



The Pindar POSTBAG

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SCHOOL



OCTOBER 2026 EDITION

Message from the Principal

As we reach the end of another busy and positive half term at George Pindar School, I would like to thank our students, families and wider community for your continued support. The partnership between school and home remains incredibly important as we continue our journey of improvement and ensure every young person receives the education and opportunities they deserve.

This half term, we have continued to place **high standards and high expectations** at the heart of everything we do. We have seen a significant improvement in behaviour across the school, with calmer classrooms, fewer disruptions to learning and students responding positively to the clear and consistent expectations we have established. Feedback from both students and staff reflects the progress being made, and we will continue to build on this.

Attendance has also remained a major priority. Our new **attendance streaks** initiative has created a real sense of excitement around coming to school every day and being on time, with students working towards a range of rewards. We are already beginning to see the positive impact of this work and will continue to work closely with families to improve attendance further.

Our values of **Respect, Teamwork and Kindness** continue to underpin school life. Alongside our focus on standards, we want George Pindar School to be a place where students feel safe,

supported and proud to belong. Student Voice continues to play an important role in shaping the school, and many of the improvements we are making are directly informed by what our young people tell us.

There is still much more to do, and our expectations will remain high. We are ambitious for George Pindar School and, most importantly, ambitious for every child who attends it. The progress we have made this half term gives us real momentum as we move forward.

Thank you again to our parents and carers for your support, and to our students and staff for everything they have contributed this half term. I hope all of our families have a safe and enjoyable half-term break, and I look forward to continuing our work together when students return.

Attendance pays off!

Attendance continues to be one of our highest priorities at George Pindar School. Evidence from the Department for Education, alongside our own school data, shows a clear link between strong attendance and better academic outcomes. Put simply, the more time students spend in school and in lessons, the greater their chances of achieving well.

This half term, we have introduced our new **Attendance Streaks** initiative to help students build strong habits around attending school every day and arriving on time. Students work towards consecutive days of full attendance, collecting stamps along the way and unlocking a range of rewards for reaching key milestones.



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We have been really pleased with the way students have responded. The initiative has created a real sense of excitement around attendance and, importantly, we are beginning to see improvements across the school.

Our message remains simple: **every day matters**. Even occasional or sporadic absence can quickly add up to valuable learning time being missed, so we want every student to aim as high as possible with their attendance.

We will continue to celebrate students who demonstrate excellent attendance and punctuality through our streak rewards, prize draws and other incentives throughout the year.

Thank you to parents and carers for your continued support in helping students attend school every day, arrive on time and make the most of every opportunity available to them.

Be in. Be on time. Keep your streak going!

SPARX success in sight!

Every week we set maths and science homework using the SPARX online platforms. We know a great deal about the science of memory and SPARX allows students to reinforce their key learning by practising at home what they have learnt during lessons in school.

We are beyond proud to have achieved second place in the Heartwood Learning Trust league tables and with continued hard work, first place is in sight! However, the real winners will be your

children who are almost guaranteed to achieve higher grades with regular use of SPARX.

Homework is set every Wednesday at 3pm and the deadline is always the following **Wednesday at 8am** - students need to complete all their questions and benefit from hugely useful videos to talk them through problems and content they might have forgotten to be able to complete their work.

Students who complete their homework on time receive special 'Sparx stamps' which contribute to their rewards totals and which can be 'spent' on biscuits, tuck shop vouchers, queue jumper vouchers and more, whilst the Maths and Science departments are currently offering 'Sparx sweeteners' for 100% completion with lollies and mini animals on offer!

Check in with your child to see what they have won and please encourage them to complete their homework every week - hard work pays off!





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Year 11 are Shining at the Summit

Our Year 11 'Shine' students took part in their final event at the University of York at the start of their final academic year at George Pindar School.

At the 'summit' they learned vital skills to launch them into a successful Year 11. They were shown a variety of revision techniques and learned about stress management, as well as finding out about a range of post-16 options. A perfect recipe for an outstanding year.

A huge thank you to all the Shine team for continuing to provide this amazing opportunity for our students and always looking after us so well. We hope that learning so much about university will see them aspiring to go on to Higher Education.

The Y11s have grown so much under the guidance of Shine and are all set to smash their final year with the skills they have picked up!



Pindar Run Off to a Flying Start

The Pindar Run got off to a great start in September with everyone bringing lots of running energy and fun.

Students from all Year Groups and of all abilities are welcome to join the Pindar Run every Thursday after school. The run takes place in a safe environment around the school field and students can run as quickly or as slowly as they wish. The main thing is to be outdoors getting some fresh air, increasing fitness and getting those endorphins flowing!

Our Food Tec Technician runs the club so there are often treats from the kitchen after the run - an added bonus!

