

September 2024



Armthorpe
Academy
FOUNDED 1878

MONTHLY UPDATE

Headteachers Welcome

Dear Parents, Carers

Welcome back! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges of the new school year.

As we start this academic year, I want to set the tone for what we will achieve together. At our school, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards in everything we do. From the classroom to extracurricular activities, we expect nothing less than your best. Whether it's your effort, attitude, or contribution to the school community, excellence should be your goal.

Great behaviour will be at the heart of our success. We expect everyone to demonstrate respect, responsibility, and kindness—towards each other and towards our shared environment. These values not only create a positive learning atmosphere but also help shape the kind of future we want for every one of you.

Outstanding attendance is another key focus for us. Being present every day means being fully engaged in learning, so I encourage you to prioritise this. Every lesson missed is a missed opportunity, and together we will ensure that everyone has the best chance to succeed.

Lastly, we have high expectations for your child's academic results. With the dedication of our incredible staff and your hard work, I know we can achieve amazing things. Aim high, stay focused, and let's work together to make this a year full of accomplishments.

I am confident that, with the support of our staff and your families, we will continue to thrive as a community, ensuring every student reaches their full potential.

Let's make this year the best one yet!

Warm regards,
David Bisley
Headteacher

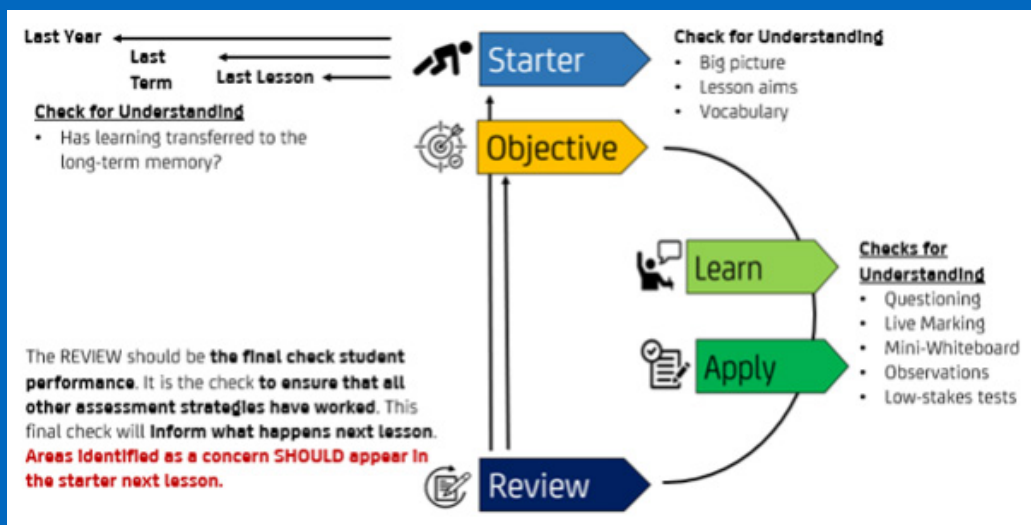
Teaching and Learning Update

As we progress through this half term, we want to take the opportunity to share with you how teaching and learning at Armthorpe Academy is being shaped through our new SOLAR Learning Cycle. This structured approach helps ensure that your child receives consistent, high-quality education across all subjects.

What is SOLAR?

The SOLAR Learning Cycle stands for Starter, Outcome, Learn, Apply, Review. This cycle is now being used throughout the Academy to provide a clear and structured way of delivering lessons, making sure that learning is embedded and assessed effectively.

Here's a breakdown of how it works:



This half term, we've focused on improving two key areas to enhance the Quality of Education:

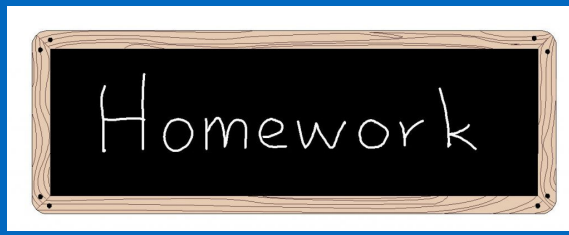
- Student Application of Learning: We are ensuring that students can apply what they have learned effectively to improve their outcomes.
- Teacher Assessment: Our goal is to make sure that students are progressing in their knowledge, understanding, and skills. This is achieved through various strategies, including low-stakes quizzes, questioning, and live marking.

