NASS AWARD NOMINATION



We are very happy to share that Nat Potter (PSHE lead) is a finalist in the National Association of Special Schools awards in the category of "Special Contribution" for her work in planning and overseeing the school's yearly charitable events of Enterprise Day and Mission Christmas.

With over £10,000 raised and hundreds of Christmas presents donated to local charities, I am sure you will join us in wishing her the best of luck at the awards ceremony in November.

CAREERS

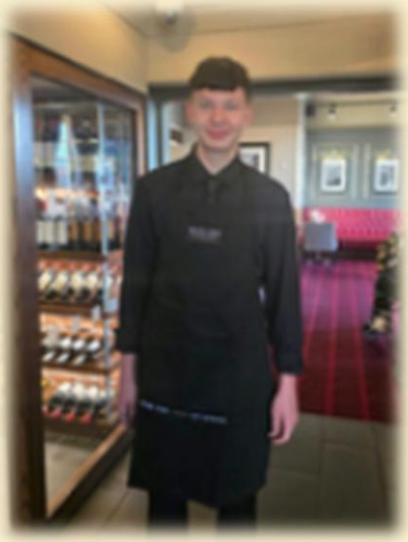
This term, the Careers Lead contacted the parents/carers of all Year 11 leavers to see how they were getting on. Feedback was incredibly positive, with all learners reported to be attending college regularly, enjoying their courses, and settling in well. Many learners also shared that they miss the staff at Orchard.

Next term, our KS4 learners will visit Linkage College to explore the courses available and meet staff members. In addition, YPSS will meet with Year 11 learners before Christmas to discuss their post-16 options and gain their views on the colleges and courses they are considering for their future pathways.

Fun Careers Fact!

Did you know that Grimsby is the largest seafood processing hub in Northern Europe, processing roughly 70% of all seafood consumed in the UK.

Caleb, one of our Year 11 learners who left in June, has successfully progressed to Grimsby Institute to study Music. Alongside his studies, he has also secured a weekend job as a waiter at Miller & Carter in Grimsby. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are incredibly proud of him. Well, done, Caleb!



