



The Hyndburn Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Spring Term
March 2026

Easter Newsletter



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- ▶ Year 10 Step into the World of Work

...and much more!



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RESPECT | CONFIDENCE | ASPIRATION

Principal's Message



Since joining Hyndburn Academy in January, I have had an amazing first term. I have been truly impressed by the warm welcome from students, staff, and families, and I already feel a strong sense of belonging within our school community.

Over the past term, we have seen a positive increase in attendance and a renewed commitment from students to meet our high standards. This includes improvements in uniform, behaviour, and the quality of work produced in the classroom.

Our students at Hyndburn Academy want to learn, want to take pride in their presentation, and are keen to showcase their achievements. It has been inspiring to see how hard everyone is working to make our academy a place where ambition and excellence can thrive. I would like to thank all parents and carers for their continued support; your partnership makes such a difference.

It was also a pleasure to attend the community Iftar event this term. Witnessing the dedication and teamwork that went into organising it was a real highlight and a wonderful celebration of our diverse community. Mrs Eccles coined the phrase "This is Us!" a reflection of the commitment, generosity, and effort shown by staff and students in making the event such a success. I look forward to exploring more community events later this year to continue building on our strong spirit of engagement.

As we look ahead, I am excited for the summer term and all that we will achieve together. I wish all our students, families, and staff a happy and restful Easter holiday.

Mr Wazir
Principal

UPCOMING KEY DATES

- 1 May** Bronze DofE Expedition
- 4 May** GCSE Start Date
- 14 May** Year 10 Mock Interview Day
- 15 May** Silver DofE Training Expedition
- 3 June** London Performing Arts Trip
- 18 June** Theatre Trip Annie The Musical - Book Now Via Arbor!
- 26 June** Silver DofE Qualifying Expedition
- 2 July** Year 11 Prom
- 6 July** Year 8 Parents' Evening
- 13 July** Year 7 Parents' Evening





Student Spotlight



At just 14 years old, Blackburn & District Pony Club member Mollie has already built an extraordinary equestrian résumé. From mounted games to showjumping, from county shows to national teams, her journey is nothing short of inspiring. Today, we sit down with Mollie to talk dreams, ponies, and her incredible recent successes.

Mollie R - 91

What are your proudest achievements?

Placing 3rd twice at the Pony Club Championships and being selected as one of five riders to represent England at the Royal Windsor Horse Show.

You also ride for national teams?

I've been selected for the Scotland Mounted Games National Team for the Home International in Belfast and the European Championships in France for five consecutive years.

What Pony Club activities have you taken part in?

I've enjoyed showjumping, dressage, hunter trials, quizzes, badge training, cross country, camps, and mounted games.

What does your weekly training look like?

I train showjumping on Wednesdays at Brookfield Equestrian Centre and help younger riders during mounted games training on Tuesday nights at Croft Top.

Tell us about your ponies?

I have Rosemary for winter showjumping and summer cross country, and Missy, who I've had for three years and achieved many dreams with.

What goals are you working on?

I've completed my Pony Club C Test and am now working toward my C+ and British Horse Society Stage 1.

What does the Pony Club mean to you?

Everything. I've made lifelong friends and memories, and I'm grateful to my DC, Elaine Barker, for always believing in me.



Teaching & Learning

SPOTLIGHT: CELEBRATING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, ONE PROUD MOMENT AT A TIME!



The Hyndburn Academy has launched a new initiative, Spotlight, designed to recognise and celebrate outstanding student work across all year groups.

The programme aims to promote a culture of pride, effort, and academic excellence by giving students the opportunity to share a piece of work they are particularly proud of with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

As part of the initiative, a dedicated Spotlight table has been introduced, where students can present any piece of work that demonstrates effort, creativity, progress, or achievement. Students are invited to talk through what they have produced, reflect on their learning, and showcase their accomplishments in a supportive and celebratory setting.

In recognition of their achievement, each participating student receives a reward, helping to reinforce positive learning behaviours and encouraging continued commitment to high-quality work.

Mr Wazir commented "Spotlight is a simple but powerful way to celebrate the incredible work our students produce every day. We want students to feel proud of their achievements and understand that their hard work is seen, valued and appreciated."

