



23rd January 2026

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Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'd like to begin by welcoming everyone back for the new Spring term and if it's not too late to do so, to wish you a very Happy New Year. I hope everyone had a restful break and is feeling refreshed for the busy and exciting weeks ahead.

We began the term by celebrating our Academic Awards Evening, which was a truly special occasion. It was wonderful to see so many students recognised for their hard work and achievements, and we were especially delighted to welcome back some of our alumni who returned to support the event. Congratulations to all who received certificates and awards—you made the school incredibly proud.

It was our Sixth Form Taster Days last week and we welcomed an unprecedented number of students - over 270 - to spend the day here trying out the courses we have on offer and experiencing life as a Huntington Sixth Former. We have had lots of feedback about how inspiring the sessions were and what a warm and welcoming feel there is at our school. We are excited to see our Sixth Form grow and flourish and thank everyone who is involved in making it a success - staff, students and families.

Our Year 11 students are now preparing for their upcoming mock examinations. They have made an excellent start this term and are working hard in lessons and revision sessions. We wish them the very best of luck and encourage them to make use of all the support available.

I am also pleased to share that we have launched our new Parents, Teachers and Friends Association – Friends of Huntington School. Following some positive and productive meetings with interested parents, we are delighted to invite you to our first AGM on Tuesday 24th February at 7pm, taking place at the Blacksmiths Arms in Huntington. The PTFA will play an important role in helping to support the school and our students, staff and families, strengthening the partnership at the heart of our school community. If you would like to attend, please contact my PA, Mrs Beth Prihar, by emailing b.prihar@huntington-ed.org.uk. We hope to see many of you there as we begin this exciting new chapter.

I look forward to another productive and positive term together.

Warm regards,

Matt Smith



Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

Our quick reference guide on key dates is available to view on our Website via the link below:

[Huntington School Calendar](#)

Please note these dates are subject to change.

Dates to note for January and February are as follows:

JANUARY

Wed 28th: Y10 Parents' Evening – In Person

FEBRUARY

Mon 2nd: Y11 Mock exams (for 2 weeks)

Fri 13th: School closes for half term

Mon 23rd: School opens

Mon 23rd: Y13 Mock exams (for 1 week)

Wed 25th: Y12 Parents' Evening - online

Fri 27th: Training Day - school closed to students

Class Charts - technical issues

Some parents are reporting that they have not been receiving Class Charts notifications or email notifications that they have a new Class Charts message. We have contacted Class Charts about this issue and they tell us they are aware, and that their technical team are working on a resolution. In the meantime, please check Class Charts periodically to ensure you do not miss out on important messages from school. We will inform you via Class Charts when the issue is resolved. Please be assured that, as always, in cases of emergency, we will call you.

Thank you!

Attendance Update

We're really looking forward to sharing the results of the recent ImpactEd survey with you. Thank you to everyone who took the time to take part during November — your feedback is hugely appreciated. There's too much to include in this newsletter, so please keep an eye on Class Charts for a letter coming home soon with all the details.

Ms K Townsend and the Attendance Team

Sparx Maths Homework Trial

Please find attached a [letter from the Maths department](#) regarding the trial for a new system regarding homework rewards and sanctions.

If any parents work for a company that could provide prizes for our raffle or sponsor the raffle so we can purchase more prizes, please get in touch as we would love to hear from you.

Many thanks!

Huntington School Community News and Events

At Huntington School, we're proud of the vibrant community made up of our staff, students, and their families. This year, we're keen to create more opportunities for connection and shared experiences. Please see below for two ways we can achieve this together.

Friends of Huntington School

As Mr Smith mentioned in his message, we have launched our new Parents, Teachers and Friends Association – Friends of Huntington School - and we are delighted to invite you to our first AGM on Tuesday 24th February at 7pm, at the Blacksmiths Arms in Huntington. The PTFA will play an important role in helping to support the school and our students, staff and families, strengthening the partnership at the heart of our school community. We have already got some plans for how to get started on this but we will always welcome more ideas and support. If you would like to attend, please contact Mrs Beth Prihar **by Monday 9th February** by emailing b.prihar@huntington-ed.org.uk. If numbers are large, alternative arrangements may have to be made for the venue so it is important that you let us know in advance if you are coming along.

Thank you so much and we hope to see many of you there!

Mrs Kettlewell, Assistant Headteacher, Personal Development and Mrs Prihar, PA to the Senior Leadership Team

Parent Workshops



Information workshops
3.45-4.45pm
Huntington School

22/10/2025 - Online safety & social media awareness
Learn how to help your child navigate the digital world safely, from managing screen time to understanding privacy settings. This session explores the risks and rewards of social media and how to foster healthy online habits.