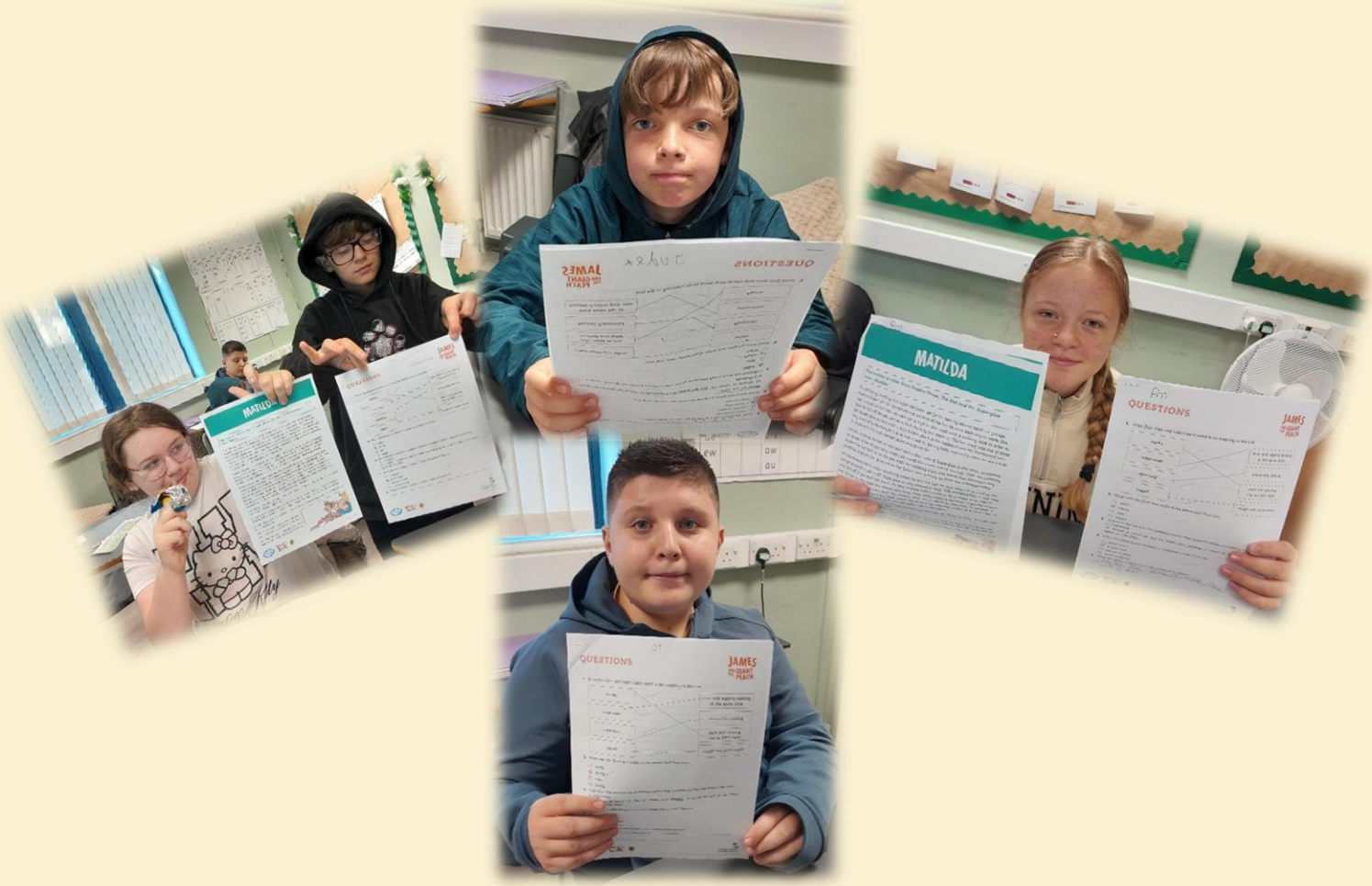
RSE PROVISION

Parents and carers are reminded that, where applicable, they have the option to opt back into Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) provision for your child.
If you have previously requested that your child does not participate in RSE and would now like them to take part, please contact the school office or your child's class teacher. We will be happy to provide further information about the content of the RSE programme and support you with the opt-in process.
Relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education - GOV.UK

ROALD DAHL DAY & NATIONAL POETRY DAY CELEBRATIONS

This term we have celebrated Roald Dahl Day (13.9.26) and National Poetry Day (1.10.26) as part of our reading events. Learners have completed research about the author, watched clips from live stage shows, read books and retrieved information from reading comprehension.

As part of National Poetry Day, learners have looked at rhyming words, accessed different poems, watched poets such as Michael Rosen, written their own poems, and explored Haikus and Acrostic Poems and more.



ORCHARD ENRICHMENT

We are excited to announce that our Enrichment Programme has officially started for the new term!

Learners will have the opportunity to take part in a fantastic range of clubs, including Campfire Stories, Sports Club, Gaming Club, Arts & Crafts, and Performing Arts. These sessions are designed to give learners the chance to explore new interests, develop their skills and, most importantly, have fun!

There's also plenty of competitive action to look forward to. After a brilliant year of sporting success, our learners will be looking to defend their Panathlon Championship and Bowling titles from last year!

Alongside our enrichment offer, the school has also introduced Fine Motor and Gross Motor interventions, as well as morning Sensory Circuits. These targeted sessions are designed to support learners with their coordination, movement, physical development and readiness for learning, helping them to start the school day positively and confidently.

We're looking forward to another busy and exciting term, with lots of opportunities for our learners to get involved, develop new skills and celebrate their achievements!







ANAPHYLAXIS

The introduction of Benedicts Law this year means greater responsibilities for school. We would like to remind parents and carers to please ensure that you do not send nuts or nut-containing products into school. Whilst we cannot guarantee a completely nut-free environment, reducing potential allergens helps protect learners and staff with severe allergies.

