



A Message from our Head Teacher

Dear Parents, Carers

As we approach the festive season, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been an incredibly busy and rewarding term. Throughout this newsletter, you will see just some of the highlights from the past months, showcasing the hard work and achievements of both our students and staff.

This term, we have placed a significant focus on careers education, with students from Years 7 to 11 engaging in a variety of activities designed to inspire and inform their future aspirations. We are proud of our students' enthusiasm and commitment during these sessions.

In the lead-up to January, I'd like to remind families of some important expectations to ensure a smooth start to the new term. While we understand that students may receive new trainers, jewellery and mobile phones for Christmas, please remember that these items should not be brought into school. Students are required to be in full school uniform, with only one pair of stud earrings permitted for health, safety, and security reasons. Mobile phones must remain switched off and kept securely in bags during the school day.

This term has also seen the successful implementation of our new achievement system. It has been fantastic to recognise and reward students for their hard work and dedication through reward cards, praise postcards, weekly prize draws and our end-of-term awards assembly. We also brought back our 12 Days of Christmas initiative, which brought festive cheer to the school while celebrating students' efforts and achievements with daily prizes and surprises.

We are thrilled with the positive impact these reward initiatives have had on our school community and look forward to building on this momentum in the new year.

As we prepare for another busy and exciting term, I want to thank you for your continued support. On behalf of everyone at the school, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Miss N Palmer
Head Teacher

Miss Palmer

Term Dates 2025-2026

Below are the confirmed term dates for next Academic Year.

Autumn Term 2025

Monday 1st September	Training Day
Tuesday 2nd September	Planning Day
Wednesday 3rd September	School opens to students
Friday 24th October	School closes to students
Monday 3rd November	School reopens to students
Thursday 18th December	School closes to students at 1pm.
Friday 19th December	Training Day

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5th January	Planning Day
Tuesday 6th January	School reopens to students
Friday 13th February	School closes to students
Monday 23rd February	School reopens to students
Friday 13th March	Training Day
Friday 27th March	School closes to students at 1pm.

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13th April	Planning Day
Tuesday 14th April	School reopens to students
Monday 4th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 22nd May	School closes to students
Monday 1st June	School open to students
Friday 18th July	Training Day
Monday 20th July	Training Day

*Students should not attend school on training or planning days.

Student of the Month Celebrations

We are thrilled to announce the recipients of our Student of the Month awards for this term:

September: Freddie H. (Year 7) and Rahib H. (Year 7)

October: McKenzie H. (Year 9) and Isaac N. (Year 7)

November: Ally C (Year 8) and Lincoln S (Year 9)

These awards, presented by the Head Teacher, celebrate students who uphold and live out the core values that make our school community strong. These awardees are proudly displayed on our Student of the Month board for everyone to see.

As a special recognition, all students who earn this accolade throughout the year will be invited to a celebratory lunch with the Head Teacher at the end of the school year.

A huge well done to all our amazing students – keep up the great work!

Celebrating Student Success

Weekly rewards and recognition

At The Hyndburn Academy, we believe that celebrating positive behaviour and attendance is essential to fostering a culture of achievement and respect. To honour our students' commitment to excellence, we've introduced exciting weekly rewards that recognise those who consistently uphold our school values.

The Spin to Win: Rewarding Zero Behaviour Points and Perfect Attendance

Each week during the Head Teacher's briefing, we celebrate students who have achieved zero behaviour points and/or maintained 100% attendance. These exemplary students have their names added to the "Wheel of Fortune," a fun and interactive way to select our weekly winners. The lucky students whose names are drawn receive an Amazon voucher, a token of appreciation for their outstanding effort and consistency. It's always thrilling to see the excitement and anticipation as the wheel spins!



VIP Treatment for Excellence in Focused Departments

In addition to the Wheel of Fortune, we shine a spotlight each week on a specific department, such as English, Science, or Art. Teachers in the highlighted department nominate students who have demonstrated exceptional performance, enthusiasm, or improvement in their subject. These chosen students are awarded a VIP voucher, granting them exclusive access to the coveted VIP booth during lunchtime.

