

BUILDING COMMUNITY LINKS

This term we have continued to build relationships with our local community by visiting our local hospice. St Andrew's Hospice very kindly welcomed a group of our learners in to spend some time with several of the patients and staff. They spent the morning taking part in an arts and crafts session and getting to know each other. Learners, staff and patients all seemed to enjoy the visit, and we are looking forward to visiting again.



5-STAR FOOD HYGIENE RATING

On 29 January 2026, Orchard Education Laceby Road proudly welcomed an Environmental Health Officer (EHO) to inspect our kitchen facilities. We are delighted to share that the inspector awarded us a 5-star food hygiene rating – the highest rating possible.

This achievement reflects the hard work, high standards, and commitment of our team in ensuring a safe and hygienic environment for all learners.

On March 1st, we will be saying goodbye to Donna Ritchie. Donna has been with Orchard since we first opened seven years ago. While her contract may say "School Cook," she has been far more than that to our learners and staff. Donna has been a safe and familiar face, a motivator, a counsellor, and a constant source of care and encouragement to so many within our school community.

We are incredibly proud that our staff retention is well above the industry standard. However, from time to time, for a variety of reasons beyond our control, valued team members move on. We recognise that changes like this can have a significant impact on our learners, many of whom build their success on the strong and trusting relationships they form here.



Donna has played a huge role in creating and maintaining the values-led foundation that defines Orchard, and she will be greatly missed by us all.

For our learners at Laceby in particular, we kindly ask for your support and understanding as they adjust to this change. Your reassurance at home will make a real difference.

We would also like to wish Donna every success and happiness in the future. She leaves with our heartfelt thanks and with the knowledge that she will always be welcome back at Orchard.

CAREERS

This half term KS3 and Foundation learners have been looking at different careers in the fashion industry. The learners have been to the local charity shops and purchased some clothes which they are working hard to upcycle to something new and exciting. They will then be presenting their new outfits at an end of term catwalk show!



Careers Fact of the term!

Labour Market Information (LMI) - Fact of the term. Did you know that the following are high demand sectors:

- Health and Social Care: Strong consistent growth
- Technology: Continued high demand for digital skills
- Transport and Logistics: Growing vacancy numbers
- Green Jobs/Sustainability: Expanding Fields



Our Year 11's have been busy this term in visiting colleges for taster days and some have completed their work experience placements. The work experience placements have been very successful with all of the learners receiving excellent feedback from the employers.

FURTHER SPORTING SUCCESS

We are happy to report that the Spring term has seen more success in various sporting activities.

As well as football, dodgeball competitions and in house sports festival, learners also competed in the NELSSP Kurling Competition. Two teams were entered into the event. With both teams performing extremely well, showing focus, accuracy, and teamwork. One team went on to win the competition and qualify for the Humber Regionals, while the second team achieved an excellent second-place finish.



ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

During the Spring term we have been busy completing both functional skills exams and also our GCSE learners have sat two formal mocks. We are proud of how our learners have conducted themselves during this time and appreciate their dedication and hard work. We do however recognise that exams can be an extremely stressful time.

If any of our learners are in need of additional support, whether related to the stresses of exams or anything else, Kooth is a fantastic support tool.

Kooth is a safe, confidential, and non-stigmatised way for young people to receive free counselling, advice, and support online. The website is staffed by fully trained and qualified counsellors and is available from 12pm until 10pm each day, and weekends from 6pm - 10pm, 365 days per year.

It provides a much-needed confidential and instant access service for young people aged 11-25. Visit: www.kooth.com.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK!

We were excited to take part in National Storytelling Week – a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the power of stories to inspire, connect, and spark imagination. Throughout the week, we shared stories in a variety of ways linked to the theme of 'Soundtrack your Story'. It was a week filled with imagination, expression, and Class 4 even participated in a Rap & Rhyme online workshop.



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we reach the end of Spring 1, I am incredibly proud to reflect on a half term full of achievement, growth and positivity across our school community.

