



Darton Academy Newsletter



SPRING 2025

Healthier Futures Award


JANUARY 2025



In January, we became the first secondary school to achieve the Healthier Futures accreditation.

Please read the press release published by Barnsley Council on the following page...





Today our Public Health Team awarded Darton Academy with the Healthier Futures Accreditation, making it the first secondary school to achieve the accreditation.

The Healthier Futures Accreditation recognises schools and educational settings that are committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of their children and young people. Schools can achieve the accreditation through an online platform where they receive feedback on four key pillars; physical activity, emotional health and wellbeing, food, drink and oral health, and PSHE.

Achieving the accreditation not only recognises schools for their work to support health and wellbeing, but it also helps them to provide better support going forward.

For Darton Academy, the accreditation has been key in helping to promote healthier options among students. Working with our public health team has strengthened the academy's relationships with healthcare services, providing students with valuable opportunities to engage with expert advice from public health professionals.

Through the accreditation, the academy has also learned how important it is to have a coordinated and adaptable approach to supporting students and preparing them for life beyond the classroom. Lessons and activities are now more thoroughly informed by the resources the school have developed, adopted, or adapted as part of the accreditation process.

Cllr Wendy Cain, Cabinet Spokesperson for Public Health and Communities, said: "We want children and young people in Barnsley to enjoy a life of good physical and mental health, and our Healthier Futures Accreditation means we can get schools and settings on board to help make this happen. We're really proud of Darton Academy for achieving the accreditation. This recognition highlights their commitment to fostering a healthy and supportive environment for their students, and by working with our public health team, the academy has set a remarkable example for other schools in our community."

Daniel Kilner, Assistant Principal at Darton Academy, said: "We are immensely proud to receive the Healthier Futures accreditation, a recognition that highlights the ongoing partnership and collaboration between our school and local authority services. This award is a testament to the dedication and collective efforts of our entire staff and the invaluable contributions of professionals beyond education in equipping students with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to navigate their teenage years and embrace a happy, healthy future."

A Christmas Carol

JANUARY 2025



Our school's production of A Christmas Carol was a spectacular showcase of talent, creativity, and festive spirit. Bringing Charles Dickens' timeless classic to life, our students delivered outstanding performances, capturing the heartwarming transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge with passion and energy. The cast, crew, and musicians worked tirelessly to create an immersive experience, complete with stunning costumes, atmospheric lighting, and a beautifully designed set. From the eerie arrival of the Christmas ghosts to the joyful finale, the production truly embodied the magic of the season, leaving audiences entertained and inspired.



Macbeth

JANUARY 2025



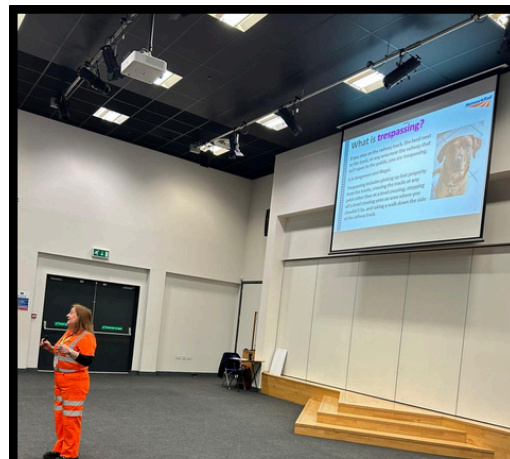
Our Year 11 students recently had the fantastic opportunity to visit Parkway Cinema in Barnsley to watch a filmed performance of the 2025 Macbeth production, starring the incredible David Tennant. This gripping adaptation brought Shakespeare's dark and twisted tragedy to life in a way that was both visually stunning and emotionally intense. Seeing the play performed by such a renowned actor helped deepen students' understanding of the text, making key themes and characters more engaging and accessible. The experience was thoroughly enjoyed by all, sparking lively discussions afterward and providing valuable insight as they prepare for their English Literature GCSE.



National Rail

JANUARY 2025

Our Key Stage 3 students recently were given an important and informative talk on rail safety, delivered by representatives from National Rail. The session highlighted the dangers of trespassing on railway tracks, the importance of staying alert at stations, and the potential risks of distractions such as mobile phones and headphones near trains. Using real-life examples and interactive discussions, the talk reinforced vital safety messages, ensuring that students understand how to stay safe around railways. It was an eye-opening experience that left a lasting impression, encouraging responsible behaviour around railway lines.



