



# The Pindar Postbag

## February 2026 Edition

### Message from the Principal

As we reach the end of this half term, my first as Principal of George Pindar School, I would like to thank our students, families and community for the warm welcome and continued support. It is a real privilege to lead this school.

Guided by our Trust values of **Respect, Teamwork and Kindness**, we have made a strong start. We have increased staff presence to maintain high standards, launched our *Steps to Success* strategy to support Year 11, invested in classroom resources, and protected lesson time to maximise learning. The relaunch of the Yondr pouch system and introduction of the Attendance Cup are already having a positive impact.

Many of these changes have come directly from Student Voice, helping us create calmer, more purposeful learning environments.

Thank you for your continued partnership. We look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 23rd February, ready to continue the momentum.

### 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 last day of every half term, the 100 Club prize draw takes place - 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. Let's aim for 100% every week.

As an additional incentive, we are now awarding the highest attending tutor group weekly with the coveted Attendance Cup plus tuck shop vouchers to spend on Friday mornings at break.

You have to be in to win!

### 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.



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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!



## Young Leaders in Sport

Our Y8 & 9 girls who are becoming Young Leaders in sport had an amazing morning meeting an inspiring World Champion inline skater in January.

They are taking part in the 'Girls Active' project which will see the girls trained to become Young Leaders and role models. Following their training, they will inspire other girls to be more active and take part in physical activities.

World Champion inline skater, Jenna Downing came in to deliver the first part of the project designed by Youth Sport Trust. She told the girls all about her background and the hard work and determination she had shown in order to spend her life doing what she loved. The girls then took part in a series of activities designed to challenge them and develop their team building and communication skills. She was so inspirational and we are really grateful to her for giving our girls this fantastic opportunity.

They then did the second part of their 'Girls Active' training at Scarborough Sports Village with Youth Sport Trust in February.

They discussed discrimination in sport and ways to challenge it and change perceptions. The girls brainstormed ideas for helping other girls to overcome barriers and be more confident in having an active lifestyle, whether that be through sport or other non competitive activities. Activity was, of course, also on the agenda for the girls and they did circuit training and Zumba.

Absolutely huge thanks to the Youth Sport Trust for this valuable experience. The girls had a wonderful day and definitely feel more confident in their roles as Young Leaders.



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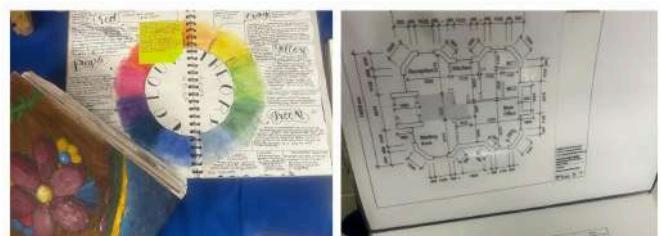
Rosa-Lin said, "I really loved the experience. It was one those things, if I could do it again, I absolutely would. The whole day was great but I loved doing Zumba the most. We learned about how to encourage more girls to be active and I feel more confident about being a Young Leader. We had lots of amazing ideas to get girls more active. "



## Y11 Parents' Evening

We really would like to say a huge thank you to our Y11 families who attended Parents' Evening during January. The turnout was fabulous and your engagement is appreciated. Support from home does make a difference for your child. Knowing how to help them revise and checking in to make sure work is completed will help them to achieve better results in their GCSEs.

There was also an opportunity to speak to our Careers Advisor, Mrs Bilton, giving families the opportunity to discuss 'next steps' (college and apprenticeships.) We hope you found this useful and you enjoyed seeing the wonderful Y11 work that was on display for you too. It was work that the students should be very #proudtopindar of! We certainly are!





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## Year 11 Mock Interviews boost confidence

Our Year 11 mock interviews were a big success this term and the students absolutely rose to the occasion, showing confidence, professionalism, and real ambition for their futures.

This opportunity gave the students the experience of a 'real world' interview. This will help them to be prepared as they have college interviews and job applications on the horizon. Many of the students commented that it was nowhere near as scary as they had expected! It is wonderful that they have gained some confidence and experience around the interview process.

A massive thank you to all the brilliant volunteers, from business and further and higher education, who gave up their time to support the day. Their guidance, encouragement, and honest feedback make such a difference to our students as they prepare for their next steps. We couldn't do it without them - their support is truly appreciated.



## Sporting Success

The Year 8 football team have made it through to the semi-final of the Scarborough District Football Cup!

A convincing 10-4 victory against Filey school sees them progressing in the competition. Will they make the final? We hope so. With form like that, they stand a really good chance!

As always, their behaviour and sporting attitudes were exemplary. Congratulations team. All your hard work and effort is paying off. Our students really do make us #ProudToBePindar!



## Student Voice

Mr Willis has been having breakfast with the students in order to hear their opinions in 'Student Voice' sessions. He has met with students from every year group to find out what they enjoyed about school and what they thought we could improve.



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Mr Willis said that it was wonderful to hear how positive the students felt about being students at George Pindar School!

The students were treated to delicious breakfast buns - sausage or bacon, with pastries available for vegetarians.



## Perfect Poetry!

You may think this is a little bit unseasonal at this point, but The English Department were thrilled, in January, to announce the winner of the 'Tales from the Snow' poetry competition that they had launched before Christmas.

Year 7 student, Layla, won with this wonderful poem that really evokes the magic of Christmas.

