

Macmillan Academy NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2026
Year 8 Edition

A NOTE FROM MRS CONING



As we come to the end of another busy term, I wanted to take a moment to say well done to our students for their hard work and positive attitude. It has been great to see so many achievements across the academy, whether in lessons, on the sports field, or through the many activities taking place beyond the classroom. Our students continue to represent the academy brilliantly, and we are very proud of them. A big thank you also goes to our staff for their commitment and energy, and to parents and carers for your ongoing support—it really does make a difference. I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved break over the holidays and has the chance to rest and recharge. We look forward to seeing students back next term, ready for more success.
Mrs Coning

STRESS AWARENESS MONTH

We're encouraging all students to take part in our 30-day wellbeing challenge, with simple daily activities to help manage stress and boost wellbeing.

PDF Link: <https://tinyurl.com/bdf6jxxz>

APRIL IS STRESS AWARENESS MONTH!
/ MANY WELLBEING CHALLENGES YOU CAN COMPLETE FROM THE CALENDAR

April 1st Smile a day!	April 2nd Try a new activity!	April 3rd Get outside at least 3 times a week!	April 4th Have a pamper evening!	April 5th Enjoy your favourite foods!	April 6th Switch...
April 7th What's on it!	April 8th Treat yourself to something new!	April 9th Have a lie in!	April 10th Write a worry + one solution	April 11th Watch your favourite film!	April 12th List...
April 13th Go to work	April 14th Cook something that you	April 15th Stay hydrated and be	April 16th List everything that	April 17th Go for a walk!	April 18th Tidy your...

IN THIS EDITION



JOBS FAIR 2026



LUNAR NEW YEAR



HIGHER IDEAS EXCHANGE



POST 16 SPOTLIGHT



ECO UPDATE



STUDENT OF THE LESSON



REWARDS & RECOGNITION

JOBS FAIR 2026



The 2026 Annual Jobs Fair at Macmillan proved to be one of our most dynamic and impactful events yet, bringing together more than 50 employers from across the Tees Valley who were eager to showcase their organisations and the growing range of career opportunities available to our students. The evening once again demonstrated the power of partnership between education and our local community, helping students, families, and employers connect in such a meaningful way.



This year's fair highlighted the rapidly expanding career landscape across the Tees Valley, with businesses representing established industries as well as emerging sectors shaped by regional investment and regeneration. Employers from engineering, health and social care, digital technology, renewable energy, finance, retail, public services, and creative industries were on hand to offer insights into apprenticeships, full-time roles, internships, and pathways into growing local industries.



With the Tees Valley continuing to see growth through developments in clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and digital innovation, students had the chance to explore opportunities that are shaping the future of the region.



ACADEMY NEWS



SPRING 2026
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JOBS FAIR 2026



LUNAR NEW YEAR 2026

Our Mandarin students welcomed the 2026 Year of the Horse with colour, energy, and creativity. From lively performances and cultural activities to calligraphy, quizzes, and impressive presentations, their enthusiasm for Chinese language and culture truly stood out. A huge well done to everyone involved — a fantastic celebration of learning, community, and cultural diversity!



LUNA NEW YEAR 2026



HIGHER IDEAS EXCHANGE



Our students and their families once again made the most of an inspiring Higher Ideas Exchange 2026 event. This year's evening brought together an exciting range of universities, specialists, and higher education providers, offering invaluable opportunities to explore pathways beyond Post 16 study, with the event creating an opportunity to gather key insights into the journey ahead.



Students from Year 9, KS4, and Post 16 attended the event, taking part in meaningful conversations with university representatives and learning more about the skills, qualifications, and experiences that are needed to support successful transitions into higher education.



Our students and their families had direct access to universities from across the UK. Alongside local providers, we welcomed a wide range of universities from further afield. Building on previous years, the 2026 event expanded even further with the addition of specialist subject pathways. Students had the opportunity to ask questions, compare courses, and gain fresh insight into the application process helping them make confident, informed decisions about their future.



HIGHER IDEAS EXCHANGE 2026



ECO-SQUAD UPDATE

Our Eco-Squad took part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch, demonstrating great enthusiasm and curiosity about the natural world. They spent time carefully observing and recording birdlife around the school site, developing their identification skills and appreciation for local wildlife.

They were delighted to spot a small flock of six finches gathered in one of the trees, a real highlight of the session. In total, six other bird species were also recorded, making it a successful and rewarding experience.

A fantastic effort from our Eco-Squad in supporting conservation and helping to build a clearer picture of the wildlife around our school.



Our Eco Squad took part in the Great Big School Clean this week, showing fantastic commitment to caring for our environment. They litter-picked around the school grounds, helping to keep the area clean, tidy, and welcoming for everyone.