Holocaust Memorial Day

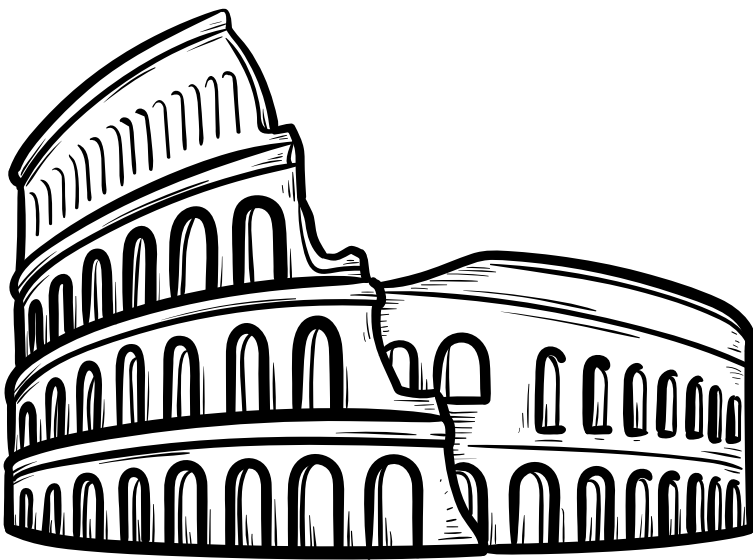
JANUARY 2025



We remain committed to honouring important historical events and promoting awareness among our students. One such occasion is Holocaust Memorial Day, where we reflect on the past and consider how we can work towards a better future. We are incredibly proud of Sienna M in 7Y1, who was invited to the Holocaust Memorial Day ceremony at Barnsley Town Hall after impressing judges with her inspiring artwork based on the theme of creating "a better future." Sienna received her prize from the Mayor of Barnsley, Councillor John Clarke. Her achievement highlights the importance of remembrance and the power of education in shaping a more compassionate world.



A Journey Through Time: Students Explore the Wonders of Rome



Students from Darton, De Warenne, Garforth, and The Vale Academies are now in their second year of studying Latin Language and Civilisation, working towards their GCSE.

While learning about ancient Rome from a textbook offers valuable insights, nothing compares to walking in the footsteps of the Romans themselves! Thanks to the support of The Latin Excellence Programme and funding from The Department for Education, 53 students and 8 staff members had the unforgettable opportunity to experience history firsthand during a four-day residential trip to the Eternal City.

Departing in the early hours of Thursday, 27th February, and returning on Monday, 3rd March, the group embarked on a jam-packed adventure that brought Roman history to life. The trip was a journey through time, with students standing in the mighty Colosseum, wandering the ruins of the Roman Forum, and marvelling at the grandeur of the Pantheon. The group also explored the National Roman Museum and the Baths of Diocletian, uncovering ancient artifacts that deepened their appreciation of Roman civilisation. Every moment spent in the heart of Rome was a powerful immersion into the past.



The educational journey wasn't all about history, however – there was plenty of time to experience the beauty of modern Rome too. Students and staff enjoyed breathtaking views at Villa Borghese Park, relaxed in the lively Piazza Navona, and indulged in endless servings of authentic Italian gelato.

While the four academies have previously come together at Latin Conferences held at Education House, this trip was the first real opportunity for students to connect beyond the classroom. The experience was embraced wholeheartedly by all, with students forging new friendships and showing great respect for both staff and fellow travellers.

Two representatives from PGL Beyond also accompanied the group to observe the trip and explore ways to enhance school travel experiences. Their verdict? A resounding success! They were thoroughly impressed by the students' engagement and the powerful impact of multi-school educational trips.



Half - Term Revision

FEBRUARY 2025

During the February holidays, our dedicated staff and students went above and beyond, giving up their valuable time to engage in revision sessions to prepare for the upcoming exams. This commitment reflects the hard work and determination of both teachers and Year 11 students, who are all focused on ensuring that every student leaves our academy with the best possible chances for future success. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and perseverance. On the next page, you'll find full details of our Easter revision programme, designed to provide even more support during this crucial time.



There are several Easter enrichment sessions scheduled over the Easter break for Year 11. Please see the timetable below which shows when they will take place!

Y11 EASTER REVISION



Revision
www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
www.gcsepod.com
<https://sparxmaths.com>

Mon 7th April

Maths 9am-1pm

Tues 8th April

Art (JSR) 9am-3pm
Sports Studies 9am-1pm

Business 9am-1pm
Dance 9am-1pm
RE 9am-1pm

Weds 9th April

History 9am-1pm
Geography 9am-1pm

Thurs 10th April

Science 9am-1pm

Fri 11th April

Art (JSR) 9am-3pm
Travel and Tourism 9am-1pm
Health and Social Care 9am-1pm

Mon 14th April

English 9am-1pm

Tues 15th April

Art/Photography 9am-1pm



SYP Assemblies

FEBRUARY 2025

At Darton Academy, the safety and wellbeing of our students are our top priority. That is why we were pleased to welcome South Yorkshire Police into our academy to deliver important presentations on a range of critical topics. These sessions covered issues such as knife and gun crime, child criminal exploitation, online safety, and personal boundaries, ensuring our students are well-informed and aware of potential risks. By working closely with law enforcement, we aim to educate and empower our students to make safe, responsible choices both in and out of our academy.



