. Mrs Welsh signed over 2500 certificates to reward students who had made great progress towards the Endpoints standard as well as those who achieved or even went beyond the standard. Congratulations to all our students who have worked so hard.

At George Pindar School we know that success is not just academic and in our Easter Rewards

Assemblies we recognised students who have demonstrated the PINDAR values over the last six weeks, our tutor and Head of House stars and those who have managed to maintain 100% attendance since the start of September. We are so proud of every student who has won a certificate and showed that they are striving for success at George Pindar School!



20 million down....how many to go?

Since September our students have been completing Reading Plus lessons and homework to develop their fluency and proficiency when reading. Incredibly in March we were informed that as a school we have passed the 20 million words milestone and we know that this will make such an impact on our students' success in the future! Please remind your child to complete their Reading Plus homework every week and let's see how many more words we can read by the end of term!



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Sporting Success

Our PE department has continued to offer a huge range of fixtures both during and after the school day over the last term and we are beyond proud of our students who are part of our teams. It's been another really successful half term for our teams and although we haven't won all our matches, we have always remembered that taking part does count!

Mr Worrell has signed off from an incredible teaching career by getting four teams into the District Cup Finals which will take place straight after Easter. Our Year 7s beat their rivals 4-0 in the semi-final to join our Year 11 team in the final, whilst Scalby were defeated by both our Year 8 and Year 9 teams to reach the finals in Whitby. We cannot wait to see how our teams perform!

In rugby, our Year 7s, Year 8s and Year 10s have all participated in muddy tournaments and demonstrated their brilliant teamwork in 10-a-side matches. With less mud on show, our Year 8s and Year 7s have enjoyed the Scarborough Tennis matches and made us incredibly proud!

Finally, our Year 7 and Year 8 girls were victorious in the 7-a-side girls football tournament which took place recently and staff congratulated them for their fantastic teamwork and effort! We are hugely proud of everyone who dons the Pindar team kit and represents us both locally and across the region! Keep up the great work #TeamPindar!



Charity eggs!

Mrs McLachlan runs an intervention for our Military Kids who have a parent who has served in the armed forces and this half term the group decided to take their charitable efforts beyond the school by holding an Easter Egg raffle to raise vital funds for St Catherine's Hospice! Thank you to everyone who donated an egg or entered the raffle which raised over £100! We are very grateful for your support!

Spelling Success

Could you stand up in front of a classroom full of people and spell 50 words aloud against the clock? And to make matters more complicated, could you do this in French? Our Year 7 students have been practising for a Spelling Bee in French since November, with an in-class round for each group before the winners bravely participated in the school final in front of staff and parents in February. We are so proud of our final three who



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represented George Pindar School in the regional finals in Leeds and beyond impressed by Oliver who has a place in the national final which will take place in Cambridge in June! Congratulations to all our super spellers and we will be cheering you on from Scarborough in June Oliver! Bonne chance!



Good luck Mr Worrell!

At the end of the term we said a very fond farewell to our Head of PE and Culture Mr Worrell who has worked at George Pindar for an incredible 21 years! We know from the huge number of messages that we have received in school that Mr Worrell will be truly missed by current and former students, parents and staff and we wish him every success in the future!

Revision Matters

With only three school weeks until the first written GCSE exam, we strongly encourage all Year 11 students to revise over the Easter break. Parents and carers have been emailed with details of in-school revision sessions whilst at home students have access to their Google Classrooms, revision lists, Mathswatch, Pinpoint, SENECA and so much more! Good luck Year 11! Don't lose sight of the envelope!

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.



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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! 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. Students who can quote their attendance percentage when asked at random might also win one of our special prizes! Students need to be in to win!

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.

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/>