

GCSE Certificate Evening

Last Wednesday we welcomed back our Class of 2025 Leavers to collect their GCSE Certificates. The evening gave opportunity to celebrate achievement and formally mark the completion of an important chapter in their education.

Our guest speaker on the evening was Nidd Alumni Alice Clarke, who shared her journey from being a Nidd student to achieving global success as a business woman and jeweller. We would like to thank Alice for returning to Nidderdale and inspiring us all. Website link: [Alice Clarke](#)

Mrs Ashton



Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parent / Carer

Our first Nidd News of the year includes some catch up news from last term, all of which exemplifies our values of ambition, pride, kindness, resilience and empathy.

This term has started with a focus on next steps as Year 11 have received mock exam results this morning and begin their final full term of revision and preparation for exams and finalising post-16 choices.

Meanwhile Year 9 have begun their next steps thinking with attendance at our KS4 Options Evening. Thank you to parents and carers for such great attendance and engagement with this event. We look forward to welcoming you back for focused subject progress discussions at next Thursday's Year 9 Parents' Evening.

Whilst snow ended up not being much of a feature for us locally, snow and icy conditions were still very much on our minds at the end of last week as our NiddVenture Winter Adventure team set off for the Cairngorms. You can read a little about their adventures later in this newsletter. Miss Tuffs has already booked the accommodation and a similar amount of snow for next year's adventure!

Kath Jordan, Headteacher

Achievement Certificates

On the last day of term, in fitting tribute to Mr Connors, Year 11 students Charlie, Tom, George and Josh continued his tradition of dressing up as Santa and helpers to deliver well deserved Autumn term Achievement Certificates to students across all year groups and all subjects. The boys did a great job of encouraging everyone to celebrate the achievements of their classmates. Mr Connors would have been proud of them and of every single award recipient.



A Christmas Carol Theatre Trip

A large group of students went to the Leeds Playhouse to view a performance of 'A Christmas Carol'.

The performance adapted parts of the story, imagining Scrooge as the owner of a Yorkshire woollen mill to capture the industrial element of Victorian Leeds and make the story feel more relevant and relatable to the audience.

A large clock was prominently hanging above the stage, reminding us that time was running out for Scrooge to change and help the other characters like Tiny Tim before it was too late.

The music was excellent, the costumes vibrant, and it incorporated sign language throughout the production for a more inclusive feel to the performance. The three ghosts provided excellent moral lessons, with their costumes a symbolic representation of the lesson they were teaching. All our students were excellently behaved and a credit to the school, thoroughly enjoying their day out.



Fountains Abbey Park Run 20th December 2025



Thank you to all students (*including past students!*), parents & staff who took part in the Christmas edition of Fountains Abbey Parkrun. A very enjoyable morning was had by all. Well done to everyone for participating with such enthusiasm and good spirit - you exemplify everything that's good about sport whenever we attend these events!

Special mention to Daniel Metcalfe - winner of The Most Improved Award with a new PB of 25:08. He was closely followed in this competition by Alex Randall De Andres, who also ran a new PB of 23:13.

A big thank you also needs to go to Mrs Warner for another year of fine assistance to Running Club - the support and encouragement she gives to all students is very much appreciated.

It's onwards now to plenty more running adventures in 2026 - our first mission for this year will be another trip to Fountains Abbey Parkrun but this time in a volunteering capacity, as race organisers!

Miss Tuffs

JUNIOR CRICKET COACHING

For Boys and Girls



PATELEY BRIDGE SPORTS CENTRE

STARTING

Friday 6th February 2026

School Years 2 – 6 (U9 & U11) 6 – 7pm

School Years 7 – 10 (U13 & U15) 7 – 8pm

ECB Qualified Coaches

To Book Your Place Contact: NICHARD LIGHT

07526 105383

rdlight@hotmail.co.uk

PATELEY BRIDGE CRICKET CLUB



Reading for Pleasure

Have a look at the [Bookfinder tool on the Book Trust website](#) to pick age appropriate reading books.

Save
the
Date

We have booked Cedar Court Hotel again for **Class of 2026 Year 11 Leavers Prom.**

From 6.30/7 pm - 11pm
on Thursday 18th June
2026

Worried about the cost of living?

If you're struggling to pay for food and other essentials, there are local schemes and organisations in North Yorkshire which may be able to help or point you in the right direction. You'll find information about emergency support with everyday living costs, benefits, energy bills, food, free adult learning courses and managing your debt all in one place at www.northyorks.gov.uk/costofliving

North Yorkshire Council's cost of living web page also has information about schemes to help families including free school meals, help with childcare and healthy start as well as free school holiday activities for eligible families.