17/11/2025 - Understanding teenage brain development
Discover what's really going on in the teenage brain and how it affects decision-making, emotions, and behaviour. This workshop offers insights into supporting your teen through this critical stage of growth.

15/01/2026 - Teen mental health: spotting the signs
Gain practical tools to recognize early signs of mental health challenges in teenagers, including anxiety, depression, and stress. Learn how to start supportive conversations and where to seek help if needed.

02/03/2026 - Post 16 pathways explained
Explore the options available to students after GCSEs, including A-levels, T-levels, apprenticeships, and vocational routes. This session helps parents guide their teens in making informed choices for their future.

27/04/2026 - Post 18 pathways explained
Understand the full range of opportunities after sixth form or college, from university and gap years to employment and training. This workshop breaks down the pros and cons of each path to support your child's next steps.

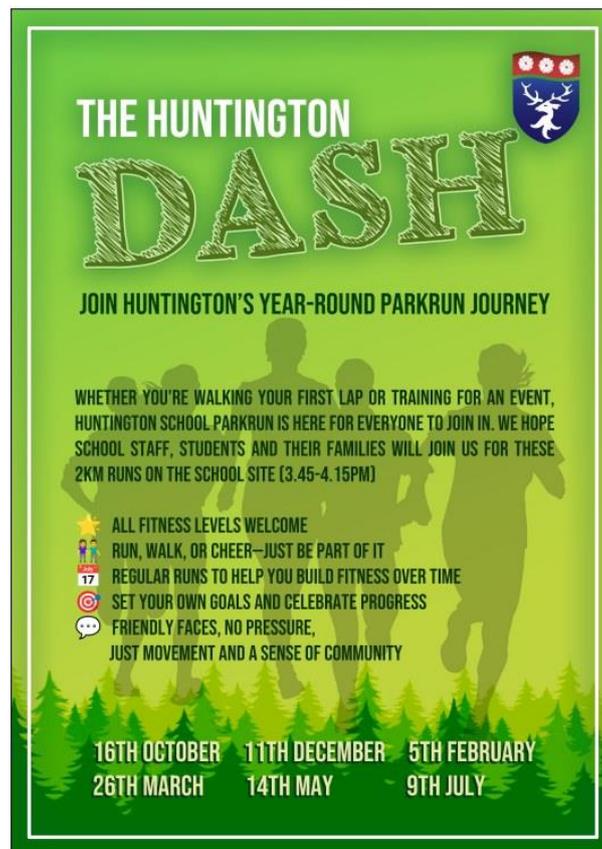
11/06/2026 - Summer support for York families
Explore childcare, wellbeing, and activity opportunities available this summer through York's Family Information Service and partners.

A reminder of the information sessions we'll be running throughout the year. These will take place from **3:45 to 4:45pm**, and we invite you to join us at **Student Reception**. Each session will be recorded for those unable to attend in person, and children are very welcome if that makes it easier for you to come along.

Our recent parental workshop on teen mental health, led by Mrs Naish and the WellBeing in Mind Team provided some invaluable information and support, and we look forward to seeing lots of you, particularly our Year 10 and Year 11 families, at our next workshop, **Post 16 Pathways explained, on Monday 2nd March**, where the options available to students after GCSEs, including A-Levels, T-Levels, apprenticeships and vocational routes, will be explored. We hope that this session will help parents guide their teens in making informed choices for their future.

If you would like a recording of any of our sessions, please email b.prihar@huntington-ed.org.uk.

Huntington Dash



Just in case you missed our last newsletter, here is a Huntington Dash update for you:

As always, we had lots of fun at our recent, festive (!) Huntington Dash on 11th December, and we're looking forward to getting started again in the new year. What better way to get 2026 off to a healthy start than by getting your trainers on and joining us for a run (or brisk walk) around school?!

Thursday 5th February is our next Dash - we hope to see you there!



Celebrating your child's achievements

We love to hear about your children's achievements out of school, so if you have anything to share, please use the email address celebrate@huntington-ed.org.uk.

Please also let us know in the email if you give permission for your child's name (either just first name or both first and last names) to be shared in the newsletter and/or on Facebook, and if you attach any photos, whether you give permission for these to be published in the newsletter and/or on Facebook.

Thank you 😊

Sporting Round up

Basketball

A huge well done to the Year 11 basketball team for another two great performances so far this term...