How Assessment Works:

At Armthorpe Academy, we use a combination of formative and summative assessment to monitor and support student progress. Formative assessments include regular, low-stakes retrieval tasks, while summative assessments help us evaluate overall understanding. These strategies are designed to make sure your child knows more, remembers more, and can do more over time.

In addition to these approaches, our SUN Model for marking and feedback ensures that students receive constructive and timely feedback on their key assignments. This model highlights their strengths and guides them on how to improve.

We are confident that the SOLAR Learning Cycle will have a significant positive impact on your child's learning experience, and we look forward to continuing to support their progress throughout the year.



Homework plays a crucial role in supporting classroom learning, developing independent study skills, and preparing students for their GCSEs. Here's an overview of what you can expect for your child this year:

1. **Quality Over Quantity:** We focus on meaningful, high-quality tasks that reinforce key learning without overwhelming students. Homework is designed to deepen understanding, not just to keep students busy.

2. **Time Management:** To ensure homework is manageable, students in Years 7-9 will have 15 minutes per subject, every two weeks. For older students in Years 10-11, this increases to 30 minutes. Homework is assigned in line with a clear timetable, ensuring that students have enough time to complete it without being overburdened.

Key Stage 3:			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
English 15 mins	Sparx Maths 30 mins	Science 15 mins	Geography 15 mins
Reading Wise 30 mins		History 15 mins	Language Nut MFL 15 mins

Key Stage 4:			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
English 30 mins	Sparx Maths 30 mins	Science 30 mins	Option 3 30 mins
Reading Wise 30 mins	Option 1 30 Mins	Option 2 30 mins	

3. **Feedback and Support:** Teachers will provide timely feedback to help students understand their strengths and address any misconceptions. Self and peer assessments are also encouraged to promote student reflection on their work.

4. **Independent and Project-Based Homework:** In the first two terms, homework will focus on current learning (such as reading, maths, and science tasks). In Term 3, students will undertake exciting project-based homework, which allows them to explore topics in greater depth, such as creating articles in English or building a time capsule in History.

5. **Online Platforms:** We use a variety of platforms to assign and complete homework, including Sparx maths, LanguageNut for modern languages, and ReadingWise. This ensures a structured and accessible way for students to engage with their work. All students now have their logins for these online platforms, should your child not be able to login please email their Student Support Officer in the first instance.

6. **Parental Support:** While students are encouraged to complete homework independently, we value your role in providing a positive study environment at home. Your support is vital in ensuring your child establishes a healthy homework routine. Should you have any questions or would like support please do get in touch with us.

By focusing on quality, independent learning, and constructive feedback, we aim to ensure that homework at Armthorpe Academy enriches your child's learning experience and ensures that they know more and remember more.

MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Excellent Attendance at Armthorpe

We wrote to you before the Summer highlighting the importance of good attendance and we are delighted to report that students at Armthorpe have made an excellent start to the year! We are currently 2.5% higher as a school than we were at the same time last year which is a fantastic effort from both students and their parents/carers – thank you for your support!

Improving movement around school and Y7 toilets

The number of students attending Armthorpe has been steadily increasing – we currently have 700 students on roll which is nearly 100 more than this time last year. As a result of the extra student numbers, there are times during the school day where the corridors can become crowded – this is reflected in our student voice with students also highlighting the problems that can sometimes occur. To improve movement around school, from Monday we will be introducing a one-way system in the New Block. A single set of stairs will take students up and likewise, a single set of stairs will be used to go down – this will stop any crossing and the inevitable pushing and jostling that can occur.

In addition to this, Year 7 students will now have their own separate toilets in the PE changing rooms that they will have sole use of from Monday. This again will ease the pressure on the number of students wanting to visit during break time.