If you're less confident with technology and have friends or family who might be able to help you understand what support is available, please ask them to look at the web page with you. You can also go into any North Yorkshire library or North Yorkshire Council office.

If you're not sure who to turn to, you can call North Yorkshire Council's customer service centre on 0300 131 2 131 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am to 5pm, Wednesday 9:30am to 5pm and Friday 9am to 4:30pm asking for 'cost of living help' when prompted.

Children's Commissioner's Guide – Managing Digital Lives



Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play. Dame Rachel de Souza, the Children's Commissioner has released a useful guide to assist parents/carers in navigating this aspect of the digital world.

[Click here](#) to access the guide on the school's website Help for Parents page. It covers topics such as:

- Screen Time
- When bad things happen
- Ai



Team NiddVenture spread the joy

Thank you to Bethan, Emma, Poppie, Florence & Lily for their fantastic work in the week before Christmas, baking and delivering to many elderly people and the local businesses who support our NiddVenture work. It's hard to put into words the impact that the girls had on so many people on this adventure...

I know many of the recipients were extremely touched by the kindness, care & cheerfulness shown by this extremely efficient & thoughtful team. Some superb teamwork was displayed and so much fun had along the way. A very special day to share with you all - thank you for understanding the value of that mission and doing it to the very best of your ability!

Safer Internet Day - 10 February 2026

AI technology is increasingly part of all our lives, so this Safer Internet Day we are starting a conversation about how to use it safely and responsibly. Use these top tips to help keep you and your loved ones safe online.

[Click here to see Top Tips for Parents/Carers.](#)

[Click here to see Top Tips for 11 – 14s and 14 – 18s.](#)



Winter Skills Trip 9 – 12 January 2026

Another fantastic adventure has been had to the Cairngorms on our Team Nidd Winter Trip 2026! A very special shared experience for us all with happy memories that will last forever...

Thank you Jonny, Max, Rosie, Heather, Daniel & Alfie for your enthusiasm, commitment, hard work, reliability, care for each other and excellent teamwork both in our preparations and on the trip itself. It's been an absolute pleasure spending time with you all and a huge amount of fun.

Seeing your confidence, knowledge, willingness to challenge yourselves and spirit of adventure grow is the very best outcome I could ever ask for from these trips! Nothing worth having comes easily and seeing some of you realise on this trip that the best feelings come after you've challenged yourself is exactly what it's all about.

You're all capable of much more than you think you are and there's always new adventures to look forward to if you want there to be, you've just got to make them happen - something I will always assist you with.

Many thanks to Greg Parsons again, the very best second member of staff I could ever wish for on these trips and a huge part of why they're the special things that they are!

Onwards to the next adventure...

Miss Tufts

Well done!

Thank you to Rory Crockford for some superb community work over the last few weeks. He has cheerfully cycled all over the dale, delivering shopping and generally spreading happiness to those who need it most. His thoughtful and completely self-initiated act of baking cakes at home in his own time and bringing a box of eggs from his farm to deliver to a 94yr old man, hugely brightened that man's day. Well done Rory, - an absolute pleasure working with you!



Miss Tufts

Catering Team's Success



Congratulations to Mr Vass and the Catering Team who have received a top hygiene rating of 5 (Very Good) from an unannounced routine inspection this week from the Food Standards Agency via Harrogate Borough Council.

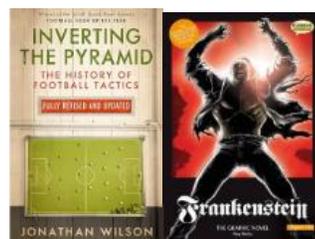


Reading recommendation



Inverting the Pyramid - the history of football tactics by Jonathan Wilson - Jonathan Wilson pulls apart the finer details of football tactics and traces the global history of the game.

Frankenstein – The Graphic Novel - an adaptation of Mary Shelly's famous tale of creation and destruction!



Football Success – Staff team

We are thrilled to share the fantastic news from the recent MLT Staff Football Tournament against teams from Benton Park and Ilkley Grammar School.

Our team delivered an exceptional performance, winning all 4 matches and finishing the day undefeated!

This achievement reflects the spirit of collaboration and commitment that defines our staff community. Congratulations to everyone involved – you've made us proud!



Dales Cup Rugby Report

Our Year 9 and 10 rugby teams recently competed in the **Dales Cup**, and what an incredible display of determination and teamwork it was! They worked tirelessly throughout the tournament, showing resilience and commitment in every match. The team secured two impressive victories, demonstrating skill and strategy on the field, finishing 2nd overall.



Mr Baxter