The VIP booth is a specially designated area where students can relax with their friends and enjoy a variety of treats in recognition of their hard work. This unique experience not only celebrates individual achievement but also fosters a sense of community and motivation among peers.



Rudolph Recognition

We spread a little extra cheer with our *Rudolph Recognition!* This special initiative celebrated 12 outstanding students who have truly gone above and beyond in embodying the spirit and values of our academy.

These 12 students were called forward to receive their well-deserved festive gift bags. Each student was selected personally by the Headteacher for a variety of reasons, including their continuous dedication to the academy, exemplary behaviour or impressive progress over the past term.

The gift bags were brimming with festive treats and surprises, including:

- 🎫 Two cinema tickets – one for the recipient and one for a friend, to share in the fun!
- 🍫 A selection box – to sweeten the season.
- 🎁 A mystery prize – with some lucky bags containing VIP passes, front-of-the-queue passes, or Amazon vouchers.

The *12 Days of Christmas Rudolph Recognition* is our way of highlighting the incredible efforts and contributions of students who make our academy a better place every day. It's also a reminder of the importance of kindness, perseverance, and celebrating each other's successes as we close out another school year.





BAE Systems STEM Roadshow Inspires Students

The Hyndburn Academy recently hosted the BAE Systems STEM Roadshow, in collaboration with the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy. This interactive event highlighted the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and the career opportunities they provide.

Part of an annual Schools Roadshow that has reached over 1 million students, the program featured engaging demonstrations and activities aligned with the national curriculum. It made complex STEM topics accessible and showcased real-world applications, sparking students' interest in fields like aerospace and naval engineering.

Staff praised the event for inspiring students and energizing their interest in STEM careers.

The Roadshow continues to play a vital role in encouraging young minds to explore STEM pathways.

SEND Careers Coffee Morning

Our SEND Careers Coffee Morning was a valuable opportunity for parents and carers to meet further education providers. This event offered insights into the post-16 support available to students, ensuring families are well-informed about resources to help them navigate this critical transition.



Year 11: Onward & Upward Programme

Year 11 students participated in the *Onward & Upward Programme*, guided by Mrs. Ross and Enterprise Advisor Jill Stazicker. Onward Homes provided an engaging company overview, detailing apprenticeships and career paths. Students explored various departments, including Neighbourhood, Repairs, and the Contact Centre, learning how these teams collaborate to ensure resident satisfaction. The highlight? A visit to an Onward Estate, where students witnessed sustainability initiatives in action, deepening their understanding of eco-friendly housing.





Business Insights into James Place

Year 11 Travel and Business Studies students had an educational day visiting Holmes Mill, discovering how James' Places operates. From analysing customer bases to brainstorming marketing strategies, students worked on real-world event ideas and enjoyed a tour of the facilities. The day also included a surprise bowling session, lunch at the nearby castle and a museum visit.

Inspiring High Achievers

Year 7 HAPS: A VIP Experience at Burnley College

Our Year 7 High Achieving Pupils (HAPS) had an exceptional opportunity to visit Burnley College for an exclusive VIP experience. The students explored the college's cutting-edge facilities, gaining firsthand insight into the advanced learning environment. A highlight of the visit was tackling an engaging VR challenge, which allowed the students to delve into the exciting possibilities of virtual reality technology.



Adding to the enriching experience, Shamrez, a former student, joined the group to share his inspirational journey from high school to college. His motivational talk encouraged the pupils to aim high, seize opportunities, and envision a bright academic future. The Q&A session further provided the students with valuable insights into college life and subjects, leaving them motivated and informed.

Year 8 and 9 HAPS: Higher Education Adventure

Year 8 and 9 High Achieving Pupils will take the next step in their educational journey with a visit to the University Centre at Accrington & Rossendale College. This event aimed to introduce students to the world of higher education and inspire them to aspire to university-level studies.