Our school has emergency adrenaline auto-injectors (EpiPens) available on site, and trained staff are able to respond quickly in the event of a serious allergic reaction. Please ensure the school is informed of any allergies, and that prescribed medication is kept up to date.

BRITISH SCIENCE ASSOCIATION – CREST AWARDS

This half term all of our learners have made a great start working towards their science CREST awards with the British Science Association.

While KS3 learners have been carrying out water temperature tests to explore if dinosaurs were cold or warm blooded, KS4 learners have been discovering how animals have adapted to the environments that they live within to survive.

It has been fantastic seeing all the amazing scientific enquiry happening in every lesson.





OITC

This term, our learners have focused on developing their social skills and promoting health and wellbeing through a range of engaging, learner-led experiences. Each learner selected a personal interest, and activities were planned around these themes to encourage confidence, communication, independence, and positive relationships.

Throughout the term, learners have enjoyed a variety of exciting opportunities, including a behind-the-scenes tour of Grimsby Town Football Club, dance sessions with Centre4, pottery painting activities, and visits to the local cinema. These experiences have supported learners in building social connections, exploring community opportunities, and developing important life skills while participating in activities that are meaningful and enjoyable to them.

We are proud of the enthusiasm, teamwork, and personal growth that learners have demonstrated throughout the term and look forward to continuing to build upon these skills in the future.







ENGLISH – LEARNING THROUGH EXPERIENCE

Our KS3 English practical lessons have been a fantastic success, giving learners opportunities to develop their English skills through engaging, hands-on experiences.

As part of our recent learning, learners explored and tasted a variety of exotic fruits, linking practical experiences to vocabulary, descriptive language and sensory writing. The session also supported individual PLT targets, with learners showing confidence and resilience by trying new foods and stepping outside their comfort zones.

There were some brilliant moments of discovery too! For some learners, it was the first time they had seen certain fruits in real life – including dragon fruit, which several recognised from the internet but had never actually had the opportunity to see or taste.

It was wonderful to see learners engaging, communicating their opinions and embracing something new. English learning, personal development and a little bit of adventure all rolled into one!









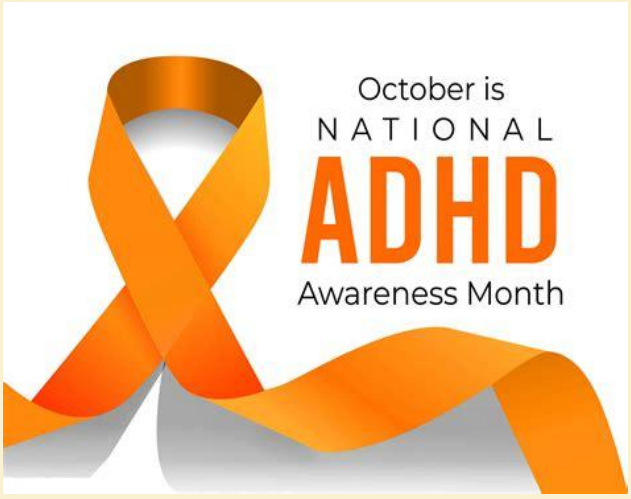
ORCHARD CURRICULUM OVERVIEW Autumn 2 2026

Curriculum Area	KS3	KS4
English	Fiction Creative Writing	Fiction/non-fiction Greek Mythology
Mathematics	Number (cont.) – Estimation, Problem Solving, Multiplication & Division	
ICT	Online Safety & Awareness	Online & Media
Science	Physics – Light & Sound	Physics – Forces & Our Solar System
PSHE	Health & Wellbeing – Personal Safety	Relationships – Families & Friends
Human & Social	Geography Locational Study - China	Geography Locational Study - Antarctica
People and the Community	Thinking: Being Human – Saints & Heroes	Believing: Being Human/God – Hopes & Visions
Aesthetic & Creative Arts	Painting Kandinsky	Painting Keith Haring
Careers	Exploring Careers Hospitality	Exploring Careers & Career Development
Talkabout	Social Skills Programme – Body Language	
Vocational Studies	OITC – Healthy Lifestyles BTEC – Y10/11 (Sport, Art, Performing Arts & Cooking)	
Music	Performance/Style Christmas	
PE	Invasion Games	

ADHD AWARENESS MONTH

October is ADHD awareness month we are excited to let you know that we have Ryan Swain visiting school on Monday 9th November to speak to our learners about his lived experience.

