



GEORGE
PINDAR
SCHOOL

The Pindar Postbag

October 2025 Edition

Message from the Principal

I can hardly believe that the first half term of the new academic year has already come to an end! As you will see below, we have 'hit the ground running' at George Pindar School and it has been wonderful to get to know our new Year 7s and to see the achievements of our students. This has made us, as ever, extremely #ProudToBePindar! We hope all members of our school community enjoy the half term break and come back to school rested, refreshed and ready to go again for hard work in the run up to Christmas! We are looking forward to the new half term and seeing all our students on **Monday 3rd November 2025 at 8.40am**. Students need to be in to win and attendance matters so please remind your child to start the new term with 100% attendance!

Attendance pays off!

Evidence from the Department for Education and our own evidence from this year's exam results makes it absolutely clear - there is nothing which makes more of a difference to your child's potential GCSE outcomes than attendance. Put simply, students who are in lessons day in, day out, achieve far higher results than students whose attendance is lower. We want to encourage all our students to aim for 100% week in week out and try to avoid sporadic absences which have such an impact on learning. On the first day back in

November, we will hold this year's first 100 Club prize draw - students who achieve 100% attendance each week receive a ticket for the draw and three lucky winners will receive a £100 voucher for gaming or shopping on Monday. Let's aim for 100% every week in the run-up to Christmas - you have to be in to win!

SPARX success in sight!

At the beginning of October we, along with other Heartwood Learning Trust schools, launched maths and science homework using the SPARX 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



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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!

Superb skills on show!

As part of the annual Restart A Heart day we were delighted to host representatives from North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service, North Yorkshire Ambulance Service and the NHS who inspired all our students to learn vital lifesaving skills. Knowing these skills can provide confidence to act effectively during a crisis and empower young people to potentially save a life. Our students participated brilliantly and we are indebted to the colleagues who demonstrated CPR to the George Pindar community.



Squeamish Scarborough Tec skills!

We found out more about fake injuries in this month's hugely exciting workshop organised by Mrs Raisin for her Hair & Beauty class! Kelly from the Media Make Up department at Scarborough Tec showed us how to create an extremely realistic severed finger injury which some students used to very good effect playing tricks on their teachers later that day! It is wonderful to have the support of the Tec to bring our GCSE courses to life!

Sporting Success

Our new Head of PE Miss Simpson has ensured that there is a packed programme of sporting events on offer at George Pindar and she has been well supported by our PE specialists Mrs Hoyle, Mr Traves and our new teacher Mr Taylor. Our new Year 7 boys made us very #ProudToBePindar when representing the school in the recent rugby tournament whilst our Year 9 team developed their skills against tough opposition in their tournament. Our Year 8 students gave a strong performance in their tournament and were victorious against Lady Lumley's - well done #TeamPindar! Year 7 girls showed great promise during their tag rugby debut at Scarborough Rugby Club and several have joined up to training on a Wednesday night after school - all are welcome! A large number of students participated in two Cross Country events where some of our students have shown such promise that they will run for the District later this year and we have one more event in November. Our football teams have 'kicked off' their programme of fixtures for this year with Year 8 and



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Year 9 teams both participating in 7-a-side tournaments in October. We are also incredibly proud of Jacob and Charlie who took on the Yorkshire Coast 5k challenge as part of the Jane Tomlinson Run for All this month. and Libby who had trials for the Yorkshire Cricket squad recently - in or out of school, our students make us #ProudToBePindar!



Where next?

We have an incredibly strong Careers and Raising Aspirations strategy in school and this week saw one of the highest profile events in our Careers year - the annual Careers Fair organised by our wonderful Careers Advisor Mrs Bilton. Bringing together over 25 employers, further and higher education providers and businesses, the Careers Fair allowed students from Year 7 to 11 to engage

in finding out more about their potential future careers or next steps. Seeing students interact with the employers made us so #ProudToBePindar! We are beyond grateful to all the organisations who dedicated their precious time to our school - we know our students found this event incredibly inspiring.



Year 8 enjoyed the annual visit to the Scarborough STEM Week event at Scarborough Spa in September where they got the chance to speak to lots of employers and have a go at hands-on activities whilst learning more about opportunities locally, regionally and nationally in this hugely important and growing industry. Students thoroughly enjoyed the event and were delighted to receive some 'goodies' from some of the very generous stalls!



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Catering creativity!

Our Key Stage Four Hospitality and Catering classes have an incredible range of experiences thanks to the dedication of their teacher Mrs Raisin with the support of our Technician Miss Emmerson. In weekly 'Skills Club' sessions on Tuesdays after school, the students have the opportunity to hone their skills and take on more challenging recipes to widen their knowledge and enhance their future grades. This half term, students have created quite wonderful quiches, fantastic focaccia, perfect pizzas and marvellous millionaire's shortbreads! We are also indebted to the wonderful team at Proudfoot's who generously support this initiative but also support us in person through masterclass demonstrations. In September we hosted the Proudfoot Group Director Valerie Aston and Master Butcher Keith

Wilson who visited us equipped with chickens so students could practise extremely technical butchering, deboning and portioning techniques. We could not hope to do this on our own and are beyond grateful for Proudfoot's support.



Never lose sight of the envelope

Our Year 11 students have only 22 school weeks left in school before they begin their GCSE written examinations and it could not be more important for students to never lose sight of the envelope and make every effort to achieve! We were pleased to host our first Steps to Success event in October where students and families were introduced to revision techniques. We hope our students will put these strategies to good use as we approach the mock exams which begin on the 10th November.



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How to Get in Touch

Telephone: 01723 5822194

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. 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.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/>