Transition Events

FEBRUARY 2025

Our transition calendar is now in full swing as we prepare to welcome our next cohort of students. To support this transition, we have already hosted two engaging and enjoyable sessions designed to help students experience life at Darton. There are more events to come, but in the meantime, take a look at the next two pages to see what our future scientists and mathletes got up to during their visit.



Future Scientists

FEBRUARY 2025

Our Year 6 Future Scientists event was an exciting afternoon filled with discovery and curiosity. Students were challenged to think critically about the world of science, exploring fascinating concepts through hands-on activities. It was fantastic to see their enthusiasm and passion grow, making for a truly enjoyable and inspiring experience!

Mathletes

MARCH 2025

Our Year 5 Mathletes event was a thrilling celebration of mathematical thinking! Students tackled exciting challenges that stretched their problem-solving skills and deepened their understanding of key concepts. Their enthusiasm and determination shone throughout, making it a fantastic and rewarding experience for all.

Riot Act

FEBRUARY 2025

In February, our Year 9 students were treated to a powerful and engaging performance by The Riot Act theatre company, who visited our school to deliver an interactive session on road safety. Through dynamic storytelling, humor, and thought-provoking scenarios, the performance highlighted the crucial responsibilities of drivers, passengers, cyclists, and pedestrians in staying safe on the roads. Students were captivated by the realistic situations presented and actively participated in discussions about making responsible choices. The session left a lasting impact, reinforcing the importance of awareness and safe behavior in everyday travel.



A Proud Moment

MARCH 2025

A huge congratulations to Ellis for winning the Carer of the Year award at the Darton Awards Ceremony! Ellis's kindness, dedication, and unwavering support for truly sets an inspiring example. This well-deserved recognition celebrates the compassion and care he shows every day. Well done, Ellis!



Putt-ing Their Skills to the Test

MARCH 2025

Our students showcased their golfing talent at the South Yorkshire Schools Golf Championships at Wheatley Golf Club on March 18th. Jack, Evie, and Oscar from Year 10, along with Matthew from Year 8, represented the academy with pride and delivered outstanding performances. Their dedication and skill were evident throughout the competition, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.



Mathematically Delicious: A Pi Day Feast!

MARCH 2025

We had a fantastic time celebrating Pi Day, embracing all things mathematical! The Maths team got into the spirit by wearing special Pi-themed jumpers, adding a fun and festive touch to the day. It was wonderful to see all staff getting involved, regardless of whether they taught maths, showing their support for the love of the subject and inspiring students to join in the celebrations. Students took part in exciting Pi-related challenges, exploring the magic of this infinite number through puzzles and activities. It was a brilliant way to celebrate the beauty of mathematics and share our passion for numbers!



The Plot Thickens: World Book Day Adventures!

MARCH 2025

We had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day, where the love of reading took centre stage across the academy.

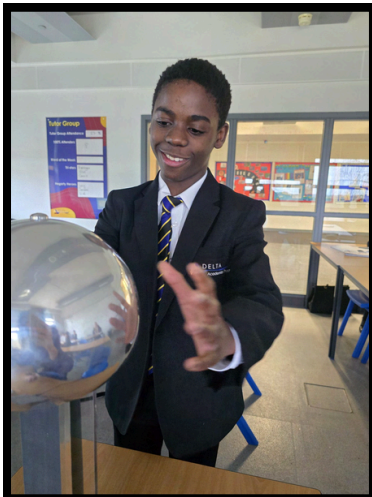
Throughout the day, we hosted a range of activities to promote reading, from exciting book quizzes to storytelling sessions, all aimed at inspiring a passion for books. At our academy, we are committed to fostering a love of reading, and events like World Book Day play a key role in encouraging students to discover the joy and adventure that lies within the pages of a good book.



Brilliantly British, Scientifically Superb!

