

Macmillan Academy NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2025
Year 8 Edition

A NOTE FROM MRS CONING



It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of another academic year! Yet again, it has been an exceptionally busy and exciting year within the academy. Everything from visits, sporting excellence, the production, GCSE and A Level examinations and so much more has been experienced by our students who have embraced it all with their usual curiosity, confidence and resilience. For that, I am proud of them all. September brings a new cohort of Year 6 and Year 12 students who I sincerely hope will enjoy their time here at the academy and in Post 16. I look forward to meeting them all, and will also be delighted to see our returning students. In the meantime, I wish you a very relaxing summer break.

ATTENDANCE FIGURES

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

GET IN THERE!



IN THIS EDITION

SPORTS DAY

Catch up on all the excitement from our annual Sports Day and find out who was crowned the overall winner!

YEAR 11 PROM

Glamour, style, and celebration! Our cameras were there to capture all the magic from this year's prom—check out the highlights inside.

DOFE

With so many students taking part this year, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been a huge success. From Bronze to Gold, our students have truly shone.

LEAVERS

We said a formal goodbye to Year 11 students with a heartfelt assembly, followed by traditional shirt-singing. Don't miss the fantastic photos! We also said farewell to Year 13 students earlier in June.

SISTER ACT JR

The highly-anticipated production, Sister Act Jr played to sell-out audiences every night. Read all about the incredible performances that blew us all away.

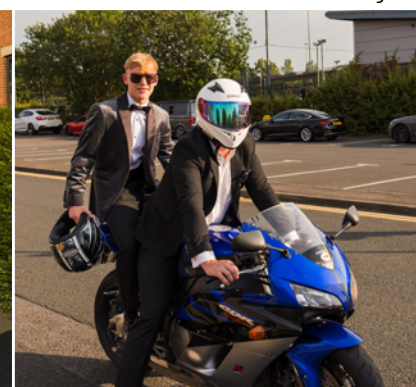
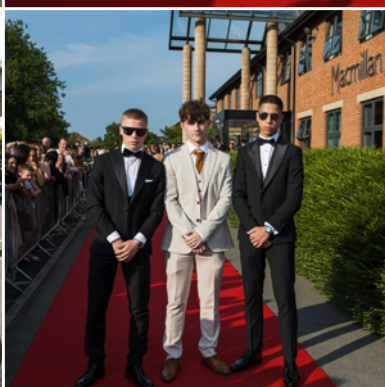
R&R SUCCESS - MR BALL

We are now 12 months into our Enhanced Recognition and Rewards Programme—and what a success it has been! Over the past year, we've celebrated the achievements of more than 1,000 students who have demonstrated outstanding effort and progress in their education. The programme includes a variety of exciting initiatives such as: departmental postcards, the enhanced Recognition Wall, celebration assemblies and the eagerly anticipated rewards trips. These initiatives have helped shine a spotlight on the hard work and dedication of our students, creating a culture of positivity and motivation across the school.

PROM - THE CLASS OF 2025



Nothing screams 'summer' more than the Year 11 Prom and this year, following the end of their GCSE exams, students were finally free to enjoy their special night. As is the tradition, students arrived in their stunning dresses and equally impressive suits, in a variety of modes of transport. With the sun shining, parents, friends, family and staff were on hand to witness the red-carpet arrivals, which was certainly an emotional time for all as they watched our wonderful young people transform from children to young adults. Once inside, students were treated to an amazing evening, with food, a live band, dancing and, of course, the much-anticipated Prom King and Queen awards. There really is no better way to end 5 years at the academy!



◀ PROM - THE CLASS OF 2025



DUKE OF EDINBURGH - BRONZE

After months of training, Year 9 students finally had the chance to take part in the Bronze expedition. What a fantastic couple of days it was! Teamwork, effort and perseverance were the order of the day. Students coped admirably well in the warm weather, but the views at sunset and sunrise were certainly worth all the hard work. Well done Year 9, your Silver award awaits!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH - BRONZE



DUKE OF EDINBURGH - SILVER

Another week, another Duke of Edinburgh achievement. This time, our silver participants threw themselves into the challenge of their expedition by camping, cooking and navigating their way around Kildale and Ullswater. The higher the qualification, the more difficult the challenge but our students rose to it magnificently.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH - SILVER



ACADEMY PRODUCTION -SISTER ACT JR



This year, our annual school production was 'Sister Act Jnr'. This included students from Year 7 through to Year 13 across the performing arts (drama, music, dance and art) and is always a highlight of the school year. Our fantastically talented students brought to life the popular film and stage show, with some exceptional solo, group and dance performances. Obviously, none of this could happen without the help of our backstage team of students and staff who were on hand to make sure each performance ran smoothly. The first performance was to a group of pupils from Archibald Primary School who were equally delighted to see the characters and story come to life. Well done to everyone involved, it was a fabulous show!





