



## Headteacher's Introduction

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to a Nidd News full of ambition for the future and pride in our achievements. You can also read further news of our adventuring ambition and success which has been published in Horizons (a national Outdoor Education journal) [here](#)

You may have seen information in the media this week regarding strengthened guidance from the Government about mobile phones in schools. Our policy on phones is in line with this guidance. We recognise that phones are necessary for many of our students with long journeys to school; however, once at school phones should not be seen, heard or used at all. Please look out for a letter restating our policy and outlining ways that parents can support with this important issue.

Kath Jordan, Headteacher

## Student Leadership Team - We are recruiting!

Applications are now open to join our KS4 Student Leadership Team – applications from Year 9 /10 welcome.

Information has been shared via our form tutor programme and any students interested in applying please see Mrs Ashton or email her for details.

Student Leadership Team is a great way to represent school and have a key part in student voice activities, team building and building confidence.

## Maths Update

This is a big Nidd News for the Maths department. Students across the school have been busy embracing mathematical challenges and preparing for important milestones.

This week, students in Year 10 took part in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge. This is an internationally recognised competition that tests problem-solving skills, logic, and resilience. A big well done to all who entered—results will be shared soon, and we are incredibly proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown.

Meanwhile, students in Year 8 are already hard at work preparing for the UK Junior Maths Challenge taking place in April. Their commitment and positive attitude towards tackling challenging problems is fantastic to see. Good luck to everyone involved—we know they will be brilliant.

Year 11 students are now firmly focused on revising and preparing for their upcoming GCSE examinations. Their dedication during this crucial time is commendable, and we encourage them to keep up the hard work and ask for support when needed. A reminder that the mock exams in the core subjects are the first two weeks after February half term.

For any students who would like extra help with homework or revision, additional support is available in ICT 1 every Wednesday lunchtime and after school. Everyone is welcome, and staff are always happy to help.

Completing the weekly past paper practise and weekly homework are the key to GCSE success.

Mr Harrison

## Edge Hill Maths Competition Round 1!

Five Year 9 students: Emma, Poppy, Dottie, Alex and Sam, are putting their problem-solving skills to the test after entering a mathematics competition hosted by Edge Hill University (last year our team made it to the grand final!) The team has officially submitted their entry for Round 1, presenting their solution in a carefully crafted book that shows every step of their working and reasoning.

The challenge, set as part of the competition, revolved around a deceptively simple but thought-provoking puzzle. Students were given a half-completed  $3 \times 3$  magic square containing only the numbers 1 and 4. With the rule that every row, column, and diagonal must add up to the same total—three times the centre number—and that all values had to be positive and unique, the group spent hours testing combinations, checking patterns, and refining their logic.

Their final submission reflects not just the correct solution, but the depth of mathematical thinking behind it. The students are now eagerly waiting to hear whether their entry has been successful and if they will progress to the second round of the competition. Fingers crossed, their hard work and teamwork have certainly given them a strong chance.

Mr Harrison

## Year 7 Maths Club!

The Year 7 Axiom Maths Circle has been buzzing with excitement and curiosity since it began back in October. Every Thursday, a dedicated group of students give their lunch break to dive into thought-provoking puzzles that stretch their minds and spark lively discussion.

The club is more than just problem-solving. Students are encouraged to be adventurous in their thinking, articulate in explaining their ideas, and accepting of different approaches and perspectives. It's become a welcoming space where mistakes are part of the journey and curiosity leads the way.

This week, the club received a special visit from Sophie Lord, School Relationship Lead North East, who presented the students with certificates and badges in recognition of all their hard work and commitment so far this year. She was incredibly impressed with the confidence in which they spoke about their mathematical ideas.

Their enthusiasm, determination, and willingness to take on new challenges is inspiring, and this club is helping to lay the foundations for a lifetime of mathematical thinking. We can't wait to see what they achieve next!



## **Theatre Trip – 26<sup>th</sup> January**

Y10s and 11s visited York to watch 'Macbeth' (or should we say, 'The Scottish Play?') at the theatre. The play consisted of just 6 actors with the Porter acting as our guide through the play, giving the audience a greater understanding of key moments and characters. This meant it was great both for revision and as a first introduction to the play for those Year 10s who will be studying it next year. The characterisation of Macbeth focused on how he is driven by his insatiable desire for power, bolstered by the belief given to him by the witches that he is invincible – an interesting viewpoint for us to take into our GCSE exams.

Well done to all our students for their conduct on the trip and we now look forward to our next theatre trip to see Poetry Live! next month.

Mr Wolfram

# JOIN OUR TEAM

We are recruiting for an  
Inclusion Support Assistant (GTA)

[Please click here to see the full details](#)

## All things Careers

Craven College welcomed a group of our Key Stage 4 students into their **Aviation Academy** based at Leeds Bradford Airport. Students keen to work in the Aviation Industry took part in Cabin Crew training and had opportunity to meet Year 12 students and Aviation staff. The trip inspired a number of students to apply to the Aviation Academy as a Post 16 destination.



