

The MILLTHORPE muse

FRIDAY 2 OCTOBER 2026

A message from Mrs Rothenburg

It's been a very exciting week, with all students enjoying a trip to Flamingo Land or the Yorkshire Wildlife Park, or taking part in a range of activities in school.

Colleagues have told me how proud they were of our students' behaviour and the respect they showed to each other and other visitors. They represented our school superbly and are a genuine credit to us and their families. Well done, everyone!



On Thursday evening, we welcomed hundreds of visitors to our Open Evening and it was such a great event! The school was buzzing with activity, with colleagues showcasing their subjects brilliantly, students helping out with pride in so many ways, and prospective students really engaging with the activities on offer.

It was fantastic to meet so many people and have the opportunity to chat to them about the amazing things we do at Millthorpe. Thank you to everyone who came along, to the staff who put so much time and effort into making the event such a success, and to our wonderful students who welcomed visitors, gave tours of the school, contributed to our talks and supported subject staff so brilliantly.

I think it speaks volumes about our school community that we had more student volunteers this year than ever before!

Thank you to our Year 11 Student Leaders who delivered assemblies this week. They all did an incredible job and inspired a huge number of Year 10s to apply to be part of the next cohort of Student Leaders starting in January. I hope everyone has a lovely weekend. We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday for another fun and productive week.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'KRothenburg'.

Kavina Rothenburg, Principal

UNIFORM UPDATE

As communicated previously, we are currently reviewing our school uniform in preparation for September 2027. Our aim is to develop a uniform that:

- Is cost-effective for families
- Is comfortable and inclusive for all students
- Has high standards of sustainability
- Is a clear representation of our amazing school
- Fully reflects the feedback of students, as they are the people who wear it every day

This week, I met with representatives from Years 7-10 to discuss the feedback they had gathered from their form groups. This approach has helped ensure that every student has had the opportunity to share their views and contribute to the early stages of our uniform review.

As a reminder, current Year 10 students will not be required to move to any new uniform. This review relates to the school uniform only and does not include our PE kit.

Our students were incredible during the meetings. They spoke thoughtfully and passionately about the feedback they had collected and shared some excellent ideas about what they would like to see in a future school uniform.

The next stage of the process is to develop a number of potential uniform options for consideration. As part of this work, we will also be carefully exploring the costs associated with each option to ensure affordability remains a key consideration. Once the options have been developed, our students would like to share what they have done so far with families. They are keen to present their ideas, explain the thinking behind them, and share the reasons for the uniform choice they ultimately recommend. More details to follow!

We are incredibly proud of the maturity, enthusiasm, and leadership our students have shown throughout this process, and we look forward to sharing further updates with you as the review progresses.

YORK COLLEGE OPEN EVENING

York College have their first Open Evening on Tuesday 6th October - 5.30pm - 8pm
The link to register for the 6th October Open Event is [here](#)

Please note you do not have to book a place to attend, they just like to have an idea of what people are interested in studying so they can think about the number of classes they might need to put on.

Other open evenings will happen throughout November: we'll share full details next week.

VCG LINK

You can see a range of incredible work produced in Art, Graphics and 3D Design by students who took their GCSEs this summer in our [Virtual Creative Gallery](#).

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday 12 October
French and German speaking exams start

Monday 19 October
Popcorn and Pictures reward event

Tuesday 20 October
Year 7 Transition Review Evening (details to follow)

Wednesday 21 October
School breaks up for Half Term

CAREERS FAIR

Every year as part of our careers programme, we host a Careers Fair at Millthorpe where we invite companies from a variety of different sectors to host a stand in our Main Hall. This provides an opportunity for our students to engage with employers, to talk about life in the workplace and to ask questions about specific jobs. Whilst we have a selection of providers who regularly support us, we would like to invite new companies and businesses to widen the breadth of what we offer.

The fair is on Thursday 21st January and runs from 9.30 to 2.45. If you would like more information, or are able to offer a stand at the fair, please contact Miss Watts our careers lead on s.watts@millthorpe.elk.org.uk

BRINGING THE VIKINGS TO MILLTHORPE

On Tuesday the 29th of September we welcomed many students and their parents into the library to listen to a fascinating talk on the Vikings by author and archaeologist Alex Harvey.