Assembly topics

This half term our assemblies have focused on student safety and preparing them for the world of work. We have looked at key safeguarding topics such as E-Safety, Sexual Assault and Sexual Violence. In addition to this, our assembly topics this half term are careers, Black History month, Protected characteristics, Anti Bullying and we will finish in the final week by reflecting on the excellent start to the year that pupils have made

Uniform Reminder

As a reminder, if a student is choosing to wear a skirt, black tights must be worn at all times. Skirts should be between a student's knee and the mid-point of their thigh – any student attending school without tights and/or a skirt that doesn't meet these criteria will be placed into Supervised Learning until replacement items can be sourced. These expectations are part of our continued drive to raise standards and increase the professional expectations of our student body, whilst at the same time maintaining their safety and dignity. In addition to this, we would like to remind you that “leggings” are not part of our uniform – students arriving at school in leggings will be asked to either place a skirt over the leggings and if no suitable skirt can be provided, they will be placed into Supervised Learning until the issue is resolved.

Pupil Premium



During the 1st month of the academic year, we have been busy laying the foundations for an exciting and successful year for our pupil premium pupils and families. All of our Y11 students have now been allocated an academic mentor and these mentors are there to support our students through their GCSE year by offering academic and wellbeing advice. The programme was very successful last year, with the average grade increasing by nearly 1 whole grade between the appointment of the mentors and the GCSE exams, therefore we are very excited for what this year will hold.

We hosted our very 1st dedicated parent forum for our PP families and it also gave us the opportunity to raise money for McMillan Cancer. The forum gave families the opportunity to listen to the plans for the coming year as well as the many opportunities that will be on offer for all PP students. It also allowed us to launch our attendance incentive program, which was very well received and the full information will be sent out to all PP families in the coming days. Our next forum will be on November 28th 4-6pm, where we will be addressing the questions raised in the first forum, as well as offering all families the opportunity to ask further questions. More information with regards to the evening will be sent out in the next week or 2, but please contact Craig Fox if you need further information at Craig.Fox@consilium-at.com



The start of this academic year has been a very busy one for the special educational needs department at Armthorpe Academy. We have spent a lot of time welcoming our new Year 7 students and helping them to get settled into their new setting and the differences between primary and secondary school.

We have also welcomed back our Year 8 – Year 11 students following the summer break. We have started supporting our Year 11 students in their applications to their preferred post-16 provision to ensure that they have everything they need to be successful in their next steps.

We are continuing to work with staff across the academy to support them in getting to know students and building positive relationships with them so that they can flourish during their time at the academy.

We are focussing on developing students extended writing so that they are able to showcase the excellent ideas that we see from them in discussions, replicated on the page. The students have been settling in well to their new year groups and their ability to identify issues they are having and communicate these to us, so we can best support them, is developing all of the time. This skill of self-advocacy is a real focus for us to ensure that students can express their needs and wants to people in a range of settings.

This is something we will be continuing to focus on throughout this academic year. We feel that these two skills will really stand our students in good stead as they move both through the academy and into the wider world.



ANTI BULLYING



Armthorpe Academy as the hosting school welcomed both primary and secondary schools from around the country to take part in a 2 day Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme. This event was attended by a large number of other secondary schools on day 1 and primary schools on day 2, some schools travelling from Scarborough and Burnley! The event was a huge success with visitors really impressed with the calm and purposeful nature at our academy..

This programme equips students and staff with the tools needed to tackle bullying behaviour head on, transform our school's approach to anti-bullying and create a safer, kinder school community. The Programme is youth-led, with our students leading their anti-bullying campaign as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

Our ambassadors worked hard throughout, engaging well and taking away valuable skills to support their peers.