MARCH 2025

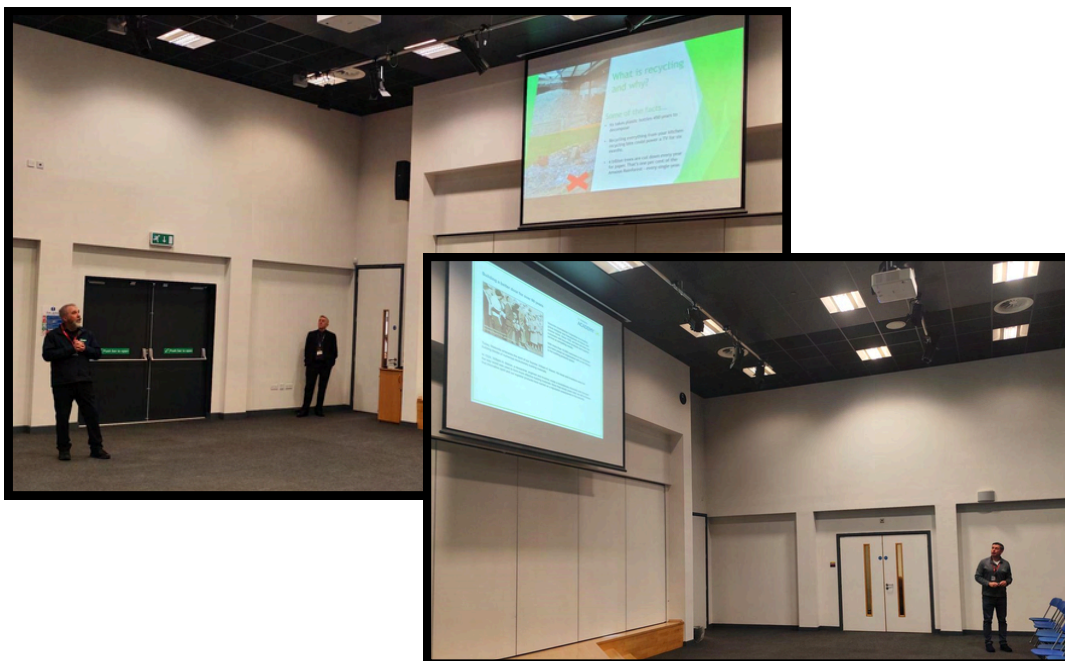
We had an exciting time celebrating British Science Week, with a range of engaging activities that sparked curiosity and exploration. One of the highlights was the thrilling maggot racing, where students eagerly cheered on their favourite contestants as they raced to the finish line! Throughout the week, we embraced the wonders of science with hands-on experiments, fascinating demonstrations, and thought-provoking challenges. British Science Week provided a fantastic opportunity to inspire a love of science, encouraging students to explore the amazing world around them and deepen their understanding of how science shapes our lives.



From Classroom to Career at Darton Academy

MARCH 2025

We celebrated Careers Week in style here at Darton Academy, offering students the opportunity to explore a wide range of career paths and gain insights into the world of work. Throughout the week, we hosted a variety of engaging activities, including talks from professionals from different fields. It was inspiring to see students learn about the diverse roles available and how they can pursue their passions in the future. Careers Week provided an excellent opportunity to motivate and encourage students to think about their goals and the exciting possibilities that lie ahead.



Young Minds, Big Ideas!

MARCH 2025

Our Junior Leadership Team continues to develop their skills and confidence, demonstrating outstanding leadership and communication abilities. Recently, they delivered inspiring presentations to the Senior Leadership Team on how we can promote a healthier lifestyle in our academy. Their ideas, passion, and ability to articulate their vision so effectively were truly impressive. We are incredibly proud of their dedication to improving school life and their commitment to making a positive impact on our academy community.



Sports Update

MARCH 2025

It has been an exciting time for sport at Darton, with our students achieving fantastic results across multiple competitions. From football and netball to basketball and golf, our teams and individuals have demonstrated skill, determination, and teamwork.

Congratulations to our Year 8, 9, and 10 boys' football teams, who have all progressed to the semi-finals of the Barnsley Schools' Football competition after remaining undefeated in their group fixtures. Their hard work and commitment have truly paid off.

Our U13 girls' football team is also making waves, currently sitting at the top of their group. Their most recent game resulted in an impressive 7-0 victory against Outwood Academy Carlton, putting them in a strong position to reach the semi-finals. Well done, girls!

Our netball teams are also shining this season. The Year 7 team remains undefeated, while the Year 8 team has won all but one of their games. With such strong performances, both teams are well on track to qualify for the finals of the Barnsley Schools' Netball competition later this year. Keep up the great work!

Our U13 Basketball team has successfully progressed to the next round of the Jr. NBA competition and will face Hall Cross Academy from Doncaster after Easter. Many of the players are new to the sport, and their dedication and progress throughout the year have been remarkable. We wish them the best of luck in the next round!

We are incredibly proud of all our students' sporting achievements and look forward to seeing their continued success throughout the year. Well done to everyone involved!