The visit included a comprehensive introduction to university life, an engaging degree workshop, and a guided tour of the campus. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a Q&A session, where they asked about degree programs, student life and the pathway to achieving their academic and career goals.



This experience was designed to empower our young achievers to dream big and work toward their future success.

Public Services Insight Day

Year 9 students attended an exciting event at Blackburn College hosted by the Public Services department. They explored the roles and responsibilities within the Uniformed Services through a range of activities led by the Royal British Legion, Lancashire Constabulary, Armed Forces, and Royal Navy. This hands-on experience offered a fascinating look into potential career paths in public service.

Innovation at Teen Tech: Preston Hospital

Students recently participated in the Teen Tech innovation hack at Preston Hospital. Guided by NHS technology experts, they brainstormed ideas for the future of healthcare and explored cutting-edge technologies used in the sector. The event was an inspiring experience, encouraging creativity and highlighting the intersection of technology and healthcare.

T-Level Taster Day

Health and Social Care students attended a T-Level Taster Day, where they explored this exciting educational pathway. The day provided an opportunity to learn about the curriculum, engage in practical activities and discover how T-Levels can lead to meaningful career opportunities in health and social care.

This term's events have been a wonderful opportunity for students to explore their interests and build a vision for their futures. We are proud of their enthusiasm and growth and look forward to even more inspiring activities in the future!



Students Hooked on Learning at Friday Fishing Sessions

Cornfield Fishery in Burnley is captivating students with its Friday Fishing sessions, a unique educational initiative that blends the art of fishing with lessons in patience, environmental stewardship, and community connection.

Every Friday, students are invited to swap their screens for fishing rods and enjoy an engaging experience at the serene Cornfield Fishery. The sessions teach the fundamentals of fishing, including rod handling, baiting, and catch-and-release practices, while fostering a deeper appreciation for conservation and the natural world.

More than just a fishing lesson, Friday Fishing provides an opportunity for students to develop teamwork, build confidence and promote mental well-being. The tranquil environment offers a welcome escape from the demands of school life, helping participants develop focus and perseverance.

"Our goal is to create a space where young people can learn valuable skills while forming a connection with nature," said Youth Support Worker, Mr Ashton. "Fishing teaches patience, resilience and the importance of caring for our environment."



Students Step into the Ring at Clayton Amateur Boxing Club

Students are putting on their gloves and stepping into the ring as part of an exciting weekly enrichment program at Clayton Amateur Boxing Club. The initiative offers young people a unique opportunity to build fitness, discipline, and self-confidence through the sport of boxing.

Each week, students participate in professionally guided training sessions, learning fundamental boxing techniques such as stance, footwork and punches. Beyond the physical aspect, the program emphasizes discipline, respect and perseverance - qualities that are valuable both in and out of the ring.

"Boxing is more than a sport; it's about personal growth and building character," said one of the club's experienced coaches. "We focus on teaching the students to respect themselves, their peers, and the commitment it takes to improve."

The program has sparked such enthusiasm that many students have now joined the club outside of school hours, keen to further develop their skills and passion for boxing. Others are enjoying the sport recreationally in their own time, finding it a fun and rewarding way to stay active and focused.

Exploring the Outdoors with Forest School Sessions

Students have been embracing the great outdoors through an engaging Forest School initiative led by Forest School leader Jo Outdoors. These hands-on sessions provide a unique opportunity for students to learn essential life skills while connecting with nature in a fun and interactive way.

Each session focuses on outdoor safety, practical first aid and essential survival skills like building campfires, practicing fire safety and constructing shelters. Under Jo's expert guidance, students have not only learned how to responsibly manage a fire but also enjoyed the delicious rewards of their efforts—making s'mores and toasting marshmallows around the campfire!

This activity encourages teamwork, creativity and problem-solving while providing practical lessons in outdoor survival.



