

# Macmillan Academy NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN 2025  
Year 8 Edition

## A NOTE FROM MRS CONING



Hello everyone,  
Welcome to our latest newsletter. It's been another busy and exciting term and I am so proud of everything our students and staff have been getting up to. The classrooms have been full of energy, new ideas and lots of hard work — it's been great to see.  
In this issue, you'll find plenty of highlights from recent projects, trips and events. Whether it's achievements in the classroom, on the sports field or within the community, our students continue to impress us every day.  
Thank you, as always, for your support at home. It makes such a difference, and we really appreciate it.  
I hope you enjoy catching up on what's been happening around the school. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. Best wishes, Mrs Coning (Headteacher)

## 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

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Macmillan Academy's Christmas Concert brought students, staff, and families together for an evening showcasing outstanding musical talent.

### ATTENDANCE UPDATE

An update on all things attendance based. 'Driving up attendance' how to win a free driving experience kindly gifted by Motif8.

### CARE HOME PERFORMANCE

Students spread Christmas cheer during a special visit to a local care home, performing carols and festive favourites that had residents singing along.

### ECO SQUAD UPDATE

Our Eco-Council celebrated the renewal of the Green Flag Award with distinction after completing a full environmental review across all ten focus areas.

### MAMMOET IN MATHS

Engineering experts from Mammoet delivered interactive workshops to Year 10 and Post-16 students, demonstrating how maths is applied to major global engineering projects.

### RECOGNITION & REWARDS

Celebrating success across all year groups, including our annual cinema rewards trip, Rewards and recognition trip and our very first Golden Ticket day.

### PIE & PEAS EVENT

Macmillan Academy hosted the Endeavour Foundation's first fundraising event, bringing staff and guests together for an evening highlighting the foundation's work.

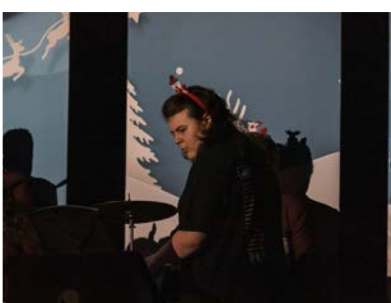
## CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tuesday 16th December - Macmillan Academy hosted its much loved Christmas Concert, bringing together students, staff, and families for an evening of music and celebration. From heartwarming solos and lively band performances to the grand finale featuring our staff ensemble, the event truly showcased the incredible talent within our academy.

Deputy Head Teacher, Mrs. Tumelty, shared her gratitude:

"Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this special evening. Our students have worked tirelessly, supported by our music department, technical team, and front-of-house staff. It's a joy to celebrate their hard work and creativity." In the spirit of giving, all funds raised from donations and refreshment sales will be donated to the Endeavour Foundation, supporting young people and families in Middlesbrough.

Thank you for helping us make this festive season brighter for our community. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!





# ACADEMY

## NEWS



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## CHRISTMAS CONCERT





## MUSIC STUDENTS PERFORM CARE HOME

Fresh from the success of the Christmas concert, Mr Wilson and the academy choir paid a visit to Parkville Care Home recently to spread some festive cheer amongst the residents and staff. It was heart warming to see that there was no divide between generations, simply love, kindness and joy, which is the true meaning of Christmas.





## ECO SQUAD UPDATE



Our Eco-Council proudly received the certificate and flag to celebrate our Green Flag Award renewal with distinction! As part of this achievement, the team has completed a full environmental review across all 10 Green Flag Award topics and identified ways to further improve our sustainability actions for this academic year. On Monday 17 November, we welcomed Lara Bell-Sayers from Living Woods North East to the academy. She met with our Eco-Council to discuss our Seeds2Trees project and explore potential careers in forestry and project management.



## MAMMOET IN MATHS

Mammoet, an international company with a local office in Teesside, is renowned for working on some of the world's largest engineering projects – from offshore wind farms to power grids and infrastructure at major ports. Recently, they brought their expertise into Macmillan Academy classrooms, delivering interactive sessions to our Post-16 and Year 10 maths students. The workshops focused on applying mathematical concepts to real engineering problems, reinforcing how essential these skills are in sectors that shape our future. Students tackled practical challenges, gaining insight into how maths underpins projects on a global scale.



Darren Lyall Lead - Resource development Project - Mammoet

"It's all about showing how maths connects to the real world. I hope these sessions help young people see that link and understand how maths is used in shaping career opportunities." We extend our thanks to Mammoet for their commitment to empowering young people and making learning relevant and exciting.

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

# GET IN THERE!



Joining our Reward Trip were 10 more students who have proven that above all – attendance matters! Whether this was by amassing a perfect attendance record across the Autumn term or making brilliant improvements in recent months all had one thing in common that they had got in, got involved and got learning!

Their success was of course matched by many other students across the academy who also made every effort to get in, get involved and get learning. 264 students attended school every day they possibly could since the beginning of September. Our '100%ers' were celebrated accordingly in our end of term assemblies. Finally we must also recognise the 757 students - over half of students across Years 7 to 11 who proudly possess an attendance record of 95% plus!

