



'Doing it for Sir, 38 incredible miles'

Nidderdale PTFA

Our recently re-formed PTFA is a small but highly effective group of parents and staff who have already provided lots of fantastic opportunities for fun-focused fund raising, including the Key Stage 3 Colour Run, Family Quiz and mostly recently the Silent Disco.

Whilst the PTFA kindly agreed to the proceeds of the Quiz being donated to our '22 Days of Mr Connors' outdoor seating campaign, the vast majority of funds are available to support experiences and resources to enrich our students' regular school experience.

If you would like to contribute to our school and become a member of our fantastic PTFA, please contact nidderdaleptfa@gmail.com to learn more about how to get involved.

Our school needs you!

We are looking to grow and develop our Local Governing Body (LGB) – Would you like to find out more about being a governor or do you know someone who might?

We will be advertising for a parent governor in due course, but we would also like to hear from friends, grandparents, businesses and anyone else within our local community who would like to be part of the governance of our wonderful school.

Maybe your children have been through Nidderdale, and you are grateful for the experience they received and ready to give something back? Or do you know, for example:

- Someone working in another local school or recently retired from one who would be able to contribute their expertise?
- Someone with public sector experience, passionate about improving or investing in the lives of our young people?
- Someone running a business within the local community, keen to ensure that the employees of the future are ready to flourish.

Whether you wish to offer your time, or whether you would just like to find out more, we would love to hear from you. Please contact admin@nidderdale.mt.co.uk to express your interest.

Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parent / Carer

Last week we were pleased to welcome visitors into school as part of our ongoing review of the quality of education we provide to our students. We received some very positive feedback:

'A strong sense of community and values in place across the whole school' and 'Pupils are very much at the heart of what leaders look to lead on and develop.'
'The atmosphere for learning in lessons was positive' and 'There were examples of excellent instruction and modelling in lessons. This engaged and motivated pupils.'
'Pupils are proud to attend the school' and they were described as 'fantastic ambassadors' for our school.

If you would like to have more involvement in the development of our amazing school, please have a look at the opportunities mentioned in the rest of this newsletter.

Kath Jordan, Headteacher

Thankyou, Pateley High Street

Well done to the Yr9 students who very respectfully approached all the High Street shops for Raffle Prizes in support of our fundraising efforts in memory of Mr Connors. It took some significant courage to go in and ask on their own and their efforts were very much rewarded by the generosity of all the High Street establishments. Thank you all!



Thank you to the students who participated in the staff car wash, the 4th activity in our 22 events in memory of Mr Connors. Their enthusiasm for doing a good job of car washing also extended to doing a good job of washing themselves!



Easter Cake Sale

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Easter cake sale and raffle on 26th March. We had some fantastically decorated cakes and treats.

Thank you also to Mr Vass for drawing the raffle and congratulations to Alex Lamb for buying the winning ticket. We raised £186.45 towards our 22k fundraising project.

Doing it For Sir! - 38 miles in memory of Mr Connors

On Sunday 19 April 10 of our amazing Year 11 students completed an impressive 38 mile relay with the support of family and friends. They were running to raise funds for our '22 Days of Mr Connors' campaign, 38 miles being the distance from Pateley Bridge to his beloved Burnley FC ground Turf Moor.

So far they have raised an incredible £2750, including a very generous £500 donation from Dales Market Corner.

Many congratulations and thanks to Joe, George, Tom, Pippa, Emily, Jess, Bella, Matt, Harry and Sam for their amazing fund raising efforts. Mr Connors would be so proud of every one of you.

Thank you to all the staff and students involved in the student v staff cricket match for day 5/22.



Contributing to the Fundraising

You can make a contribution for any of our fundraising events via school gateway or you can donate via Ms Cawley's Just Giving page – [click here](#).

Thanks to your amazing generosity we have already raised over £10,000, nearly half of our ambitious £22,000 target.

Fundraising Activities

Mr Connors was a man of many interests and we have tried to reflect this in the range of our school fundraising activities. Our full programme of events is included below.