SPORTS DAY

Sports Day is an annual highlight on the academy calendar. The event gave our students the opportunity to demonstrate their athletic ability across a variety of track and field events. Competition between Years 7, 8 and 9 is always fierce and this year was no different! Tutor groups cheered their peers on, many waving fantastic home-made banners and flags. In fact, it was difficult to see who was more enthusiastic – the students or their tutors!

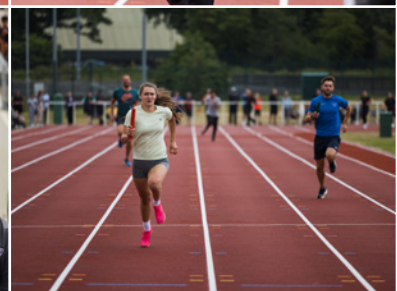
Year 7 winners : 7SCT

Year 8 winners: 8TAN

Year 9 Winners: 9ABL

Overall winners: 9ABL

As always, a fantastic day was had at Middlesbrough Sports Village.



ACADEMY

NEWS



SUMMER 2025
Year 8 Edition

SPORTS DAY



FRENCH EXCHANGE VISIT



On 3rd July, Macmillan Academy had the pleasure of welcoming students and staff from our French partner school, Catherine de Vivonne in Rambouillet, for a day of cultural exchange and collaboration.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity for students to meet their pen pals in person, strengthening the friendships they've been building through letters and messages.

The day was packed with engaging activities designed to encourage teamwork, communication, and the practical use of language skills.

Students from both schools were grouped together and took part in a wide range of lessons and workshops, including: science experiments, cooking sessions, English language games, art and music projects, PE challenges, design technology tasks and maths puzzles. These activities not only allowed students to explore different subjects but also gave them the chance to use French and English in real-life contexts, building confidence and cultural understanding. The atmosphere throughout the day was one of excitement, curiosity, and mutual respect. Both schools thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and it's safe to say the visit created lasting memories for everyone involved. We look forward to continuing this wonderful partnership and hope to host more exchange events in the future!



Macmillan Academy

YEAR 6 - TRANSITION WEEK

On Wednesday 9 July, the gates opened to over 250 Year 6 pupils as they embarked on their experience of Macmillan. Wide eyed with excitement, any nerves soon disappeared as the children found themselves busy making new friends whilst being introduced to new subjects and a whole different way of school life. Of course, school dinners are always a hot topic, with feedback being considerably favourable. In fact, at the Year 6 parents' meeting on Friday afternoon, Head of Year 7 Mr Smith commented that dinners were being raved about! We can't wait to welcome them all back in September as our new Year 7 intake.



ACADEMY

NEWS



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YEAR 6 - TRANSITION WEEK





MACMILLAN CHINA ADVENTURE



The Macmillan MEP Group recently returned from an unforgettable two-week cultural exchange in Beijing. Their journey began at Beijing Language and Culture University, where students took part in Mandarin lessons, Tai Chi Fan, and Chinese singing. All topped off with a traditional welcome dinner featuring roast duck.



Throughout the trip, students explored Chinese culture through hands-on activities like calligraphy, paper cutting, and mask painting. Highlights included a lively square dance with over 200 people, a visit to the Great Wall of China, and a dazzling acrobatics show.

The experience concluded with a visit to a local international school, where students connected with Chinese peers, exchanged gifts, and celebrated birthdays together. It was a journey filled with learning, laughter, and lasting memories — a true celebration of culture, connection and partnership. We hope to host more exchange events in the future!



Y10 MANDARIN STUDENTS VISIT LEEDS UNI



As part of their tourism project, our Year 10 Mandarin students visited Leeds University for a day of learning and celebration. They attended a lecture on China's 'one child policy' and heard a powerful personal story from author Shen Yang, who gifted the school a signed copy of her book *More Than One Child*.