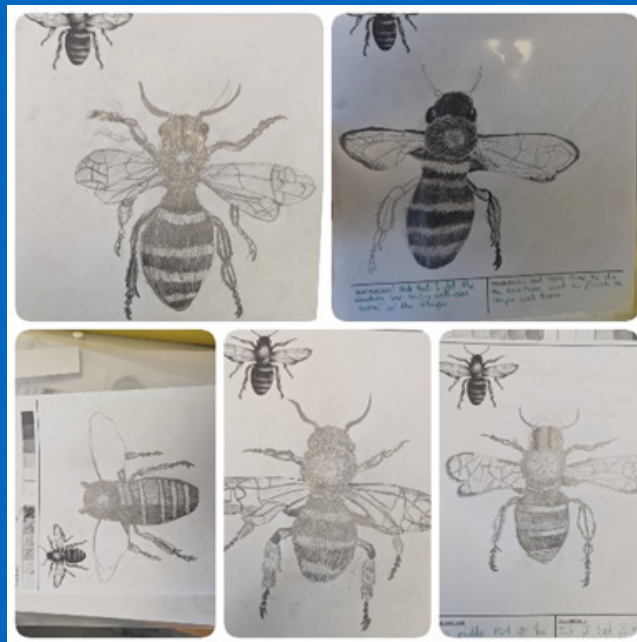


Creative & Performing Arts

We are delighted to share that the first month back to school in the Creative and Performing Arts subjects has been an overwhelming success. Students have returned with a renewed sense of energy and enthusiasm, diving straight into their artistic endeavours with creativity and dedication.

In Art & Photography, students have been exploring new techniques and materials, producing impressive work that will soon be displayed around the school.

In Music, both individual talent and group performances have blossomed, with many students showcasing their skills during class presentations and extracurricular activities.



Drama lessons have been filled with excitement, as students have embraced character work and storytelling with confidence. Students are mastering Dance choreography and working collaboratively to create dynamic routines.

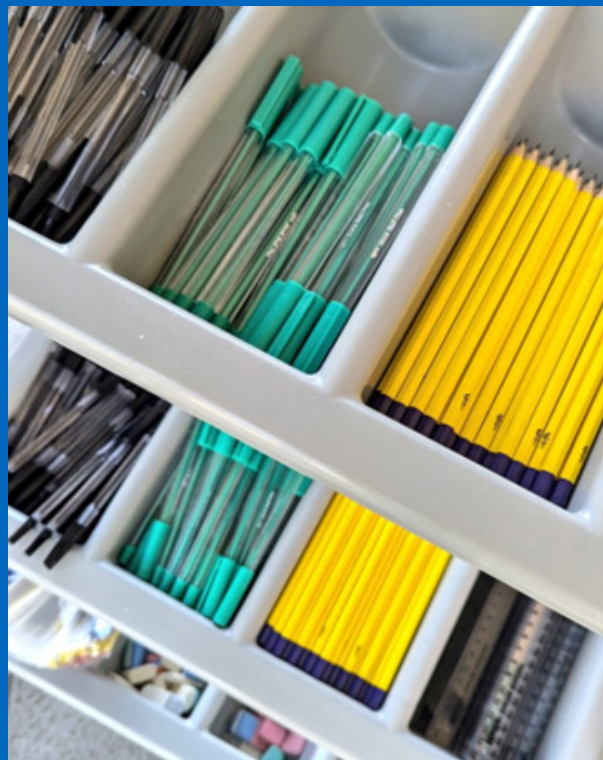
We're also excited to announce the re-introduction of KS3 Cooking practical lessons this term. These lessons will provide students with essential cooking skills and knowledge about healthy eating. Parents, please keep an eye out for shopping lists that your child will bring home before their practical cooking lessons, as they will need ingredients for the recipes they'll be preparing in class.

BRAND NEW!!!!

SCHOOL EQUIPMENT SHOP

We are excited to announce the launch of the brand-new School Equipment Shop for this academic year! Open before school, during breaktime, and after school, the shop offers students a convenient and affordable way to purchase essential supplies.

- With pens and pencils available for just 5p each, and rulers and rubbers priced at 20p, it's never been easier to stay equipped for success in class. Whether students need to grab something quickly before lessons or restock during break, our shop is here to ensure they're always prepared for the school day.