Come and join us on Thursday afternoons at 3.15-4.15pm. All years and levels welcome to join the fun.





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Attendance Cup Winners!

Our first Attendance Cup winners of the new school year were a Year 7 group and huge congratulations go to 7 BPE! Congratulations: what a huge honour to be the first winners of the '26 - '27 year.

Students were presented with the attendance cup by Mrs Knight Assistant Principal KS3. Students have also earned a tuck shop voucher for Friday!

Ms Petts is very very proud of her tutor group!



Future Grad

We were delighted to welcome Hayley from CU Scarborough to speak with our Year 8 'Future Grad' group in September. These students are learning all about different universities, courses and Higher Education options in a programme that they began last year. Students spent the session exploring all

the exciting options and pathways open to them for their futures.

Every Future Grad student received a lovely CU Scarborough drawstring bag containing stationery and a water bottle. Gaining knowledge and a goody bag - what could be better?!

Each student was also presented with an exclusive Future Grad pin badge today—we wonder who will still have theirs by Year 11. Hayley and Mrs Bilton have promised prizes for anyone that has!



Scarborough Engineering Week

What a fantastic morning our Year 8s had in October!

The entire Year 8 cohort visited the Scarborough Spa for the STEM Science & Engineering event. There were so many stalls to explore and interact with and lots of free goodies for engaging with the



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activities too! Our students had a brilliant time chatting with top employers as well as further and higher education providers, exploring exciting future career pathways.

It was especially inspiring to spot so many of our former students, who are now thriving as students and professionals in these industries!

A huge thank you to NYBEP for organising such a seamless and impactful event.

Opportunities like this truly inspire the next generation of innovators!



BBC Bitesize Roadshow

Inspiring Future Careers!

On October the 13th, we welcomed BBC Bitesize Careers to work with our Year 7–10 students! Each year group attended a roadshow style event in the assembly hall. Guest speakers talked about their journeys into their careers and what had motivated and inspired them. It was a fantastic opportunity

for students to explore future career pathways, gain inspiration and learn from the valuable insights and experiences shared by our guest speakers.

A huge thank you to all our guests for their time and contributions in helping inspire the next generation!



All the Fun of the Careers Fair!

The last week of half term saw our annual 'Next Steps. Careers Fair, with all year groups from Year 7 to 11 taking part to explore future educational pathways, apprenticeships and career opportunities.

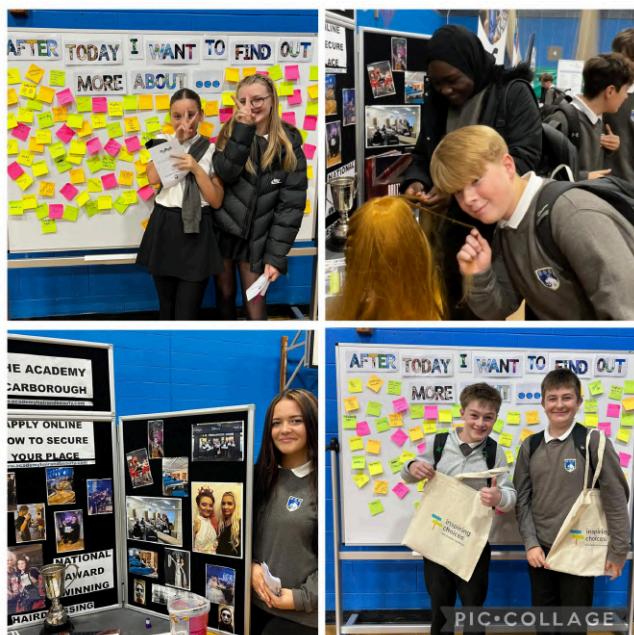
We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our incredible visiting employers, education providers, and industry professionals. Your generous support, time, and dedication to sharing your knowledge helped create an empowering and eye-opening experience for our students.

Thank you for helping us guide our students toward bright futures!



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Sporting Successes

There have been so many opportunities for our students to take part in sporting events this half term and there's been something for everyone, whether it's playing as part of

a team or competing as an individual in an athletics event.

Year 10 took to the pitch for the first of our 7-a-side football tournaments. We were delighted to have enough players to field two competitive teams. The boys represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating teamwork, determination and good effort levels throughout the games.



Next up were the Year 9s.

Again, it was great to have the numbers available to field 2 teams, with one of the teams winning the tournament!

A big well done to everyone involved for their effort, determination and footballing skills!





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Then it was the turn of our Year 8 students to take part in the weekly 7-a-side football tournament.

For the third consecutive week, we have had enough players to field two teams, which is a fantastic reflection of the students' commitment, enthusiasm and dedication to representing the school in these sporting fixtures.