## Upcoming Events

- Myerscough College Visit - February
- Ripon Grammar School Careers Fair in March – watch out for an invite
- Careers Carousel Day as part of our Personal Development programme - March
- Y10 Aeronautical Day – Ripon Grammar School on 7 July
- Y10 Work Experience Week - **placement paperwork to be returned as soon as possible**

All Year 11 students have had a 1:1 Careers appointment with Mrs Ashton. Any students in Year 7-10 wanting to discuss future next steps, please contact Mrs Ashton.

## Key Reminder

The deadline for Year 9 Options is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Option choices submitted after this date will not be included in blocking decisions.

## Reading Recommendations – Reading for Pleasure

**Smart** by Kim Slater. Shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, Kim Slater's debut, *Smart*, is a moving and compelling novel with a loveable character at its heart.

**The Last Kids on Earth** by Max Brallier. Adventure series with science fiction elements, referencing survival, nature, and energy concepts.

## Dales Cup Cross Country

Another fine performance from the Team Nidd Runners this week in the Dales Cup Cross Country event at Skipton Academy. As usual, what most impressed was the sportsmanship of the whole team. Many of our runners found this event a challenge, but they all competed to the best of their ability and most importantly, supported each other every step of the way with the best of sporting spirit on show. Thank you all for your efforts.

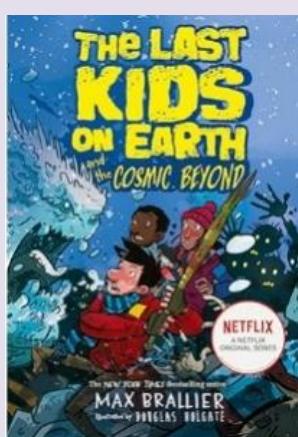
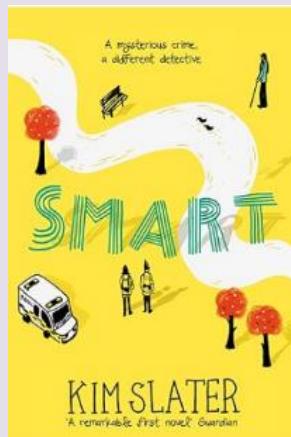


## Reporting Student Absence

Please ring the School Absence Line 01423 711246 or send an email direct to Mrs Jaques, School Attendance Officer

[sophie.jaques@nidderdale.mlt.co.uk](mailto:sophie.jaques@nidderdale.mlt.co.uk)

by 9 a.m. on the morning of absence.



## Nidd Venture News

A selection of Nidd Venture News:

Well done to all Yr10 NiddVenturers for embracing the joys of walking in the rain this week! Great to see many of you starting to realising now that when the correct kit is worn, any weather can be enjoyed!

To celebrate gaining the highest number of positive points in their year, seven Yr9 students participated in a NiddVenture Rewards trip to Sutton Bank. A very enjoyable day was spent riding the sunny trails! Thank you for your enthusiasm and excellent teamwork - great to see you all looking after those who found it a little more challenging. Well done!

Our latest club, 'NiddVolunteers' made a fine start to this term's work by making and delivering Shepherd's Pie to a 94 year old member of our community - his favourite meal! Thank you, Florence, Bethan, Emma, Poppy & Lily - you hugely brightened his day with your thought and kindness...

Well done to the Cairngorms Winter Team for their efforts in re-telling their adventures to the whole school in assemblies this week. Speaking in front of so many people was a significant challenge for many of the team but they absolutely rose to the occasion with courage and determination!

Miss Tuffs



## APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR **JUNIOR BAKE OFF**

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?  
We'd love to hear from you!

[WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK](http://WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK)



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026

### Reminders

Year 8 Parents Evening – Thu 5<sup>th</sup> February

Y11 London Trip – 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> February

Half term – Week of 16<sup>th</sup> February

Year 11 Mock Exams from 25<sup>th</sup> February

### February Half Term at **RIPON MUSEUMS**



Saturday  
14 February  
Sunday - 22 February  
2026

#### Ripon Workhouse Museum & Garden

Daily: Make Your Own Match-Maker Theatre  
cut, colour and craft your own theatre

Daily: Get To Work! Self-led family trail

14th & 21st Feb: The Master's Valentine's Card  
A Very Messy Storytelling Session  
11:00am & 1:30pm

18th Feb: Vile Victorian Valentine's Cards  
fun craft session  
10:30am & 1:00pm

#### Ripon Prison & Police Museum

Daily: Sketch The Suspect  
create a picture-perfect match

14th & 21st Feb: Ripon Workhouse Theatre Group perform  
'Meet The Policeman'  
11:30am, 1:30pm & 2:30pm

#### Ripon Courthouse Museum

Daily: St Valentine's Generation Game  
a jury evidence game

info@riponmuseums.co.uk  
[WWW.RIPONMUSEUMS.CO.UK](http://WWW.RIPONMUSEUMS.CO.UK)