One of the real highlights has been our learners' success in the New Age Kurling and Bowling competitions. Our learners represented the school with enthusiasm, determination and fantastic teamwork. Beyond the results themselves, it was wonderful to see growing confidence, sportsmanship and joy as learners challenged themselves and celebrated one another's successes.

Academically, this term has marked some important milestones. Many learners have been preparing for and applying themselves to Functional Skills and GCSE examinations, demonstrating commitment and maturity in their learning. These achievements are a testament not only to their hard work, but also to the encouragement and support around them. Our Year 11 learners have also taken exciting next steps, visiting colleges and exploring apprenticeship pathways. These experiences have been invaluable in helping them build confidence and clarity as they plan for their futures beyond school.

We have also taken time this term to review and strengthen our Behaviour Policy. The updated policy reflects our growing reward culture, our trauma-informed approach, and the latest government guidance on restrictive practice (April 2026). I am delighted to share that we have seen so many behaviour successes across the school. These positive outcomes are the result of solution-focused co-production between our staff, parents, carers and professional partners. Thank you to everyone who works so collaboratively to ensure our learners feel safe, understood and celebrated.

Looking ahead to Spring 2, we are excited to support our Year 9 learners as they begin making important decisions about their Key Stage 4 qualifications. This is a significant moment in their journey, and we are committed to ensuring every learner feels supported to make choices that reflect their strengths, interests and ambitions.

Thank you, as always, for your continued trust, support and partnership. Together, we are creating a school community where success is celebrated, relationships are at the heart of everything we do, and every learner is supported to thrive.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW - SPRING 2

	Foundation	KS3	KS4
English	Non - Fiction Instructional Text	Creative Writing	Comparative Literary Study
Mathematics	Number Multiplication (Fractions & Time)	Metric Measures (Area, Perimeter, Mass, Volume, Capacity & Weight)	
ICT	Google Slides (Google Classrooms)		
Science	Biology – Plants & Photosynthesis	Biology – Plants & Flowers	
PSHE	Being Safe	Living in the Wider World – Substance Misuse	
Human & Social	Geography – Human & Physical Geography (Africa)	Geography – Natural Disasters	
People and the Community	Living – Community: Belonging to a Faith	Living & Thinking – Community: Places of Worship	
Aesthetic & Creative Arts	Modroc – Helen Pashgian	Personal Art Projects	
Talkabout	Social Skills Programme – Conversations		
Vocational Studies	PLP - Economic & Financial Education	BTEC – Progression Plans (AO2) Art Cooking Performing Arts Sport	

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

If you are needing assistance regarding a potential safeguarding concern during the half term there are services there to help: -

- Integrated front Door (Children's Services) Members of the public and professionals can call the IFD on 01472 326292 (option 2, option 2) (Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm).
- Report a concern to Children's Services - [SaferNEL | Report a concern - SaferNEL](#)
- Children's Social Care also run the Emergency Duty Team (EDT), which you can contact on 01472 326292 (option 2).
- All members of staff will be on a well-deserved break; however the DSL will be checking the Orchard safeguarding telephone at points throughout the half term. Please use the numbers above in case of emergency.

ONLINE SAFETY

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming a regular part of children's online experiences. From chatbots and homework apps to creative tools, AI can offer exciting opportunities for learning and play. But it also brings risks, especially when children aren't sure what's real, who they're talking to, or how AI works.

Many parents and carers feel unsure about how to explain AI to children. This guide offers practical advice to help families talk about AI in ways that build understanding, encourage curiosity, and keep children safe.

[Talking to children about AI | NSPCC](#)

DATES AND EVENTS

Friday 13th February 2026 - Children break up for half term

Monday 23rd February 2026 - Children return to school

Monday 23rd February 2026 - Trip to Grimsby Minster

Tuesday 3rd March 2026 - Laceby Road Coffee Morning 10am - 12pm

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

16th - 20th March - Neurodiversity Celebration Week

Thursday 19th March 2026 - Year 5 Open Day

Thursday 19th March 2026 - Parents Evening

Saturday 21st March 2026 - World Down Syndrome Day

Friday 27th March - Children break up for Easter