As well as making an immediate difference, students helped raise awareness about the importance of protecting our planet and taking pride in our surroundings. A brilliant effort from all involved.

POST 16 FOOTBALL SUCCESS

The Post 16 Men's football team continued their North East Colleges' title push with a strong away win against King James College at Shildon AFC.

Another three points on the board, with goals from Callum, Max, Zac and Sam, whose brace earned him Man of the Match.



RAMSDENS VISIT - YEAR 12



Our Year 12 students enjoyed an informative visit to Ramsdens HQ.

They explored a range of departments, learned about different career pathways, gained valuable advice on applications, and developed practical skills in identifying gold and silver hallmarks. The highlight of the visit was meeting the CEO and hearing first-hand insights into the business. A fantastic opportunity to experience the world of work in action.

SCIENCE GILL DISSECTION

Year 12 biologists got hands-on with a salmon gill dissection last week, bringing exchange surfaces to life for their A Level studies. By observing and drawing the gills, students explored how specialised structures maximise oxygen uptake, sparking great discussion on counter-current flow and ventilation.



BTEC SPORT - TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY



Post 16 students visited Teesside University with both BTEC Sport and A Level PE students.

Whilst at the University the students had a Q&A with Middlesbrough FC Ladies, including Armani Maxwell, an ex-Macmillan student. In the afternoon sessions the students were involved in a taping session, biomechanics and even had to undertake a bike/run in a humidity chamber!

HUMAN NATURE CANDLE CONFERENCE

Our Year 12 and 13 religious studies students recently travelled to York for the Human Nature Candle Conference.

They spent the day listening to guest speakers and exploring different philosophical and theological ideas about human nature, linking closely to topics from their A Level course.



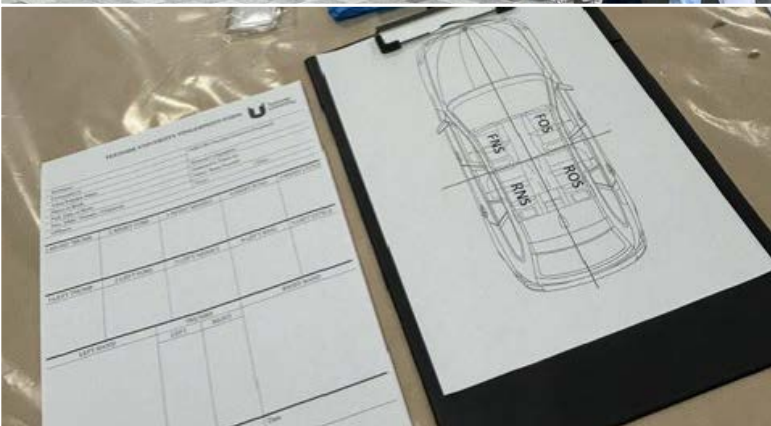
BIOLOGY - TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY



Our Year 13 students visited Teesside University today for an exciting biology trip. During the day they took part in a range of practical sessions including DNA extraction and analysis, an anatomy study workshop, a forensic crime scene investigation, and bacterial identification in the lab.

It was a fantastic opportunity to experience university-level science and apply the techniques they've been learning in the classroom.

TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY - CRIME DAY



Post 16 students took part in an exciting educational visit to Teesside University's 'Crime Day' on Wednesday 19th February 2026, gaining hands-on insight into real-world criminology, forensic science, and investigative practice.

