

END OF YEAR MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

In the blink of an eye, we have reached the end of another academic year. As always, we have finished the year in true celebratory style, with fantastic events including Enterprise Day, Prom, end-of-year trips, the Year 9 PGL residential, Awards Day and so much more. These moments allow us to celebrate our learners' achievements, create lasting memories and reflect on another remarkable year together.

Whilst these celebrations are important, we all know that our school's success is built on something much deeper. It is founded on our ability to work together through the many challenges that come with running a specialist school, supporting the diverse needs of our learners and helping every young person become the very best version of themselves.

One of the things I value most about our school community is the way we work in genuine partnership. Your communication, encouragement, support and willingness to challenge us when we can do better is something I regularly describe as truly unique. It is through honest conversations, mutual trust and a shared commitment to our learners that we continue to grow and improve.

Our school community is built upon four strong pillars: our parents and carers, our professional partners, our learners and our staff. Together, we create an environment where young people flourish. The progress we make collectively and the culture we have created are something we should all be incredibly proud of. I genuinely believe they make our school one of the very best specialist settings in the country.

There simply isn't enough space in this newsletter to recognise everything our learners have achieved this year, but here are just a few of the many highlights:

- Receiving a national award from the Independent Schools Association (ISA) for our Enterprise Day, raising over **£3,000** for charity.
- Winning the North East Lincolnshire SEND Award for **Educational Setting of the Year**.
- Every learner securing a recognised and meaningful next step.
- Achieving the highest attendance in the school's history, now above the national average.
- Recording the lowest number of suspensions and physical interventions in the school's history.
- Expanding our curriculum through additional BTEC qualifications, our Preparation for Adulthood programme and PLT time focused on individual EHCP targets.
- Embedding a genuine culture of reading, resulting in our strongest reading progress to date.
- Receiving the Gold School Games Award in recognition of our commitment to sport, physical activity and opportunities beyond the classroom.

Whilst these achievements are fantastic, we are far from finished. We are already looking ahead to next year with exciting plans to introduce music into our curriculum, become a recognised Trauma-Informed School, continue working alongside leading experts in our field, strengthen our co-production with parents and carers and continue developing the very best provision for every learner. Continuous improvement has always been at the heart of our school, and we remain ambitious for what comes next.

Above everything else, my greatest privilege is seeing our learners as their authentic, brilliant selves – happy, confident, ambitious and proud of who they are. Watching them grow into remarkable young adults is why we do what we do every single day. Their achievements are measured not only in qualifications and awards, but in the confidence they develop, the relationships they build, the resilience they show and the aspirations they have for their future.

To our learners: thank you for your resilience, your humour, your determination and the joy you bring to our school each day. You make our school the special place that it is, and it is a privilege to be part of your journey. To our parents and carers: thank you for placing your trust in us, for supporting your children so wholeheartedly and for working alongside us every step of the way. Your partnership is invaluable.

To our staff and professional partners: thank you for your unwavering commitment, expertise and care. The difference you make to the lives of our young people every day cannot be overstated.

As we close another successful year, I hope you take time to reflect on just how far your children have come. Every step of progress, every challenge overcome and every success achieved deserves to be celebrated. Together, we have created a school community where young people feel safe, valued, challenged and inspired to achieve their potential. That is something every one of us should be immensely proud of.

I wish you all a safe, restful and well-deserved summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on **Thursday 3rd September**, ready to build on this year's success and continue our shared ambition of providing the very best opportunities for every learner to thrive.

Thank you for another incredible year.

Steve

ENTERPRISE DAY

Enterprise Day 2026 was a tremendous success yet again across both sites. The event saw outstanding engagement from learners, staff, parents, carers, and various family members, creating a vibrant and collaborative atmosphere. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making the day memorable.

During the event, learners demonstrated a wide range of valuable skills, including teamwork, communication, problem-solving, creativity, and entrepreneurial thinking. Their enthusiasm and dedication truly showcased their growth and confidence. Overall, Enterprise Day 2026 was an inspiring celebration of learning and community spirit, raising £3,000.



ISA CHARITY EVENT CHALLENGE

Tutor Natalie Potter entered the school into the Independent School Associations Charity Event Challenge, and we were amazed to be chosen as one of the winners. Feedback we received from the judges said, "The judges were particularly impressed by the ambitious goals the team set and the wide range of stalls they incorporated into their event. This must have taken a tremendous amount of planning and teamwork.

Huge congratulations on raising the phenomenal total of **£3,000** for charity!"



CAREERS

This term our year 10 learners visited Grimsby Institute to give them some ideas of what their next steps may be for their post 16 journey. The learners were given the opportunity to experience some of the courses on offer and meet the tutors too.