Fulford

This was a strong Fulford side and the game was super tight through the first three quarters, with both sides keeping in touching distance of each other. It was a 2 point game up until the final quarter. After the final team talk, which had some strong encouragement and game tactics delivered, the boys managed to break away and secured a 58-46 win to ensure they went into their next match with a great chance of getting to the year group finals.

A special mention to Sam, Luke and Josh for their individual points tallies, but we all know that our success comes from the great team spirit we have in the squad and the team all contribute to our success on the court.

Millthorpe

Well done yet again, this time the team had an overwhelming 75-15 win over Millthorpe. The boys had a fast start, scoring 25 points in the first quarter and at 1 point had scored an unanswered 18 points before Millthorpe got on the score sheet. A super team effort indeed. The lads were very gracious in victory and showed great sportsmanship. They will now play in the final later this term.



Netball

A big well done to our U13 Netball team who secured a 9-1 win against Vale last night. They put their training into action and played well as a team. Well done girls!

Girl of the game: Primrose.



Swimming

We are very proud to announce that one of our talented swimmers, Ivy, cleaned up at the York Vikings Swimming Festival this month! She won an incredible **FIVE** medals: 2 gold and 3 silver, coming first in the 100m breast and fly, and 2nd in the 200m free, 200m individual medley and 100m free.

Well done Ivy!





Outdoor PE in the Colder Weather

A reminder of how to stay warm and dry during PE as the cold weather continues.

Recommendations:

- **Extra Layers:** Skins/thermals or an extra T-shirt under PE kit are great for warmth.
- **Recommended PE Kit/ Items from the PE Uniform Options:** Joggers/leggings and the sweatshirt to go over the polo shirt and/or rugby top for outdoor lessons.
- **Gloves and Hats:** Fine to wear when it's really cold.
- **Socks:** Long socks for games lessons—Spare socks too; lots of students have been caught out without extras recently!
- **Towel:** Handy for muddy legs after rugby sessions.
- **Label Extra Items:** Please label any additional clothing so it doesn't get lost.

We do have some spare kit available, so if there are any issues, just let us know by note or email and we'll support your child.

Outdoor lessons will continue when it's safe, so please make sure students are dressed for the conditions.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone warm and ready to learn!

Clubs Update: Big Friday Sing



Do you enjoy singing? Join the Big Friday Sing!

Every Friday afternoon around 80-90 students of all year groups join together to learn music together. Boys meet first in P204, and girls in P201, to work on separate repertoire, then we join together at 4pm for a final 20 minutes of singing. We've recently sung everything from Stevie Wonder to Coldplay to Adele – and with a number of live performance opportunities coming up, now is an excellent time to join! Just turn up – no booking required. We have a tuck shop open first, for fuelling up – everything is priced 50p or £1. See you there!

Music

[National Youth Orchestra Trip](#)

On Tuesday 6th January Huntington School Music Department was once again invited to Nottingham to play alongside the National Youth Orchestra. As part of their *Shimmer* tour the NYO hosted a workshop giving our students the chance to rehearse and perform with

members of the orchestra under the direction of acclaimed conductor **Constança Simas**. A group of 33 of our students joined NYO musicians to play movements from *Capriccio Espagnole* by Rimsky-Korsakov, followed by a relaxed meet and greet with orchestra members. The evening concluded with the NYO's full concert – which was absolutely mesmerising.

Forget that they're all a bunch of teenagers – this is one of the best orchestras in the country and as usual they were absolutely brilliant playing music by contemporary composers as well as Ravel and Debussy.

For those who play orchestral instruments there are several opportunities locally and further afield to get involved in.

- [Yorchestra](#) offer holiday courses for all abilities that are well attended by Huntington students.
- [York Youth Orchestra](#) runs each week for students working at Grade VI and above.
- NYO run their free [Inspire](#) programme for Grade VI+ players each year.

And for those who either want to come out of retirement or start a new instrument in 2026 (new year, new you) – there's plenty of information on the school website about how to start learning an instrument at school. Details [here](#).

Here's to another year of Live Music making!



[Learning to play an instrument](#)

Would you like to learn flute, oboe, clarinet or saxophone?

Our fantastic woodwind teacher, Mrs Rachel Letham, has a couple of spaces currently. Rachel is a graduate of Birmingham Conservatoire and also has a MA in music therapy. Her friendly, relaxed yet focused approach is a big hit with the students she currently teaches.

These spaces won't be around for long, so if your child has been thinking about learning a woodwind instrument then do get in touch with Rachel on lethamrachel@gmail.com.

Music Events in School

As you know, we have many Music events in school every year (hopefully you attended the Battle of the Bands last term for example!), and we wanted to clarify the details for upcoming events.