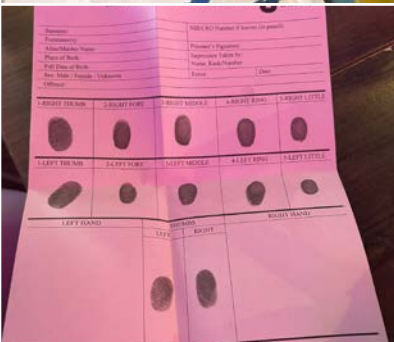
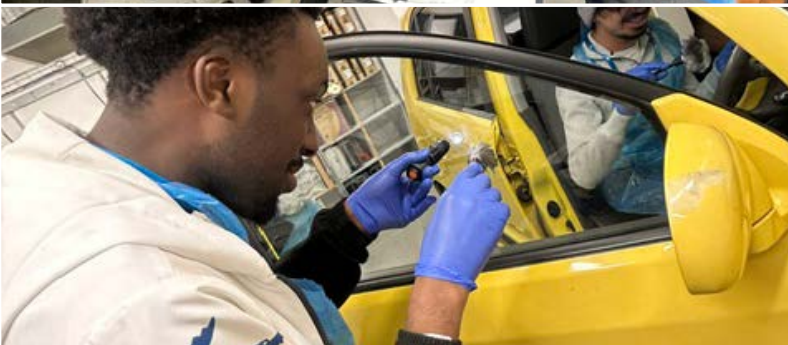
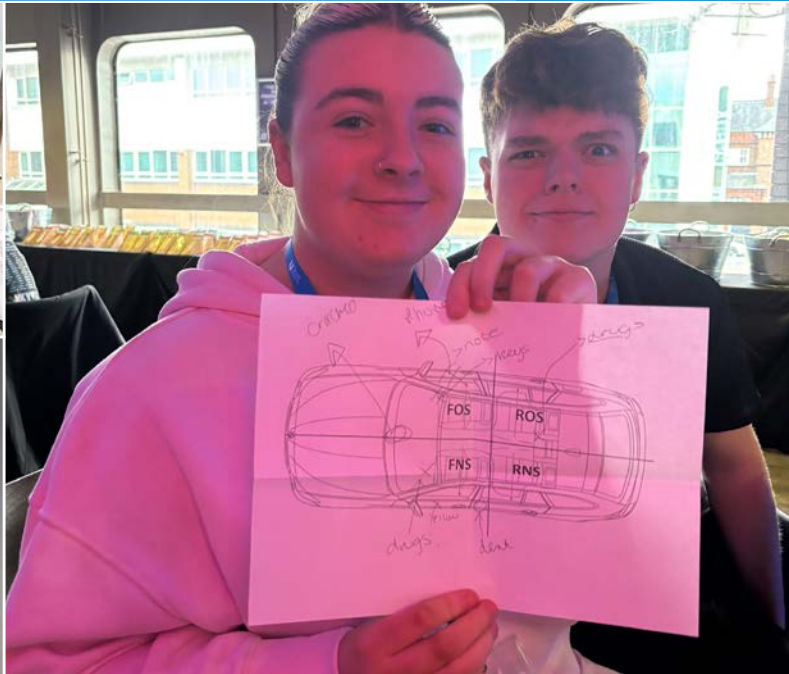
Throughout the day, students rotated through a series of interactive workshops led by university academics and specialist practitioners. Activities included crime-scene examination, fingerprint analysis, digital forensics demonstrations, and sessions exploring criminal behaviour and the justice system. Students were encouraged to think critically, problem-solve collaboratively, and experience the tools and techniques used by professionals working in criminology-related fields.

The visit offered valuable enrichment for learners studying psychology, sociology and criminology, giving them a taste of university-level study and potential future career pathways. Staff praised students for their engagement, curiosity, and thoughtful questions throughout the event.

Opportunities like Crime Day continue to strengthen Macmillan Academy's strong partnership with Teesside University and provide Post 16 learners with meaningful experiences beyond the classroom.



TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY - CRIME DAY



CLEVELAND FIRE BRIGADE VISIT



Our Post 16 Advance Group students had an incredible experience this week as the team from Billingham Fire Station visited the academy. They delivered an engaging and inspiring insight into the role of a Fire Officer, the realities of the job, and the standards required to serve in the fire service. The highlight was having the fire engine on site, with students able to sit inside and handle the equipment, bringing the profession to life in a way no classroom lesson ever could. A huge thank you to Cleveland Fire Brigade for going over and above to inspire the next generation of public service professionals.



A CATCH UP WITH HEAD OF YEAR



As we come to the end of Term 2, I would like to reflect on a very positive and successful term for Year 8 at Macmillan Academy.

It has been a busy term, and I have been pleased with how students have approached school life, showing maturity, resilience and a positive attitude towards learning. A highlight was the Year 8 Celebration Assembly, where we recognised students for their hard work, attendance, effort and contribution. It was great to see so many acknowledged for their achievements.

The Outward Bound trip to Ullswater was another standout moment. With over 90 students attending, it was a fantastic experience, with students showing excellent teamwork, resilience and enthusiasm while embracing new challenges and representing the academy brilliantly.

Attendance and punctuality remain a priority, and I would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support in this area. Overall, there is much to be proud of this term. Thank you to Year 8 for their continued effort and positivity—I look forward to seeing this continue next term. Thank you, as always, to students, staff, parents and carers for your support. I hope everyone has a restful and enjoyable break.

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Mr Weighell.

YEAR 8 SPOTLIGHT



LIBRARIAN AWARD - WWII DIARY

We are so proud of two students who wrote outstanding WWII diary entries during War Week in January. As a reward for their powerful, moving work, they each received a beautiful clothbound copy of *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank, a truly meaningful prize.

MATHS CHALLENGE

Our students recently took part in the Maths Challenge, competing against schools from across the local area.

They tackled a range of tricky and challenging maths problems, demonstrating fantastic teamwork and problem-solving skills throughout. We're proud to share that our team placed 5th out of 12 schools.