Both teams performed brilliantly, demonstrating excellent teamwork, sportsmanship and respect for one another throughout the tournament.

One of our teams did go on to win the entire tournament, finishing unbeaten and conceding just one goal along the way!

A huge well done to all 16 players involved. You should all be incredibly proud of your efforts and the way you represented the school!



50! FIFTY of our wonderful students represented George Pindar at the first of three Cross Country events held at ScalbySchool.

We were incredibly proud to see so many students take part, competing alongside over 50 runners in each race from a wide range of schools. There were some fantastic individual performances, including several Top 10 finishes and an excellent Top 5 finish.

Every student who took part should be extremely proud of their efforts. Cross Country is always a

very challenging event, and for some, this was their very first experience of representing the school at a fixture.

A huge well done to everyone involved for their determination, commitment and fantastic attitude throughout!



In the second round of the cross country events, 47 of our fantastic students represented George Pindar at Malton School.

We were delighted to see so many of our students once again getting involved and taking on the challenge, competing against runners from a range of schools. It was brilliant to see everyone giving their best and showing such determination throughout the races.

Every student who took part should be incredibly proud of their efforts. Cross Country is a demanding challenge, and it takes real perseverance, resilience and commitment to compete. A huge well done to all 47 students for representing our school so brilliantly! 🙌



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Some stand out individual performances include:

Year 7 boys: Fin D - 1st!! 🏆 Hunter D - 5th 🏆

Year 7 girls: Faith C - 3rd!! 🏆 Lissy C - 13th 🏆

Year 8 boys: Alex A - 7th 🏆

Year 8 girls: Isla S - 7th 🏆 Millie G - 11th 🏆

Year 9 boys: Oliver B - 12th (in a combined Year 9 & 10 boys race) 🏆

Some impressive results also in Y11.



Year 9 boys took part in their first ever rugby tournament towards the end of half term.

Despite lots of them not having played before, they gave a good account of themselves. There were no wins on the day, but they showed great determination and resilience. They improved with every game and are really keen to play again.

They have all decided to come to the after school rugby club on a Tuesday to be ready for their next tournament in February. Well done boys - onwards and upwards!



Next was the Year 7's first rugby tournament. Like the Y9s, for some of them, it was their first time playing. All those who played showed determination and teamwork and really embraced the game.

The lads won three out of their four games and only narrowly lost out on winning the tournament, however, they gained a second place to be extremely proud of. Well done, lads.

After school rugby club continues after half term every Tuesday. We hope this team will show up and skill up and, who knows, maybe we can win the next tournament!



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It was the Year 11s' final netball match this term as well. The girls played Filey School in a friendly and won comfortably 32-2. All girls played superbly and Miss Hoyle said it was a pleasure to umpire their final match representing GPS. She is extremely proud of this group of girls and how they have developed from timid Year 7s to confident, mature, talented young ladies. They have always supported the younger students and even run sessions on a Wednesday afternoon when asked. Well done girls from a very proud Mrs Hoyle!



Y11 - Never lose sight of the envelope

Our Year 11 students have made an important start to their final year at George Pindar School, and the weeks ahead will be crucial as they prepare for their mock examinations and ultimately their GCSEs next summer.

This half term, we have continued our **Steps to Success** programme, with a clear focus on helping students understand what they need to do to achieve their very best. Our Start of Key Stage 4 and Year 11 support has reinforced the importance of attendance, independent study, revision and making the most of every lesson.

We are also rewarding students who demonstrate the right habits. Year 11 students who maintain strong attendance and complete their Sparx Maths and Sparx Science work are working towards incentives including their **Prom ticket**, with further rewards available later in the year.

Our message to Year 11 is simple: **every lesson, every piece of homework and every day in school matters**. The work they put in now will make a significant difference to the opportunities available to them next summer.

We are incredibly ambitious for this year group and will continue to provide support, challenge and encouragement throughout the year. We ask parents and carers to continue working alongside us to ensure students attend every day, complete their independent work and approach the coming months with focus and determination.



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Keep the end goal in sight and make every day count.

How to Get in Touch

Telephone: 01723 582194

Email: hello@gps.hlt.academy

Email: news@gps.hlt.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. Parents and carers are requested to book meetings in advance to avoid disappointment when colleagues are teaching or otherwise engaged.

Attendance Matters

Evidence shows clearly that students who maintain higher attendance achieve higher grades so we want to encourage every child to attend as much as possible and rewards are given for 100% attendance on a weekly or annual basis. 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.hlt.academy or news@gps.hlt.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. Miss

Pickles is the Designated Safeguarding Lead. She leads 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.hlt.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 in and out 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.hlt.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 and website: <https://www.facebook.com/georgepindarschool>
<https://www.instagram.com/georgepindarschool>
<https://gps.hlt.academy/>