## DRIVING UP ATTENDANCE!

We're excited to announce that Motif8 is once again supporting our school attendance programme by donating Young Person Driving Sessions as a fantastic reward!

Here's how you can enter:

For every full week you attend school, you'll receive one ticket entry into our Big Summer Draw.

At the end of the summer term, two lucky winners will each win these amazing driving lessons!

Let's drive up attendance together – every day counts!

# GET IN THERE!

**Motif8** has kindly donated  
**driving experiences**

for young people

simply achieve **100% attendance** in a week  
to entered into the draw next term.





## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Each year, on the 11th of November at 11am, we pause to remember. This moment marks the anniversary of the end of the First World War in 1918, when the guns fell silent on the Western Front after more than four years of conflict. This year, a group of students visited Beamish Museum to record a special broadcast in honour of all those who have lost their lives in war and conflict. The broadcast was shared with all students across the school just before we held our traditional silence.

Thank you to the incredible team at Beamish for their support in helping us create such a moving and meaningful piece. Their collaboration helped bring history to life and gave our students a powerful platform to reflect, remember, and pay their respects.

It was a moment of unity, remembrance, and deep appreciation reminding us all why it's so important to pause and honour those who gave so much.





## POST 16 ALUMNI EVENT



Macmillan Academy Post 16 was delighted to welcome back former students from the 2023–2025 cohort for a festive alumni afternoon of Christmas drinks and nibbles, celebrating their achievements and hearing first-hand about life after Post 16.

The event brought together alumni now in their first term at university, on apprenticeships, or in employment, offering current staff the opportunity to catch up and hear inspiring stories about their adventures and successes since leaving Macmillan Post-16. Alumni generously shared insights into the transition beyond Post 16, reflecting on how their experiences have shaped their first steps into higher education and the workplace.

The afternoon also reinforced the strong sense of community and ongoing support that defines Macmillan Academy Post 16, highlighting the pride staff continue to feel in their students long after they have moved on to their next destinations.

Macmillan Academy Post 16 would like to thank all alumni who returned to share their journeys and wishes them continued success as they progress through their chosen pathways.



### SUMMER TERM CELEBRATION ASSEMBLIES



YEAR 7



YEAR 8



YEAR 9



YEAR 10



YEAR 11

As is now customary, the final week of term saw our Year 7 to Year 11 students come together for Rewards Assemblies.

It is a fantastic opportunity for Heads of Year to celebrate the achievements and successes of their Year groups.

From outstanding learning and exceptional performance to a wide range of recognitions, these assemblies are an excellent way to publicly acknowledge the hard work and dedication shown by so many students throughout the term.

A huge well done to everyone who was celebrated—you've made us proud!



## REWARDS & RECOGNITION WALL

Our Recognition and Rewards programme continues to grow, with even more incentives for students to aim for. From everyday learning celebrations with departmental postcards, to our 'Wall of Fame' the Recognition Wall and our end-of-term R&R trips, we're committed to celebrating hard work and dedication. As the programme becomes embedded into daily academy life, we're seeing students work harder and focus on putting as much effort as they can into different lessons, subjects and experiences.



**HEALTH & SOCIAL**



**ART**



**RELIGIOUS STUDIES**



**ENGLISH**



## R&R CINEMA TRIP



In the final week of term, 60 students were treated to a private cinema screening of the blockbuster film Zootopia 2. This special event gave students a fantastic morning off timetable to celebrate their hard work and dedication to learning. The trip was part of our Ready to Learn initiative, rewarding those who consistently demonstrated an excellent attitude. We selected the top student from each tutor group across all year groups—an incredible achievement!

## R&R GOLDEN TICKET DAY

This term marked our first-ever Golden Ticket Day, which showcased further student success. Extraordinary effort deserves to be celebrated, and that's exactly what we did on Friday, 28 November. Throughout the day, staff looked out for students who demonstrated genuine dedication to learning, whether through consistent focus, a positive attitude, or a willingness to challenge themselves. Those who went above and beyond were awarded a Golden Ticket.

A Golden Ticket is more than just recognition; it unlocks exclusive rewards designed to honour students who consistently give their best. It's our way of highlighting the power of hard work, resilience, and personal growth.

Congratulations to everyone who earned a Golden Ticket – we are super proud of you.

We're also thrilled to announce the winners of our special prize draw:



## PRIZE DRAW WINNERS

### SUMMER R&R TRIP:

GABIJA K – TICKET 20  
FREDDIE L – TICKET 18  
TOMMY W – TICKET 11  
DEXTER C – TICKET 19  
ELLIOT H – TICKET 18

### AMAZON VOUCHERS:

JOE W – TICKET 8  
DANIEL P – TICKET 10



# ACADEMY

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## R&R GOLDEN TICKET DAY





# YEAR 8

## FOCUS



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### A CATCH UP WITH HEAD OF YEAR



The first term of Year 8 at Macmillan Academy has been a very positive start to the academic year. Students have settled well into routines and are showing growing confidence, maturity, and enthusiasm for their learning. Throughout the term, students have engaged well in lessons, building on the foundations from Year 7.