YEAR 8 SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED...



GIRLS CRICKET SUCCESS

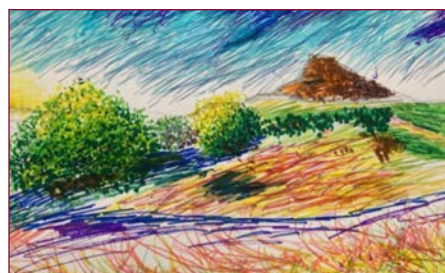
A huge result for the Year 7 & 8 girls' cricket team as they won the qualifying tournament. Victories over Egglecliffe, St Joseph's and Belmont in the group stages set up a semi-final win against St Leonard's. In a tense final against Durham Johnston, the team held their nerve to prevent the 12 runs needed in the final over.

Following our participation in the Durham Schools Indoor Cricket Finals this week, both our U13 and U15 teams finished as runners-up. The U13 team, captained by Evie M, fell just 12 runs short chasing Barnard Castle's total.



ARTIST OF THE WEEK - EVIE

Evie has created a series of fine liner pen sketches inspired by local artist Graham Banderia, with a focus on mark making. Well done, Evie.



ARTIST OF THE WEEK - KAIRI

Kairi has responded to Hockney's work by creating her own Roseberry Topping artwork by exaggerating colours and textures.



ARTIST OF THE WEEK - YUSHA

Yusha created a vibrant abstract artwork inspired by Matisse for his homework task. Fantastic work, Yusha.

GET IN THERE

Our Get In There campaign is still up and running. It's all about boosting attendance, staying engaged, and making every school day count.



YEAR 8

FOCUS



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OUTWARD BOUND - ULLSWATER

More than 90 Macmillan students headed to the stunning Ullswater Valley to take part in an unforgettable Outward Bound experience. The programme offered students the chance to step outside their comfort zones, challenge themselves, and build essential life skills in a breathtaking outdoor setting.

Throughout the week, students took part in activities designed to develop teamwork, resilience, communication, leadership, and problem-solving. From climbing and canoeing to mountain walks and cold-water challenges, every moment pushed students to discover what they are capable of achieving.

The experience was filled with personal triumphs, shared successes, and plenty of muddy boots — but above all, it gave students the chance to grow in confidence while supporting one another.



YEAR 8

FOCUS



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OUTWARD BOUND - ULLSWATER



YEAR 8

FOCUS



SPRING 2026
Year 8 Edition

OUTWARD BOUND - ULLSWATER



SPRING TERM CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES



YEAR 7



YEAR 8



YEAR 9



YEAR 10



YEAR 11

As has become tradition, our year group achievement assemblies took place across the last week of the Spring Term. Lots of very deserving students had their efforts and progress celebrated within lessons, across attendance, and even with some very special Head of Year recognition postcards. It was fantastic to see such a wide range of achievements acknowledged, reflecting both the hard work and commitment shown by our students throughout the term.

RECOGNITION WALL

Our Wall of Fame showcased work produced by students from Years 7 to 13 from our Maths, MFL and ICT departments during the Spring Term. The quality of the work adorning the Wall is testament to the efforts of both the students and the staff involved. Well done everyone!



MFL



ICT



MATHEMATICS

R&R BOWLING TRIP

Over 90 students enjoyed the Spring Term Reward Trip recently at Hollywood Bowl at Teesside Park. Competition was fierce and the facilities of the venue were very much enjoyed by the students who earned an invitation by being awarded the highest number of 'student of the lesson' positive behaviour points in their year group this term. They were joined by others who had achieved a 100-day consecutive attendance streak – congratulations to all.



R&R BOWLING TRIP



R&R GOLDEN TICKET DAY 2

The very last day of term (April 2nd) saw the return of our popular Golden Ticket Day. Students were once again very eager to earn an on-the-spot golden ticket for demonstrating extraordinary effort. Across the day well over 300 students were awarded a golden ticket from many different members of staff for their efforts in lessons, towards attendance, showing progress or via a contribution they have made to the academy. At the end of the day students who had received a golden ticket were able to choose a reward of their choice, from Easter treats, to queue busters or entry into draws for bigger prizes. The day proved a fantastic way to start the Easter holiday.



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R&R GOLDEN TICKET DAY 2



KEY DATES FOR NEXT TERM - CHECK THE ACADEMY CALENDER FOR FULL LIST

20/03/26
START OF SUMMER TERM

19/06/26
YEAR 11 PROM

30/06/26
ACADEMY PRODUCTION

10/07/26
SPORTS DAY/HEALTH DAY

17/07/26
END OF SUMMER TERM

02/09/26
BACK TO SCHOOL