Students also enjoyed cultural workshops and showcased their Chinese-language tourism videos. We're proud to share that our teams won awards for Best Teamwork and Most Creative, with a runner-up spot for Best Use of Chinese.

A fantastic day of learning, culture, and achievement!



LEAVERS ASSEMBLIES - YEAR 11



On Thursday 19 June, Year 11 students came together for their final assembly to celebrate the past five years at the academy. Accompanied by their tutors, students were treated to a look back at the many memories they have helped to create. Everything from sports events, to drama productions, outdoor education to exams, and everything in between, it was an afternoon of laughter and tears, not just from students. Staff were equally as emotional as they bade a fond farewell to a fantastic year group. Shirt signing outside finished off a truly memorable afternoon.

LEAVERS ASSEMBLIES - YEAR 13

Post 16 tutors and staff bade a fond farewell to our Year 13 students at the beginning of June. For some, it was the end of 7 years spent at the academy, whilst others, who joined from other schools two years ago, reflected on the time they spent in Post 16, making many new friends in the process. After all the hard work of A Level exams and BTEC coursework, celebrations began in earnest, with students enjoying a buffet lunch whilst listening to words of wisdom from their tutors, Mrs Scott and Mrs Turner. This was all rounded off by slices of the most amazing cake, baked by our very own Ms Harris in SEND!



SUMMER TERM CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES

At the end of every academic year, Years 7 to 10 take part in an assembly to celebrate the achievements of students and also to reflect on the past year. This year, students enjoyed looking back and reliving some of the exciting moments of the past three terms. The assembly is also a chance to celebrate and congratulate students on their achievements.



REWARDS & RECOGNITION WALL

The Recognition Wall is certainly hitting the spot! Over the past term, countless students have earned a place on the board as we celebrate outstanding work across subjects like English, geography, maths, and business. Teachers carefully select 25 to 30 exceptional pieces, recognising effort, creativity, and achievement. Students are then invited to collect a well-deserved certificate. Well done to all who have received this award so far in 2025—your dedication and hard work truly stand out!



◀ R&R CLUB ZERO - LOTS TO CELEBRATE



Have you heard of Club Zero? The students who were treated to a fantastic day at Level X in Middlesbrough certainly have! Macmillan Academy literally took over the whole of Level X, giving our deserving students a choice of activities such as bowling, crazy golf, go-karting and soft darts, with a few snacks thrown in to keep their energy levels up. If you manage to steer clear of negative behaviour points (NBP) all year, you're in Club Zero! Since the launch of our Recognition and Rewards programme, the number of students who have not had a NPB all year has gone up by a one-third. If you want to be in the Club next year, you know what to do!



A CATCH UP WITH HEAD OF YEAR



I can hardly believe we are coming to the end of another academic year and that the Year 8 cohort will soon be Year 9 students and starting their GCSE studies in English and mathematics. The summer term is always a busy time for our students with annual highlights such as the academy production and Sports Day always being dates to look out for on the academy calendar. The end of the academic year is also perfect opportunity to reflect on the progress our students have made during Year 8. It has been brilliant to honour these achievements through our Recognition and Rewards initiative in our end of year celebration assembly. I hope you enjoy our latest newsletter as chance to review the highlights of the summer term – we are already looking ahead to Year 9 – a significant year for students to choose their options for GCSE study. Thank you for your ongoing support throughout the academic year. Have a lovely summer!

YEAR 8 SPOTLIGHT



HOLLAND TOUR 2025

In the Easter holidays, 44 students and five staff travelled to Holland for a fantastic sports tour. including training with Feyenoord youth coaches (including an ex-player), matches against local teams, a tour of 'De Kuip' – Feyenoord's 50,000-seat stadium – and a fun day at Duinrell theme park. The tour was a huge success, with four wins from six games – including against older opposition. Our hosts were incredibly welcoming and helped make the experience unforgettable for our students.

U13 GIRLS - CRICKET SUCCESS

A huge congratulations to our talented U13 girls' cricket team, who were victorious in the North Yorkshire finals. After winning all their matches at Ampleforth College, they topped the table and then went on to represent the county in the Yorkshire finals!

Well done to the whole team, and a special thank you to Year 12 Sports student Charlie S. for his excellent coaching support.