Ryan is a DJ, motivational speaker and ADHD ambassador who takes his talk "You, Me and ADHD" around the country to schools and community venues to educate and empower young people, whilst dispelling myths about ADHD.



SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

If you are needing assistance regarding a potential safeguarding concern during the break, 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 break. Please use the numbers above in case of emergency.

ONLINE SAFETY



When parents talk about children and technology, the word 'addiction' sometimes comes up.

That might be because they're concerned about the amount of time their children are using tech such as phones and games. Or they might think there's a link between their children's device use and their mental health.

Most struggles with technology aren't about clinical addiction, though. They're about habits, tech design and compulsive behaviours. This combination makes it hard for children and adults alike to put down our devices. The NSPCC has some really helpful advice on supporting your child through compulsive device use.

Supporting your child through compulsive device use | NSPCC

DATES AND EVENTS

Dates for Autumn 2 2026

Friday 16th October 2026 – Children break up for half term
Monday 2nd November 2026 – Children return to school
Wednesday 25th November 2026 – Parent/Carer coffee morning at Sargon Way. 9.30 – 11.00am. All parent/carers welcome. The Parent Carer Forum will be in attendance.
Friday 18th December 2026 – Children break up for the Christmas half term

Online Safety & Gaming

SWGfL
Safe, Secure, Online

Gaming refers to playing electronic games, whether through consoles, computers, tablets, smartphones or other devices. Gaming remains one of the most popular forms of entertainment, attracting a wide range of age groups from all across the world. Gaming is always looking to develop, often improving on graphical features, accessibility and user engagement as years go by.





Unlike many other forms of media, gaming brings a sense of challenge to the player. Usually there is a degree of skill involved that players need to develop in order to progress. Depending on the type of game, it can also offer players a platform where they can be imaginative and explore their own creativity.

Some games have rich storylines and characters that are engaging and memorable. Many players also use it as an opportunity to compete and socialise with other users whether it be in person or online. More often than not though, people game, because it is fun!

Benefits of Gaming

1. Can develop critical and creative skills
2. Can bring educational benefit and awareness
3. Is available to most audiences and family members
4. Is an easy and accessible way to socialise with others



Considerations for Gaming

1. Have awareness of appropriate age restrictions
2. Parental awareness around purchasing
3. Active discussions around socialising safely
4. Reporting harmful or offensive content online

Socialising Online

A staple of gaming is the community that surrounds it. Groups and audiences can gather around a specific game, character or theme to build specific fan bases that can interact with each other. Young people may like to socialise online because:

1. It gives them a platform to be with friends outside of school
2. There is usually a competitive element at play, which can feel rewarding
3. It can build confidence and social skills which may not be attainable physically
4. It gives opportunity to young people who have difficulty socialising with friends and others



Reporting and Blocking

Gaming communities can range from supportive and educational, to toxic and harmful. In some instances, it can even lead towards more radical content being promoted. When faced with something or someone being harmful online, make sure young people know how to:

1. Report the player or piece of content
2. Mute or block the player
3. Manage their privacy settings or communication options
4. Speak with a trusted adult for support



To find out more about Gaming visit the SWGfL hub:
swgfl.org.uk/topics/gaming/

or scan the QR code

Further Support

Professionals Online Safety Helpline: saferinternet.org.uk/professionals-online-safety-helpline

Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service: swgfl.org.uk/harmful-sexual-behaviour-support-service/

Report Harmful Content:
reportharmfulcontent.com

Professionals Online Safety Helpline | Harmful Sexual Behaviour Support Service | REPORT HARMFUL CONTENT | UK Safer Internet Centre | NOMINET