Day 1: Friday 27th March - Turn the school Claret and Blue to remember Mr Connors's love of Burnley Football club.

Day 2: Monday 13th April – Year 7 and 8 bake sale to remember Mr Connors' love of cooking. Mr Connors was part of the team that introduced Staff Cake Friday to our school.

Day 3: Tuesday 14th April – Form Quiz Guess the Flag. Mr Connors' classroom is decorated with numerous flags from across the world.

Day 4: Wednesday 15th April – Staff car wash to remember Mr Connors' love of all things clean and tidy!

Day 5: Thursday 16th April – Staff vs Student Cricket. Mr Connors played for Markington Cricket Club in his free time.

Day 6: Friday 17th April – Year 11 will be mapping all our feeder primary schools onto an enormous OS Map. Mr Connors used to visit all the Year 6 students soon to start at Nidderdale High School.

Day 7: Sunday 19th April – Year 11 students will be running a 38 mile relay around Pateley Show Ground. This is the distance between Nidderdale and Burnley that Mr Connors used to travel to watch home matches.

Day 8: Monday 20th April – Classroom tidy up! Mr Connors's classroom was always neat and tidy with not a desk out of line.

Day 9: Tuesday 21st April – Flourish Art competition. Mr Connors loved painting and ran a watercolour flourish session. Students should submit their entry to Ms Jordan to win a prize!

Day 10: Wednesday 22nd April – traffic survey which will take place in Geography lessons. Mr Connors loved a good traffic survey and would often take his classes to count tractors at the front of school in the Summer!

Day 11: Thursday 23rd April – Today students in Ingleborough will be climbing their house hill. Mr Connors came up with the names for our 3 houses in 2019.

Day 12: Friday 24th April – Splat the Teacher with wet sponges. We just think Mr Connors would enjoy this! He was always willing to put himself forward for tasks like this – or dressing up as a reindeer!

Day 13: Monday 27th April – Today students can go make smores at lunchtime. Mr Connors was a scout leader and loved a camp fire.

Day 14: Tuesday 28th April – Staff vs students football. Mr Connors would always be the first teacher to sign up for this. Even if his football skills reflected that of his Burnley Football team!

Day 15: Wednesday 29th April – cake sale at break time in honour of Mr Connors's love of baking. He made a birthday cake in the shape of a bicycle for a colleague in 2022!

Day 16: Thursday 30th April – Today students in Pen-y-Ghent will be climbing their house hill. Mr Connors was actually quite afraid of heights but would always push himself to conquer his fear.

Day 17: Friday 1st May - Form quiz during form time. Mr Connors once delivered a whole school quiz via teams where his voice was zoomed in to every classroom in school.

Day 18: Tuesday 5th May - Today you can go make smores at lunchtime. Mr Connors always had a secret packet of biscuits in his desk.

Day 19: Wednesday 6th May - Today we will be launching the auction. There are so many fabulous prizes that have been donated from our local community who knew and respected Mr Connors.

Day 20: Thursday 7th May - Students in Whernside - will be climbing their house hill. Mr Connors made a lot of the displays around school showing the beauty of Nidderdale.

Day 21: Friday 8th May - Students in Years 10 & 11 will be taking part in a colour run. Mr Connors once ran a half marathon for charity. We won't be running that far, but think of a happy Mr Connors memory to motivate you as you run your distance.

Day 22: Wednesday 20th May - Today students will be attempting the massive challenge of climbing all 3 house hills in under 12 hours!

250 Runs Milestone Achieved

The Team Nidd Runners are continuing to show their commitment & love of running in their own time. Several students have chosen to compete in Parkrun of their own initiative and with ever improving performances. Well done to Emil Leonard, Josh Hunt & Ben Rushworth, who have all recorded new PB's in the last few weeks. A special congratulations to faithful running club assistant Mrs Warner for completing her 250th Parkrun - that is some dedication!



Netball match report

Last week, Nidderdale travelled to Outwood Academy for a round robin tournament against Outwood and Boroughbridge. Both the Year 8 and Year 9 teams represented the school brilliantly with excellent effort, teamwork and determination throughout.