YEAR 8

FOCUS



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YEAR 8 SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED...



TOWN CUP FINAL

Our Year 8s faced The King's Academy in the Town Cup Final at Rockliffe — and what a turnaround! After a tough 6-0 loss in our last outing against them, the A team came back stronger than ever and delivered a phenomenal performance to win 5-1! Well done, boys!

ROBOTICS DAY AT MACMILLAN ACADEMY

We were excited to host a Robotics Day presented by the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle.

A group of KS3 students took part in a variety of hands-on activities focused on robotics and programming. The session definitely sparked interest in the world of tech and innovation!

With careers in STEM in high demand, it's vital our students experience a wide range of opportunities to help them make informed decisions about their futures. This was a fantastic session, and we're proud of everyone who took part.



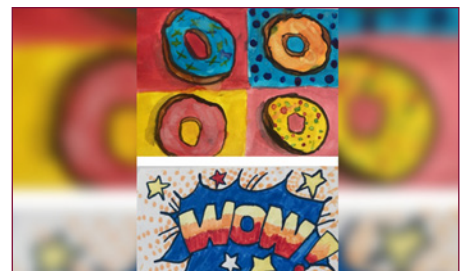
ETC CELEBRATION EVENING

Big shoutout to Kiki B (U13 Player of the Year) and Mary M (U13 ETC Values Award) at the Teesside ETC Celebration Evening!



OXFORD UNIVERSITY TALK

In June, over fifty students attended inspiring IntoUniversity workshops on options and memory for future success.



AOTW - DEBORAH O

Deborah went above and beyond expectations for a recent homework task, creating not one but two beautiful Pop Art-inspired pieces.

POST 16 OPEN EVENT - 09/10/2025

Post 16 has places available for September! We're proud to be one of the top-performing sixth forms in the North East. Changed your mind or still unsure? Get in touch — it's not too late!



YEAR 8

FOCUS



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YEAR 8 SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED...



ELLE MCNICHOLL VISIT

Earlier this month, Year 8 students had a fantastic talk delivered by Elle McNicholl author of 'A Kind of Spark'. All Year 8 students have read this novel as part of our tutor-led reading tutorial sessions. Tutors also nominated students for a creative writing workshop with Elle and she was extremely impressed by the quality of their writing.

THE CARNEGIE BOOK AWARDS

Year 8 students, including our student librarians have had a busy term with a number of celebratory events and visits. Students have been reading the novels shortlisted for the prestigious Carnegie award since March and in June had the opportunity to meet Matt Oldfield, one of the shortlisted authors. Later in the term, students held a celebration event to mark the announcement of the Carnegie award and have also had the opportunity to attend an event at Yarm School to share their thoughts on the nominated books.



RSC PLAYMAKING FESTIVAL

Year 8 students joined schools nationwide in the Royal Shakespeare Company's Associate Schools Programme. They performed Macbeth - a powerful story of ambition and fate. The project offered a transformative experience, helping students grow in confidence, creativity, and teamwork while exploring Shakespeare's work as professional actors do. Our Year 8 students were brilliant role models for the younger students they were working with from a mixture of primary schools across the town, providing a supportive environment for all students to thrive.



THE ENDEAVOUR FOUNDATION

Over the past year, the Endeavour Foundation has been supporting the work of our trust schools, including Macmillan. The foundation was set up to create an infrastructure for our 'Cradle to Career' model, support the work of our local convening partnerships and generate income which enables investment in our projects. The foundation is working to secure five outcomes for our pupils to ensure that they can thrive: Be safe and well supported, Be healthy, Achieve their potential, Achieve a positive destination & Build strong relationships. The foundation is focused on supporting a range of exciting innovations both in the academy and in our wider community. Its three work streams of health, families and futures seek to develop a collective impact approach to supporting our academy in forging more integrated provision of support for children and young people. You can see in 'Our Projects' some of the ways these groups have created meaningful impact for better outcomes and brighter futures.



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



02/09/25
BACK TO SCHOOL Y7 & 12



03/09/25
BACK TO SCHOOL Y8 - Y11



18/09/25
YEAR 5 & 6 OPEN EVENT



09/10/25
POST 16 OPEN EVENT



YEAR 7 TUTOR CHALLENGE



CHRISTMAS CONCERT