Students Lead the Way on Outdoor Education Day

Students recently came together for an inspiring *Outdoor Education Day*, taking ownership of unused areas around the school and transforming them into spaces that will benefit the entire school community in the future.

With participants from every year group, the event was a true collaboration, showcasing the creativity, teamwork and determination of the students. Each group was tasked with reimagining and revitalizing a specific area of the school grounds, turning neglected spaces into functional and inviting environments.

From designing quiet study zones to planning gardens and outdoor seating areas, students embraced their roles with enthusiasm. Guided by staff and outdoor education experts, they learned practical skills such as gardening, landscaping and project management.

One student shared their excitement: "It felt amazing to be part of something that will leave a lasting impact on the school. We've turned empty spaces into places everyone can enjoy."

The initiative also encouraged students to take pride in their surroundings, promoting sustainability and environmental stewardship. By repurposing unused areas, the project emphasized the importance of making the most of available resources and creating spaces that align with the needs of the school community.

Staff were equally impressed by the students' commitment and creativity. "This was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn new skills while making a tangible difference to their school," said Mr Ashton, "It's wonderful to see their ideas coming to life. "The revitalised spaces will soon be ready for use, offering students new areas to relax, study and connect with nature. The success of *Outdoor Education Day* has left a lasting impression, proving the power of teamwork and innovation to shape a brighter future for the school.





Year 11 Students Enjoy Memorable Evening at Turf Moor

Fourteen Year 11 students experienced a special evening at Turf Moor on what may have been their final school trip. Accompanied by Head of Year Mr. Bradshaw, Mrs. Richardson, and Mr. Boyden, the group attended the Burnley vs. Derby County match. Despite the game ending in a lacklustre 0-0 draw, the students had an unforgettable experience filled with unique opportunities.

The evening began in the Fan Zone, where students engaged in activities with Burnley FC staff. They then had the rare chance to meet Burnley players and the manager as they arrived at the stadium via the team coach. A full tour of the stadium followed, giving students the opportunity to explore behind the scenes, including sitting in the home dugout.

The highlight of the evening came just before kick-off, when the students stood on the pitch and waved flags as the teams entered the field. For several students, it was their first time attending a live football match, making the experience even more special.

The group's conduct throughout the evening was exemplary, reflecting the school's values. Staff were particularly impressed with their enthusiasm and respectful behaviour.

"This was a truly memorable experience for our students," said Mr Bradshaw. "It's fantastic that they had the chance to be part of such a unique event before they leave us in June."



Year 11 Students Attend PGL Residential for Team Building

At the start of the academic year, our Year 11 students took part in a memorable PGL residential trip aimed at team building and strengthening relationships between students and staff. The weekend provided an exciting opportunity for students to engage in a variety of outdoor activities, from climbing and kayaking to problem-solving challenges, all designed to build trust, communication and collaboration.



The primary goal of the trip was to set the tone for an important year ahead by fostering a sense of unity and teamwork among the Year 11 cohort. By participating in these activities, students not only developed their leadership and teamwork skills but also formed lasting bonds with both their peers and teachers.

The residential was a great success, with students returning to school motivated and ready to tackle the challenges of the year ahead. Staff were impressed by the positive energy and cooperation demonstrated by all involved, setting the stage for a productive and successful Year 11.

Cinema Rewards Trip: Celebrating Success!

This week, 165 of our students enjoyed a special cinema trip to watch 'Paddington in Peru', as a reward for their outstanding achievements!

Tickets were awarded to students with 100% attendance, exemplary behaviour, or those who have made the most progress this academic year. It was a fantastic way to celebrate their hard work and dedication, and the film was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Podcast Group Scores a Football



Experience!

The Podcast Group recently swapped the recording for the stands as they attended the Oldham vs. Boston United match at Oldham Athletic's football ground.

The trip was an exciting opportunity for the group to experience the electric atmosphere of a live football match while gathering content and inspiration for their upcoming episodes. Watching Oldham Athletic take on Boston United was thrilling, and the students were

able to immerse themselves in the action, capturing the passion and energy of the sport.