The Year 9 team narrowly lost to Outwood but bounced back in superb style with a staggering 10-0 win against Boroughbridge. It was a fantastic team performance, with Emma and Dottie both earning Player of the Match awards from the opposition teams.

The Year 8 team also impressed, beating Outwood thanks to some outstanding defensive work and great determination. Izzy and Lilly were recognised for their excellent performances and made a huge contribution to the team's success.

A brilliant effort from all involved and a great display of Nidderdale spirit.

Miss Wilcock

Edge Hill University Maths Competition

Over the last few weeks our year 9 Mathematicians have been busy working on their entry for the second round of the Edge Hill Mathematics competition.

They had to calculate where to build a drone delivery station for three pizzerias to minimise the distance the drone had to travel. They proved their answer was correct using geometry and algebra.

They created a pizza to display all their working out on and even went to Pateley Pizza for a pizza box which they designed themselves. They have put so much time and effort into the competition.

We now wait to see if they have made it through to the national final! A big well done to Emma, Poppie, Alex, Dottie and Sam!



Eigg Trip 2026

Very well done to all the students who put effort & commitment into applying for this year's Eigg Trip. You certainly made the selection process a challenge and it's never easy having to disappoint people. However, for many of you, there is another chance, and resilience in the face of disappointment is a key life skill! With continued effort & commitment, you never know what opportunities you may create for yourselves next year...

They were hard won places, so congratulations are due to Team Eigg 2026: Jonny, Callum, Daniel, Finlay, Ben, Oliver, Emil, James R and James H. I am very much looking forward to adventuring with you over the coming months!

Miss Tuffs



The Silver Duke of Edinburgh students had a very successful practice Expedition, walking from Hardraw in Wensleydale, over Great Shunner Fell into Swaledale and then taking various routes along Swaledale to finish near Reeth. We enjoyed a variety of weather and a very beautiful clear night at our campsite in Keld, that allowed for some fantastic star gazing - some excellent photos of this captured by Jacob G. Thank you all for your efforts on another very enjoyable adventure. Special mention to Jonny B & Max B for embracing the full expedition experience and taking the plunge into the refreshing waters of Wain Wath Force!



Sunflower Competition

This half term has marked the exciting launch of our annual sunflower growing competition—and this year, it's bigger and more competitive than ever.

A total of 44 sunflowers are now being carefully nurtured across the school, with every form given seeds to grow their own entry. It's not just students getting involved either—members of staff have joined in too, adding an extra layer of friendly rivalry to the challenge. The goal is simple: grow the tallest sunflower by any means necessary.

Already, the level of dedication on display has been impressive. Sunflowers have been repotted into larger containers, supported with stakes and canes, and treated with plant food to boost their growth. Some competitors have even gone the extra mile by using grow lights to give their plants an early advantage.

With so much effort and creativity being poured into these towering plants, this year's competition is shaping up to be fiercely contested. As the sunflowers stretch higher week by week, it's clear that the race to the top will be one to watch. A big thank you to everyone for putting so much effort in.

Mr Harrison

MAY HALF TERM ROCK CLIMBING

Holiday climbing sessions are an ideal way for kids to get out and enjoy the great outdoors. Activities include climbing, abseiling and weaselling, an action-packed day.

Holiday Session - £62.50 (7-17 years old)

Ilkley Cow & Calf: Tuesday-Friday, 9:30-16:30
Brimham Rocks: Tuesday or Friday, 9:30-16:30

Rock Skills Introduction (1-day) and Intermediate (2-day) Courses are also available

Childcare Vouchers accepted

Book online or contact us via email

WWW.MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM
INFO@MYEXPEDITIONROCKS.COM

Visit to Jenny Twigg

Yr 10 NiddVenture students have been on an exciting adventure to meet Jenny Twigg and her daughter Tib - unique Nidderdale landmarks.

They have also been working on their climbing skills recently and Jonny is pictured here, having put his skills to good use to scale Daughter Tib!

Miss Tuffs