Alex explored the issue of whether the Vikings were raiders or traders (definitely raiders, he thought) and the idea of whether the Vikings were actually part of a long tradition of pirating that existed long before and after them.

He also explained that the word Viking was used at the time as a verb rather than a noun, so you went 'Viking' rather than *were* a Viking.

Fascinating stuff which left Year 7 well prepared for their future studies this term! Thanks to Alex and all who attended.



IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?

We have started the new academic year really positively and our attendance data has improved compared to last year. In fact, in the ten key areas that we track weekly, nine are the highest for 4 years! Thank you to all students and their families for being so committed to supporting our drive to improve attendance.

We know that sometimes, absence from school is unavoidable but when your child complains of being a bit under the weather, when should you keep them off and when is it fine to send them in? This helpful video from the Department for Education (DfE) explains when you should still send your child in, and when it is necessary to keep them off.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_i5KxggkPTw

A NHS Guidance sheet is also available here - <https://attendancetoolkit.blob.core.windows.net/toolkit-resources/NHS%20guidance%20sheet.pdf>

If your child does need to be absent, please contact us as soon as possible to let us know. As part of our Attendance Strategy for this year, you will likely receive a welfare call from a member of the Attendance/Pastoral Team, or a Senior Leader a bit later in the day. This purely supportive communication is to see how your child is, and make sure that we are doing everything that we can to get them back into school as soon as possible.

HOOKED – DRAMA WORKSHOP ON SMOKING AND VAPING FOR YEAR 8s

On Monday (5 October) we are welcoming Performance in Education into school to deliver a performance and workshop around vaping and smoking. “Hooked” positively challenges attitudes and explores the effects of addiction, vaping and smoking. Using hard-hitting drama and emotional engagement, Hooked shows the potential consequences of peer-pressure and influence, risk-taking behaviour and short-term decision making. “Hooked” has been developed with guidance from Public Health Specialists and the NHS.

If any parent or carer feels that they do not wish their child to be in the performance, please contact their Progress Leader, Miss McCartney.

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

[Preparing for Adulthood Event at Askham Bryan College 14 October](#) for young people in Year 9 and above with SEND and their families to explore employment and education options.

[York College Supported Internship Programmes - SEND event 13 October](#)

[SEND Central - One Off Events](#)

[SEND Central - Think Together sessions](#)

[SEND Central - Weekly Calendar](#)

[YIKS Newsletter Sept 2026](#)

ONLINE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Remember that you can access a range of information to support both students and their parents/carers via our [online support app called Padlet](#).

Padlet signposts the user to a range of websites and resources, providing support and advice relating to mental health, exam stress, online safety, self care, managing emotions, young carers, family support and more.

You can visit the Padlets by scanning the QR codes here.



[Guidance for Parents and Carers about “Online Harm Groups” \(or “Com Groups”\)](#)

Please see [this guide](#) for practical support and guidance to help your child to stay safe online. This has been produced by CEOP, the national Child Exploitation and Online Protection command.

Millthorpe School



Millthorpe
School

Together, we achieve excellence.

FAIRNESS | HARD WORK | AMBITION

The Attendance of **OUR** students makes a massive difference to GCSE grades.

We have analysed the data from last year's Year 11 students and it tells us:

ATTENDANCE	AVERAGE GCSE GRADE
100% attendance	5.77
95-99.99% attendance	5.76
90-94.99% attendance	5.09
80-89.99% attendance	3.98
below 80% attendance	2.50

This is just another reason why we want to see you every day.

TOGETHER, WE ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE

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SEPTEMBER Attendance Reward Event

Qualifying Window: 9th September to 7th October

— Attend for 20 days in a row to qualify for —

Popcorn and Pictures!'

— Enjoy a film chosen by students
with popcorn and a soft drink! —



★ If a student does not attend for all 20 days, they will still be able to participate ★
if we receive medical evidence for absence,
or if absence is for an unavoidable reason that we are aware of. ★

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