Exciting Rowing Adventures for Our Students!

Our students have been making waves—both figuratively and literally—as they dived into weekly rowing lessons at the Salford Watersports Centre. This thrilling opportunity has not only introduced them to the sport but also challenged them to build teamwork, endurance, and determination.

Every week, our budding rowers have been learning the fundamentals of this dynamic sport. From perfecting their stroke technique to synchronizing as a team, these lessons have ignited a sense of camaraderie and competitive spirit among our students. The picturesque surroundings of Salford Watersports Centre added to the experience, creating an inspiring environment to train and thrive.

Looking ahead, the excitement doesn't stop on the water. Next term, our students will test their grit and skills in an indoor rowing competition, a fantastic way to measure their progress and simulate the teamwork and stamina needed for the real thing. This competition will be the perfect springboard as they prepare for the Rowing Regatta in Spring, an event sure to bring thrilling moments and unforgettable achievements.

The benefits of rowing extend beyond physical fitness. It's a sport that fosters discipline, mental resilience, and a deep sense of connection—qualities our students are embracing with enthusiasm. We can't wait to see them shine in both the indoor competition and the regatta.



Year 7/8 Girls' Football Team Shine in Local Tournament

Our Year 7/8 girls' football team showcased incredible resilience, teamwork, and determination during a tournament at Accrington Stanley braving icy blatic conditions to compete in six challenging matches against local schools.

From the first whistle, the girls played with passion, joy and pride, representing our school with honour. Their "never say die" attitude shone through in every match, demonstrating grit and unwavering spirit, even against more experienced teams.

Badminton Tournament Highlights!



This term, our talented U14 badminton teams showcased their skills in two exciting tournaments hosted at our school.

First up, our U14 girls' team had a fantastic debut, competing against 11 other teams. Despite this being their first time representing the school in badminton, they held their own in every match and even surprised themselves with their performance! Though they

narrowly missed out on the finals, their enthusiasm and determination shone through. The girls loved the experience so much that they stayed behind after school to play even more badminton at the extra-curricular club!

Our Year 9 boys also gave it their all in their tournament, playing against some tough opposition. While they didn't make the semi-finals, they improved with every game, demonstrating growing confidence and skill.

Special recognition goes to Dylan for his standout performances, including a doubles win with Tommy (21-12) and narrowly losing singles and doubles matches by just one point! Louie also impressed with a 21-9 singles victory.

Both teams represented our school brilliantly, showing great sportsmanship and determination. Well done, everyone!



Netball Success This Term!

This term has been an exciting one for our netball teams, with students across year groups demonstrating fantastic commitment and growth in their matches. Whether facing tough opposition or honing their skills in training, our players have shown resilience, teamwork and a passion for the game.

It's been great to welcome a big team of Year 7 students to Monday's enrichment sessions, bringing fresh energy and enthusiasm to the sport. Their dedication and eagerness to learn have been a highlight of the term and promise a bright future for netball at our school.

From close matches to steady improvements, our teams have worked hard to develop their tactics, shooting accuracy and defensive strategies.



The House System



1200 points



1275 points



1400 points



1100 points

Competitions this Term	Curie	Jackson	Mandela	Turing
Athletics and Frisbee Transition	25	100	75	50
Transition Week Challenge 2	75	50	100	25
Transition Week University Challenge	100	25	50	75
Cross Country 7	25	100	50	75
Cross Country 8	100	25	50	75
Cross Country 9	50	25	100	75
MacMillian Cake Donations	75	50	25	100
Mario Kart	50	75	25	100
Netball shooting	50	100	75	25
History Writing	75	100	50	25
Coconut Shy	50	75	100	25
Stacking Cups	75	50	100	25
Badminton Serve	100	75	50	25
Spelling Bee	75	50	100	25
Putting and Bowling	100	50	25	75
3 Darts Challenge	25	75	100	50
Beat the Keeper	100	100	25	50