CAREERS AND BEYOND

ARMTHORPE ACADEMY

CHARLOTTE.LAKE@CONSILIUM-AT.COM.

During the 1st month of the academic year, there have been a number of developments in the implementation of our new careers offer here at Armthorpe. This has involved working alongside a number of outside agencies, alongside developing our in school careers offer. Staff across the school are working tirelessly to implement careers education and opportunities to discuss future options into their every day lessons and how what is studied across curriculum areas, links to life beyond Armthorpe academy.

All year 11 students will begin to receive individual careers interviews with our newly employed careers advisor whom will be joining us towards the end of this half term. We are happy to extend the invite to these interviews to our parents, and if this is something you are keen to do, please contact charlotte.lake@consilium-at.com , to be informed about the date that your child is scheduled to complete their session. As part of this interview, pupils will be provided with a personal careers development plan, which will outline what has been discussed and potential next steps. This is a document that can be taken home and will be invaluable to providing prompts for discussions around pupils next steps in education, employment or training at home.

All year groups have been scheduled to take part in a higher education workshop led by staff from Sheffield universities in order to develop links with higher education for our students. The first of these sessions is due to take place for year 9 on the 25th October. This particular session is designed to discuss the options process and making decisions around life after Armthorpe, and developing skills that will enable pupils to be able to make these decisions effectively.

KS3 students are also receiving weekly tutor “job of the week” tutorials and half termly assemblies which link to areas of employment in the local area, but also, skills and characteristics that can be developed in order to prepare pupils for their next stages in education and employment. This is designed to help our learners prepare to be leavers. As always, we value your feedback and input into all of our school initiatives and are keen to work with our families further with regard to our careers provision in school. Should you wish to contact the school regarding Careers and life beyond Armthorpe specifically, please contact charlotte.lake@consilium-at.com .





ReadingWise

The English and Literacy team are excited to introduce a new initiative at our school: the Reading Wise programme. This innovative reading programme is designed to enhance our students' vocabulary and accelerate their ability to comprehend and decode words across all subjects.

Reading Wise provides all students with access to a comprehensive vocabulary programme that supports their learning journey. The programme is tailored to help students improve their reading skills, which are crucial for academic success in every subject area.

To ensure the effectiveness of this programme, we expect each student to complete 30 minutes of independent work on Reading Wise every week. This consistent practice will help reinforce their learning and enable them to make significant progress in their reading abilities.

We believe that Reading Wise will be a valuable resource for our students, helping them to build a strong foundation in literacy that will benefit them throughout their education. We appreciate your support in encouraging your child to engage with this programme and complete their weekly reading tasks.

We are also thrilled to announce the launch of Pursued by Bear, a brand-new podcast designed specifically for Year 11 English Literature students. This innovative podcast aims to make your literature revision more engaging and effective, providing you with the tools and insights needed to excel in your studies.

Pursued by Bear will feature a series of episodes covering key texts, themes, and literary techniques that are part of the Year 11 curriculum and is available on; Spotify Amazon, and Apple services for free for our students.





Armthorpe Academy's

Year 5 & Year 6

OPEN EVENING

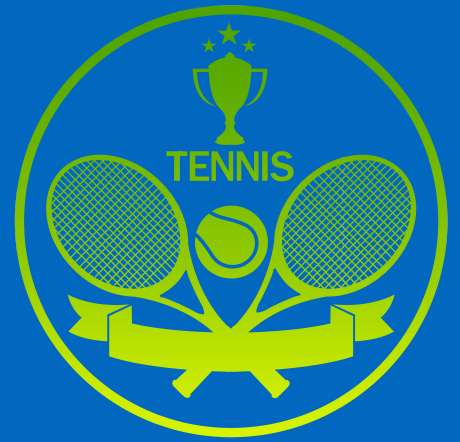
Thursday 10th October 16.30 – 19.00

Headteacher Welcome 16.45 & 18.00

Explore our facilities, meet our amazing staff and students.

Register your interest by scanning the QR code.





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NEWSLETTER
COMING
NEXT WEEK!!