Chamber Concert: Monday 23rd March, 7.30pm, Huntington School

Live Lounge: Thursday 23rd April, 7.30pm, Huntington School

We hope to see you there!

MFL Spanish Theatre Visit

The MFL department were fortunate enough to be granted funding to invite the Onatti Theatre Company into school on Monday 12th January, to perform "Un ensayo desastroso" for all students between Years 7 and 10 who are studying Spanish. The hilarious plot centred on auditions for a small-town production of "Romeo y Julieta" - with only the play's director and the leading lady available - thank goodness some of our own students were ready and willing to take part! With the action on stage helping, it was brilliant to see our students understanding a performance entirely in Spanish with no English at all.

If your children are studying German or French, don't worry, the Onatti group will be back before long for their turn!





Post-16 Pathways

A reminder that the City of York Council's annual Post-16 Pathways Guide has been added to the Year 11 Leavers section of our school website.

This is a very important document that outlines the full range of education, training, and support options available to students after Year 11, including guidance for those with SEND or an EHCP. The City of York Council is very clear that this guide must be shared with all parents and carers of Year 11 students.

You can view the guide directly via the link below, or access it through our school website, where you'll also find other useful information to help support your child as they prepare for their future career:

Direct Link: [Post-16 Guide 2025 - 2026](#)

Huntington Aspirations Website: [Huntington School - Aspirations Careers Department](#)

Kind Regards,

Mr Shane Daniel

Huntington School Aspirations Teaching and Learning Manager

Sweet and Biscuit Tubs/Boxes

A reminder that the Food Technology department would be very grateful for any empty sweet or biscuit tubs/boxes or Tupperware. Please leave at reception for collection or students can bring to the Food Technology department.

Thank you

Mr G Littlewood

Drama Kids Youth Theatre

Please see a message from DK YOUTH THEATRE - DEVELOPMENT THROUGH DRAMA PROGRAMME:

At DK Youth Theatre we welcome all children from those lacking confidence to natural performer. One hour weekly of just drama (no singing or dancing) develops social interaction and communication skills, increases creativity, presentation, public speaking and performance skills and boosts confidence and self-esteem.

Our sessions take place at Wigginton School (Tuesdays) and Earswick Village Hall (Saturdays)

To find out more or book 2 Trials for £20, contact Caryn at york@dramakids.co.uk / 07309 880805 or visit www.dramakids.co.uk



DK YOUTH THEATRE

TWO WEEK TRIAL £20

YOUTH THEATRE

Our 1-hour weekly Youth Theatre classes are designed to build confidence in 11 - 18 year olds through drama techniques. These include: spontaneous improvisation, mini scripts, devising, theatre games, published scripts and structured scenes.

NO AUDITION REQUIRED!

Our specially trained teachers and curriculum can help **develop public speaking skills** to help students feel **empowered in educational and social aspects of life**. Working within a structured developmental curriculum our students **improve their self-esteem and confidence** as well as **fostering enthusiasm and a positive approach to life**.

CLASSES HELD WEEKLY DURING TERM TIME

TUESDAY 7.15PM - 8.15PM AT WIGGINTON SCHOOL
SATURDAY 11.35AM - 12.35PM AT EARSWICK VILLAGE HALL

Our Youth Theatre groups also provide a relaxed space to make friends, try new things and have fun!

CONTACT US
york@dramakids.co.uk
07309 880805
01904 432858

Caryn Walton-Binns
B.A. (Hons)
Principal

www.dramakids.co.uk



<https://facebook.com/DKYorkandNorthYorkshire> Instagram [dkyorkandnorthyorkshire](https://www.instagram.com/dkyorkandnorthyorkshire)

Support for Parents and Students

York Parent Carer Forum Newsletter

Please find attached the latest [Parent Carer Forum Newsletter](#) containing information about upcoming events to support and interest parents and carers in York.

Free online courses: Togetherness and Signposting Family Support

Developed by NHS clinical psychologists alongside parents and practitioners, **Togetherness** offers trusted, evidence-based online courses to help families better understand and support emotional wellbeing in everyday life. York residents can access a personalised page at [Home - Togetherness](#), featuring a wide range of flexible learning pathways, including:

- Understanding your child from toddler to teenager
- Understanding your child with additional needs
- Understanding your teenager's brain
- Understanding your own adolescence (for teens and pre-teens)

Courses are available for all ages – from pregnancy through to 19 years – and are designed to strengthen family relationships, support child development, and improve emotional health. All courses are free for York residents using the access code: RAISE.