INSPIRING AUTHOR VISIT SPARKS CREATIVITY

We were delighted to welcome author Marie Basting to the Academy for a day of creative writing workshops with Years 7–9. Students explored storytelling, character development, and how authors bring stories to life, while developing their own ideas and characters.

Miss Braithwaite, English Teacher and Literacy Lead, said: "Marie's workshops were engaging and inspiring, helping students build confidence and think creatively."

Year 7 student Paige D: "I really enjoyed the workshop. It showed me that writing can be fun and imaginative."

A huge thank you to Marie for sharing her passion for writing and inspiring our students' love of storytelling.



EXPLORING FUTHER EDUCATION - STUDENTS AIM HIGH



This term, our students have been making the most of opportunities to explore further education and career pathways. Our high-achieving pupils (HAPs) have been taking a closer look at life beyond school.

Year 8 HAPs visited the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), while Year 9 students toured Accrington and Rossendale College, gaining insight into college life, the courses available, and what it takes to succeed in higher education. During these visits, students took part in campus tours, degree workshops, and had the chance to ask questions about university and college life, inspiring them to aim high.

The T-Level Workshop at Accrington and Rossendale College gave students hands-on experience of vocational courses and highlighted the skills required by employers, helping them understand the pathways available after school.

Year 10 students also explored specific career areas: The Cyber Mega Day at Accrington and Rossendale College introduced them to opportunities in technology and cybersecurity, while the Medical Careers Day at Sir John Rigby College offered a glimpse into careers in medicine, nursing, and allied health professions.

Principal Mr Wazir commented, "It's fantastic to see our students engaging so proactively with further education opportunities. These visits not only broaden their horizons but also inspire them to set ambitious goals for the future."

These experiences are helping our students broaden their horizons, develop ambition, and make informed decisions about their futures, whether that's college, university, apprenticeships, or the world of work.





YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK - STEPPING INTO THE WORLD OF WORK

This term, our Year 10 students took a big step towards their futures during Work Experience Week. Each student arranged their own placement, giving them the opportunity to experience the workplace first-hand and gain invaluable skills for life after school.

Students explored a wide variety of careers, with placements ranging from care homes and primary schools to the railway, Tesco, veterinary surgeries and local restaurants. Whether supporting colleagues, learning customer service, or observing professional environments, our students gained practical insight into the skills, routines, and responsibilities required in different sectors.

The experience not only gave students a taste of working life but also helped them build confidence, independence, and a better understanding of what their own career paths might look like in the future. Many reflected on the importance of teamwork, communication, and time management, key skills that will benefit them in any career.

Cluster Careers Lead Mrs Ross said, "Work Experience Week is such an important opportunity for our students. Seeing them take responsibility for arranging placements and then fully engaging with their roles shows maturity and ambition. It's inspiring to watch them apply their skills in real-world settings."



ROWING TEAM CELEBRATE OUTSTANDING SUCCESS AT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL INDOOR ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Our Year 8 rowing team is celebrating an impressive run of success following strong performances at the All Aboard Youth Rowing Indoor Championships and the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships in London. The team only began rowing in September, yet they quickly achieved outstanding results at the regional event while training at Agecroft Rowing Club in Salford. Podium finishes included 1st place for Jessica, 2nd place for Alfie and excellent results in the relay events, with the Girls Relay Team finishing 1st regionally (3rd overall) and the Boys Relay Team placing 2nd regionally.

Year 8 student Rahib H progressed to the national championships in London, where he delivered an exceptional performance, finishing 1st in his heat and 4th overall nationally. He was also selected for the national relay team, helping them secure 2nd place, ranking 4th overall across Year 8 and Year 9 boys.

The day was made even more special as the Hyndburn team travelled to London to support Rahib, demonstrating the strong sense of pride, teamwork, and community within the Academy.

Principal Mr Wazir said "We are incredibly proud of our students' exceptional achievements. From their remarkable regional performances to Rahib's national success, they have shown determination, resilience, and outstanding character. Taking the whole team to London to support Rahib was a wonderful moment for our school community."