As well as a certificate, Layla was presented with a beautiful book of Disney stories.

A huge well done, Layla, what a fabulous piece of writing!



### It's that time – Layla

The Christmas season, bright and bold,  
With tales of wonder, new and old.  
The snow falls soft on frosty ground, while happy carols sound around.  
Twinkling lights on every tree, a festive sight for all to see.  
Red and green, a joyful gleam, like magic from a happy dream.

Stockings hung with care and cheer, for Santa Claus is drawing near.  
With sleigh bells ringing, high above, he brings his gifts of peace and love.  
Warm fires glow and cocoa steams, sharing laughter, hopes, and dreams.  
From stable small to rooftop high, Christmas magic fills the sky.

Then the sky turns grey, a gentle hush,  
Then tiny flakes begin to rush,  
Like feathers falling, soft and slow,  
Creating wonders in the snow.  
The trees wear caps of pearly white,  
The world transformed by morning's light,  
With icy breath and frozen ground,  
No other sound but crunching sound.  
We pull our boots and scarves up high,  
To meet the winter in the sky,  
With mittens bright and cheeks aglow,  
We slide and laugh and watch it grow.  
A snowman stands with carrot nose,  
As winter's magic softly flows.  
A peaceful blanket, clean and vast.  
This snowy beauty built by PIC•COLLAGE

## New Pindar Run gets off to a flying start

New for 2026, the Pindar Run was launched in January.

Physical activity can give mental health a great boost so this new after school club is open to absolutely everyone who wants to take part. Students don't necessarily need to be sporty or be training for an event, they just need to show up, willing to give it a try.

Students can run quickly, they can run slowly, they can take a break and walk - the main thing is that they show up.

The club is on every Thursday at 3.15-4.15pm



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Well done to everyone who has joined us for the Pindar Run so far. It's been fantastic fun and the students have all got on so well. They even celebrated a birthday with some post-run chocolate muffins!

We're so proud of you all and your achievements in the very cold, wet and windy weather that we've had.



## Barclays Life Skills Equip Y7s for the Future

Our Y7s are taking part in a programme called 'Barclays Life Skills.' They are learning all about transferable employability skills and how to use them to achieve their dreams.

The trainer, Mike, set them various activities and tasks that helped them to focus on what they wanted from life. A handful of students already knew which career they wanted to have after school but, of course, most Year 7s don't know at

this early stage. Their session with Mike really helped them to understand how to work towards what kind of lifestyle they want and how to shoot for their dreams.

In the second Barclays Life Skills workshop, the focus was on planning for goals and the journey that it might involve.

Students first mind mapped planning for a holiday and everything that they would need to remember, take and do. They then transferred the skills they had used to prepare for a life goal, including the kinds of qualifications and experiences that would help them along the way.

It was another fantastic experience that really helped the students to understand how they can prepare and organise themselves in order to follow their goals.

Big thanks to Mike for two brilliant workshops!





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## New Attendance Cup Awarded Weekly

The attendance team has launched a new weekly Attendance Tournament.

Tutor groups are randomly drawn and pitched against an opponent. The tutor group whose attendance beats their opponent on Monday goes through to Tuesday and is again pitched against a randomly drawn opponent and so on until Friday. The tutor group achieving the highest attendance in the final round on Friday wins the Attendance Cup which is presented by Mr Willis.

As well as the honour of keeping the cup in their classroom for the week, the highest attending tutor group also gets free tuck shop vouchers.

Attendance matters. Be in school - be in it to win it!



## Assembly is a rewarding experience

In the last week of half term we held all of our Rewards Assemblies. The Y11 Assembly kicked off the week of celebration with a rather special assembly with some exciting news.

Certificates went out to those students with excellent attendance and those who have shown achievement within their lessons for all Year Groups but, for the Y11s there was something a little extra for them this time.



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New initiatives were launched for revision and rewards to make sure the Y11s keep momentum going as they head towards their GCSEs. There will be additional daily revision sessions with rewards for attending them in the shape of pizza parties and free or discounted prom tickets.

It's an exciting time for this Year Group and we really hope these rewards will give them the incentive to push on through and achieve great things in their exams.



## Scarborough Rotary Club Engineering Day Competition

In February, some of our Y9 & 10 Engineering students took part in the Scarborough Rotary Club Technology Day competition.

In teams of four, they competed against other schools in a design and build challenge. We entered three teams. Students did not have the chance to prepare beforehand as the challenge was unknown until all teams were instructed to

open their Brief envelopes. The challenge was to build a bridge that could withstand a weight and also open.

Students had to carefully read the Brief, work as a team to come up with a design, allocate roles for team members and then, of course, build the bridge. They had only limited materials and tools to work with.

All schools' designs were judged by members of Scarborough Rotary Club at the end of the day.

Whilst none of our teams won, they did come up with some fantastic designs. (As you can see from the photos!)

Miss Petts is incredibly proud of these twelve students and the hard work, creativity and dedication that they showed.





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## Never lose sight of the envelope

Our Year 11 students have only 8 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 second Steps to Success event in February where students and families were introduced to revision techniques. We hope our students will put these strategies to good use as we approach their GCSEs.

## How to Get in Touch

Telephone: 01723 582194  
Email: [hello@gps.hlt.academy](mailto:hello@gps.hlt.academy)  
Email: [news@gps.hlt.academy](mailto: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](mailto:hello@gps.hlt.academy) or [news@gps.hlt.academy](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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



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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/>