Signposting Family Support

[Welcome to Raise York – Raise York](#)

The website contains links of local and national support available which families can access without professional referrals.

TOGETHERNESS **NHS**

Understanding your own adolescence

Emotional health in teenagers explained

For teens and preteens:
Understand your adolescent brain development and what to do with it

Private wellbeing pathways for teens online. Wherever and whenever you need it

Free for you with the access code: RAISE

togetherness.co.uk/learn From understanding to thriving: for everyone.

TOGETHERNESS **NHS**

For healthier relationships and happier lives

Your online learning journey to emotional resilience for the every day

Proven to make a difference for emotional wellbeing.
For your parenting and important relationships

Free for you with the access code: RAISE

togetherness.co.uk/learn From understanding to thriving: for everyone.

TOGETHERNESS

NHS

Understanding your teenager's brain

Grow emotional resilience in adolescence. Together.

- Learn about the impact of adolescent brain development
- Find ideas for connecting, talking and problem solving together
- Build confidence in having conversations that care for mental wellbeing

Free for you with the access code: RAISE



togetherness.co.uk/learn

From understanding to thriving: for everyone.



TOGETHERNESS

NHS

Understanding your child with additional needs

Building emotional health together for you and your unique child.

An online learning pathway to help you and your child thrive.

Free for you with the access code: RAISE



togetherness.co.uk/learn

From understanding to thriving: for everyone.



Understanding your child: from toddler to teenager

For confident, resilient, emotionally intelligent children

Online learning proven to make a difference for families.

Helping you understand more about child behaviour, big feelings and build your confidence in parenting



Free for you with the access code: RAISE

togetherness.co.uk/learn

From understanding to thriving: for everyone.



SEND Central: drop ins, events and information

Please click on the images to see more detail.

This week at SEND CENTRAL				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along	CLOSED	CLOSED	Parent Carer Forum York Navigator 9.30am-4pm Advice and information drop-in No need to book just come along

Out of Hours Concerns

SAFEGUARDING AND OUT OF HOURS CONCERNS

If you are concerned about a young person you must contact M.A.S.H (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub Team) which is the single point of contact for all concerns about children. If there are immediate concerns about the safety of a child, you should contact North Yorkshire Police on 999.

Contact MASH Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.00pm:

- telephone - 01904 551900
- email - mash@york.gov.uk

Contact MASH Early Help Team to make an early help referral or access advice:

Outside office hours, at weekends and on public holidays, contact the emergency duty team

- telephone - 01609 780780
- email - edt@northyorks.gov.uk

Contact Us

Year 7

Mr Kettlewell (Head of Year)

r.kettlewell@huntington-ed.org.uk

Miss Melsom (Student Support Leader)

k.melsom@huntington-ed.org.uk

Year 8

Mrs Hadcroft (Head of Year)

ce.hadcroft@huntington-ed.org.uk

Miss O'Loughlin (Student Support Leader)

e.oloughlin@huntington-ed.org.uk

Year 9

Miss Elliott (Head of Year)

n.elliott@huntington-ed.org.uk

Miss Tomlinson (Student Support Leader)

hf.tomlinson@huntington-ed.org.uk

Year 10

Miss Young (Head of Year)

a.young@huntington-ed.org.uk

Mrs Booth (Student Support Leader)

l.booth@huntington-ed.org.uk

Year 11

Miss Townsend (Head of Year)

e.townsend@huntington-ed.org.uk

Miss Giblin (Student Support Leader)

t.giblin@huntington-ed.org.uk

Year 12

Mrs Wilson (Head of Year)

r.wilson@huntington-ed.org.uk

Mrs Blunt (Student Support Leader)

a.blunt@huntington-ed.org.uk

Year 13

Mrs Hopson (Head of Year)

l.hopson@huntington-ed.org.uk

Mrs Blunt (Student Support Leader)

a.blunt@huntington-ed.org.uk

Aspirations Teaching and Learning Manager: **Mr S Daniel** (s.daniel@huntington-ed.org.uk)

Mrs Naish Deputy Headteacher, Designated Safeguarding Lead

g.naish@huntington-ed.org.uk

Mr Lowe Assistant Headteacher, Special Educational Needs & Disabilities
Coordinator (SENDSCO)

w.lowe@huntington-ed.org.uk

Mrs Brown Assistant Headteacher KS3 (Years 7, 8 & 9)

k.brown@huntington-ed.org.uk

Mr Paley Assistant Headteacher KS4 (Years 10 & 11)

t.paley@huntington-ed.org.uk

Mr Richards Director of Sixth Form

h.richards@huntington-ed.org.uk

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