NETBALL TEAM SECURES FANTASTIC THIRD PLACE AT REGIONAL FINALS



Congratulations to our Netball Team, who achieved an outstanding third-place finish at the United Learning Regional Netball Finals.

Our team made up of Y8 and Year 9 students competing against eight Year 10 teams, our younger squad showed incredible determination, teamwork, and resilience throughout the tournament.

Finishing third in such a competitive field is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the players.

Education With Character

CULTIVATING CONFIDENCE AT JAMIES FARM

A group of students has an unforgettable week-long residential at Jamie's Farm, where they immersed themselves in farm life, teamwork and personal development.

Throughout the week, students took part in animal care, gardening, cooking and outdoor activities, embracing new responsibilities and challenges.

The experience encouraged confidence, resilience and independence, with many students stepping outside their comfort zones and discovering new strengths. Staff praised the students for their enthusiasm, kindness and willingness to support one another.

The residential proved to be a transformative opportunity, leaving students proud of their achievements and inspired by their time on the farm.



CELEBRATING

π

Day



Students celebrated Pi Day with plenty of excitement and a little mess! To earn the chance to Pi(e) their Maths teacher, students had to submit their Sparx homework 100% complete and on time.

The challenge was a huge success, with fantastic participation across the year groups.

A big thank you to our Maths department for making Pi Day unforgettable!

A PLAY IN A DAY

In less than 12 hours, our amazing students learned the script, rehearsed, ran the sound and tech, and performed a full production of *The Wizard of Oz* and wow, did they follow the yellow brick road to success!

What a fantastic show and a true display of teamwork, creativity, and courage, plus a bit of heart and brains too!

A huge thank you to all our parents and carers who came along to support our students!





DofE Students Tackle Practice Expedition at The Pines

Students working towards their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award recently completed a successful practice expedition at The Pines in Great Harwood, taking an important step in their journey towards achieving their Bronze award.

A total of 28 Year 9 students are currently working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, demonstrating commitment, resilience and teamwork as they develop key outdoor and life skills. Alongside them, 14 students have progressed to the Silver Award, continuing to build on the experience they gained during their Bronze programme.

The practice walk at The Pines gave students the opportunity to develop essential expedition skills including navigation, teamwork, route planning and endurance. Throughout the day, students worked in groups to follow planned routes, manage their time effectively and support one another across varied terrain. The experience helped prepare them for the challenges they will face during their upcoming qualifying expeditions.

DofE Leader Mrs Smith praised the students for their enthusiasm and determination. She said: "It was fantastic to see the students working together so positively during the practice walk. They showed great perseverance and teamwork, which are key values of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. I'm incredibly proud of the effort they are putting into preparing for their qualifying expeditions."

The Bronze qualifying expedition is scheduled to take place in May, while students completing the Silver Award will undertake their expedition in June. These expeditions will mark the culmination of months of preparation, training and dedication.

Well done to all students involved so far, and we wish them the best of luck as they continue their DofE journey.

COMIC RELIEF

We raised

£372.20

Thank you!

A 'Fetch' Night at the Theatre: Students See Mean Girls Live!



Our recent theatre trip to watch Mean Girls at the Palace Theatre was a fantastic success! A total of 45 students attended, and everyone had an amazing time experiencing the energy, music, and humour of the production live on stage.

Trips like this are a great opportunity for students to experience professional theatre, gain inspiration, and enjoy the arts outside of the classroom.

More theatre opportunities will be coming up soon, so please keep an eye on your emails for upcoming trips and announcements!

Education With Character

Raising the Roof Against County Lines!

Students across all year groups were treated to an unforgettable session by 1 Message, tackling the serious issue of county lines exploitation. The event blended powerful messages with live music from OTC, who literally raised the roof and kept everyone engaged.

Through real-life stories, students learned how criminal networks target young people, the warning signs to watch for, and how to stay safe. The mix of music and clear guidance made the session both informative and inspiring, leaving students empowered to protect themselves and support their peers.

Vice Principal Miss Clark said, "It was fantastic to see students from every year group so engaged. The combination of music and powerful messages really drove home the importance of staying safe and looking out for each other."