END OF YEAR TRIPS!

What a successful day! Our learners were a credit to the school as they took part in a range of activities at Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Aqua Park, and East Park. It was wonderful to see them developing their social skills, building friendships, and having fun together. Throughout the day, all of our learners demonstrated exemplary behaviour, representing the school with positivity, maturity, and respect. We are incredibly proud of the way they conducted themselves and the enthusiasm they showed in embracing each experience.



NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SEND AWARDS



We were over the moon to have won four awards in this year's NE Lincs SEND Awards winning the overall award for 'Education Setting of the year' as well as 3 of our learners also receiving individual awards. Such recognition wouldn't be possible without the continued support of our parents/carers, learners, professional partners and incredible staff who all make Orchard such a special school.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD - BRONZE

This year saw our first ever group of learners to ever complete a Duke of Edinburgh award at Orchard school. Four learners bravely took on the challenge to successfully complete their bronze award. Supported by Orchard staff, Sally, Tom and Poppy who gave up their own time to assist the learners in completing the expedition days and camping elements of the challenge. This was an amazing milestone for the school, and we hope to see many more learners take on the challenge!



ORCHARD ART EXHIBITION



This summer term saw us hold an art exhibition to celebrate the artistic talents of our learners. The standard of work produced was phenomenal and the exhibition will definitely become an annual even!

ORCHARD CURRICULUM OVERVIEW Autumn 1 2026

<u>Curriculum Area</u>	<u>KS3</u>	<u>KS4</u>
English	Fiction Islands	Fictional Text Catch Me If You Can
Mathematics	Number & Place Value	
ICT	Re-Introduction to Google Classrooms & E-Safety	Online & Media
Science	Biology – Humans & the Environment	Biology – Food Hygiene
PSHE	Relationships – Personal Safety	Relationships – Families & Friends
Human & Social	History War of the Roses	History Life Under Slavery
People and the Community	Thinking: Being Human – Saints & Heroes	Believing: Being Human/God – Hopes & Visions
Aesthetic & Creative Arts	Drawing Mariusz Kedzierski	Drawing Stephen Wiltshire
Talkabout	Social Skills Programme – Self-Awareness & Self-Esteem	
Vocational Studies	OITC Healthy Lifestyles	BTEC – Y10 (Sport, Art, Performing Arts & Cooking), Y11 (Work Skills)

SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

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

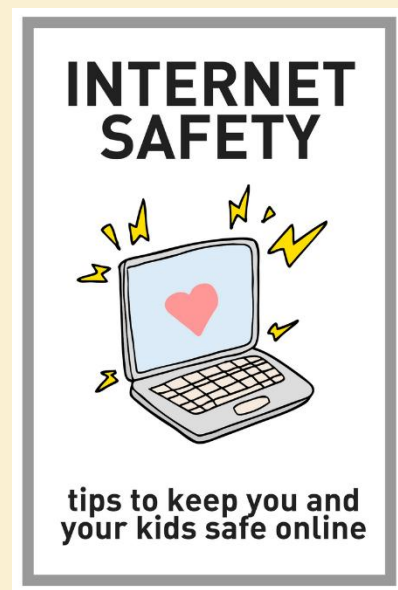
- Integrated front Door (Children's Services) Members of the public and professionals can call the IFD on 01472 326292 (option 2, option 2) (Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm and Friday 8.30am - 4.30pm).
- Report a concern to Children's Services - [SaferNEL | Report a concern - SaferNEL](#)
- Children's 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 Summer. Please use the numbers above in case of emergency.

ONLINE SAFETY

You may have seen the recent announcement that the UK government plans to ban social media for under-16's by Spring 2027. New measures to make online spaces safer for children will also be introduced.

The changes may bring some mixed feeling for both adults and children, but the NSPCC has produced some invaluable guidance about how to navigate these changes, and the aim is ultimately to protect children from harm.

[Supporting your child with new social media changes](#)



SUMMER SAVINGS - COST OF LIVING HELP

With the cost of living continuing to have a significant impact on many households, particularly due to rising food, fuel and energy costs we have linked some information on savings on summer activities and days out for families.

[Summer Savings - Cost of Living Help](#)



DATES AND EVENTS

Dates for Autumn 1 2026

Wednesday 22nd July 2026 - Children break up for the summer

Wednesday 3rd September 2026 - Children return to school.

Friday 25th September 2026 - Macmillan Coffee Morning

Friday 9th October 2026 - Hello Yellow Day

Friday 16th October 2026 - Halloween Disco

Friday 16th October 2026 - Children break up for half term