We have seen strong effort, increasing independence, and positive behaviour, all of which have helped to create a calm and focused learning environment. Beyond the classroom, students have enjoyed taking part in enrichment activities, assemblies, and wider opportunities that support personal development.

Their achievements were celebrated through our Recognition and Rewards initiative during the end-of-term celebration assembly. As the term comes to an end, we wish all Year 8 students a well-earned break and extend our best wishes to you and your families for a happy Christmas and a healthy New Year. We are proud of the progress students have made and look forward to supporting their continued development throughout the year.

Thank you to parents and carers for your ongoing support.

Mr Weighell

### YEAR 8 SPOTLIGHT



#### INDOOR CRICKET SUCCESS - U13 BOYS

Our U13 A and B boys' cricket teams kicked off their Middlesbrough Schools indoor league at UCA.

The B team put in a strong first-ever performance, bowling just four wides and showing real promise with the bat, including Amaar's 11\* and Tommy's first competitive six.

The A team followed with excellent bowling and fielding, restricting UCA to 56 thanks to wickets from Devon and Sayed and two great catches from Sam. Steady batting from Freddie (15 retired), Sam, Muhammad and Rahim saw us home with eight balls to spare.

#### ARTIST OF THE WEEK

Proving that art and creativity don't always come from a pencil or paintbrush, our latest artist of the week has combined cooking skills with pumpkin carving for his Year 8 'Scary Bird' homework. Toby M in Year 8 created this imaginative and skilful response to the half-term homework task, and we think he's done a fantastic job. Well done, Toby!





# YEAR 8

## FOCUS



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### YEAR 8 SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED...



#### 3T TRAINING SERVICES SESSION

Year 8 students visited 3t Training Services for a morning, exploring careers and meeting employers from the renewable sector, learning about hydrogen, carbon capture, wind turbines and clean energy. It was fascinating to discover so many opportunities on Teesside.

#### STEM ROADSHOW 2025

Year 7 and 8 students took part in an exciting and thought-provoking session from the STEM Roadshow, delivered by BAE Systems, the Royal Air Force, and the Royal Navy.

This year's theme focused on Artificial Intelligence and the future of careers in STEM. Students explored how AI is transforming industries — from robotics to defence — and were introduced to Lexi, the AI-powered robot dog!



#### JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS

Well done to Layla who competed in the English Closed judo Championships with an impressive 3rd place.



#### U14 GIRLS NATIONAL CUP

Our Under 14 girls team faced Sedgefield in the second round of the National Cup and came away with an incredible 19-0 victory.



#### AOTW - TOBY

Toby M in Year 8 created this imaginative and skilful response to the half-term homework task, and we think he's done a fantastic job.

### POST 16 OPEN MORNING - 14/02/2026

Join us at Macmillan Academy's Post-16 Open Evening to explore our sixth form provision, meet subject specialists, and speak with current students about life beyond Year 11.





# YEAR 8

## FOCUS



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### YEAR 7 SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED...



#### KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS WORKSHOP

Students were joined at the academy by Middlesbrough Football Club Foundation, in partnership with surgeons from the NHS, to deliver workshops for young people focused on raising awareness around knife crime. The workshop was interactive and educational in supporting young people to remain safe and understand the consequences and impacts. A highlight for students was the role play involving stopping someone's leg from bleeding out.

#### ALCOHOL AWARENESS WORKSHOP

Students took part in Smashed, an interactive alcohol awareness session delivered by Collingwood Learning. Through a powerful drama performance and discussion, students explored the impact of underage drinking, reflected on the consequences of choices, and even redirected scenes to promote positive decision-making. The session proved to be a valuable and engaging learning experience.





# YEAR 8

## FOCUS



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### YEAR 8 SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED...

#### SPORTS TEAMS SUCCESS UPDATE

It has been a busy start to the year for our Y8 sports teams, representing the academy in football, rugby, and indoor cricket. This term brings sports hall athletics, cross country, and more indoor cricket. December also features key football cup fixtures, with the B team meeting Hurworth on the 5th in the ESFA Cup and the A team hosting Egglecliffe on the 10th in the county cup. A reminder that attendance at Monday night enrichment is required for team selection.





## ENDEVAOUR FOUNDATION PIE & PEAS QUIZ

On Wednesday, 10th December, Macmillan Academy proudly hosted the Endeavour Foundation's inaugural fundraising event. Phil Latham, CEO of Endeavour Academies Trust, warmly welcomed staff and guests, sharing inspiring updates on projects delivered over the past year across the foundation's three key strands: families, health, and futures. The evening featured a lively quiz hosted by Harvey Hall, a former student now studying Mathematics at Durham University. Guests enjoyed a delicious pie and pea supper between quiz rounds and took part in a raffle with fantastic prizes. A huge thank you to everyone who attended and supported this special event – your contributions help make a real difference!



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



**05/01/26**  
**ACADEMY RE OPENS**



**19/01/2026**  
**YEAR 8 OUTWARD BOUND**



**21/01/26**  
**JOBS FAIR**



**14/03/26**  
**POST 16 OPEN MORNING**



**20/02/26**  
**CLOSED FOR HALF TERM**



**24/03/26**  
**HIGHER IDEAS EXCHANGE**