For more information and resources, visit 1 Message's website or speak to a member of our safeguarding team.



PGL Netball Residential

A Weekend of Sport, Adventure and Unforgettable Memories

Twenty-five students enjoyed an unforgettable two-night PGL Netball Residential packed with sport, adventure, and plenty of fun. Students took part in exciting netball rallies led by England Netball coaches, developing their skills, teamwork, and confidence on court.

Alongside the training, they tackled a range of thrilling outdoor activities including the giant swing, zip lining, axe throwing, rifle shooting, abseiling, and climbing. Every student pushed themselves, supported each other, and embraced the challenge.

Evenings were just as enjoyable, with a cosy campfire and a lively silent disco that had everyone laughing and dancing.

It was a fantastic trip that brought students together, strengthened friendships, and created brilliant memories.



Another Year of Community Connection with Local Iftar Celebration

The Hyndburn Academy proudly hosted its fourth annual Community Iftar, welcoming more than 500 students, families, local faith leaders and community members for an evening of togetherness and celebration. Guests enjoyed a shared meal, listened to readings from local faith representatives, and watched students perform poems about Ramadan and British values.

We were delighted to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress, local councillors, and Dunya News, with generous support from local businesses who donated food and decorations. A huge thank you to Nusrat Amin for organising another fantastic event, which truly reflects the strength and spirit of our community.

Principal Mr Wazir said: "Our Community Iftar is a wonderful reminder of the unity and respect within our school family. It's a joy to see our community come together to celebrate and learn from one another."



Success at Charm Awards

Several of our students were recognised at this year's CHARM Interschool Awards. Peyton was nominated for Sports Person of the Year, Rhiann for Young Carer of the Year, and Kayley for the Young Voice Award.

Emily and Paige also represented the school by performing as part of the Talent Award, impressing the audience with their performance.

A special congratulations goes to Jenson, who was nominated for Inspiration Young Person but impressed the judges so much that he went on to win Young Person of the Year.

A big thank you as well to Matilda, who, as part of the CHARM Forum, helped to fundraise and organise the event.

Riley Races to Glory at Crufts

Riley in Year 9 has been developing his Flyball skills six years and competing with the Young Kennel Club at Crufts for the last four.

This year, with his dog Bert, Riley raced with his team Mocktails all the way to the final in the Main Arena at Crufts which was televised on Channel 4!

Well done Riley! We are incredibly proud of your amazing achievement!



Rewards

Springing Into Success

Our Spectacular Easter Awards Celebration!

This term we introduced a new End-of-Term Easter Awards Assembly format, moving to year-group assemblies to recognise and celebrate more students. The new approach has created a more personal and inclusive way to highlight the achievements, effort, and character shown by students throughout the term.

A key focus of the awards was attendance, with students recognised for both excellent attendance and significant improvements. Their commitment to being present and engaged plays an important role in both academic success and wellbeing.

Students were also celebrated through subject awards for Effort and Attainment. Effort awards recognised those who demonstrate determination, resilience, and a positive attitude towards learning, while Attainment awards celebrated students achieving high academic standards and strong subject performance.

Our Character Awards recognised students who model our Academy Values through the Reward Card Draw, Head of Year Awards, and Principal's Awards, celebrating qualities such as leadership, kindness, resilience, and integrity.

The new assembly format has helped strengthen our sense of community while ensuring students' successes are celebrated in a meaningful way. Congratulations to all award winners, and we wish everyone a happy and restful Easter break.



Hyndburn Appreciation Day!

As part of HYA Appreciation Day, members of the Senior Leadership Team delivered treats to staff across the Academy as a small thank you for the hard work, dedication, and care they show every single day.

Staff wellbeing is incredibly important to us, and taking time to recognise and appreciate the efforts of our team is just one of the ways we continue to build a positive, caring, and supportive working environment.

Our motto, "This is Us!", captures the spirit of our community, committed, compassionate, and united in our shared mission. We are truly grateful for the exceptional work our staff do to improve students' lives and outcomes, helping them grow, thrive, and achieve their full potential.

Thank you to all our staff for everything you do to support our students, our Academy, and each other.