

Meadowhead School

Academy Trust



e-Phoenix

Volume 16

**Welcome
to this term's e-Phoenix,
our short and snappy newsletter.**

Newsletter Autumn Term 2019

School Pastors Launch

We are very excited to be the pilot school in Sheffield for the School Pastors programme. We are currently working with eleven school pastors who are all volunteers from the local community connected to our local churches.

They come into school two afternoons a week to support our students during social time and provide mentoring for those who need someone to talk to. Alongside the mentors, we are also continuing with our well established Sixth Form peer mentor programme which gives our students in years 7-13 someone to talk to. We hosted an official launch for the programme on Thursday 24th October, with Tony Downing, Lord Mayor of Sheffield, as our Guest of Honour. There was a presentation delivered by two of our pastors explaining their roles and background to the concept of School Pastors. Mrs Grewal-Joy spoke of the very positive impact the programme had at her previous school and how delighted she is to be able to bring this to Meadowhead. Y11 student Abi, who has been supported by them since September, confirmed that they are 'normal people' of all ages who are "really good listeners". Abi gave this advice to other students who might be sceptical – "give it a try, it's amazing".



You can hear an interview with Mrs Grewal-Joy, Abi and Nick, one of our pastors, on BBC Radio Sheffield's New Year's Eve Breakfast show (clip is 2:10:20) available until 29th January.



Next Steps

GCSE Presentation of Certificates and Awards

We were delighted to welcome Ellie Colton as guest speaker at our annual

presentation of GCSE Certificates on Thursday 14th November. Ellie is a former student and presents the 'Hello Friday' show on BBC Radio Sheffield as well as studying for a degree in Journalism at Sheffield Hallam University. Her advice to students is to 'start young and take every extra-curricular opportunity you can'.



We were proud to have a room full of last year's Y11 students, many of whom are currently studying at our Sixth Form. As well as the presentation of certificates, we congratulated students who received the following awards: Lewis Allen & Elizabeth Brammer- Service Awards, Cori-Leigh Frith – Progress Award, Miriam Levy – Achievement, Adam Mitchell – Phil Mintoft Science Award and James Smith- Bryan Marsden History Award.

We would like to thank Ellie, all the staff, governors, students and their families who attended, as well as our Trust Partner Sheffield Doubletree Hotel for hosting such a lovely event.



A Level Presentation of Certificates and Awards

On the last Thursday of term we welcomed back last year's Y13 students to celebrate their record breaking exam results and to present them with their well deserved A Level certificates and special edition Travel Mugs. It was a lovely occasion and great to hear how these young people are getting on with the next stage of their lives.



Y6 Open Evening

A busy term of Open Evenings and Information Events began with our annual whole school open evening and we were delighted to welcome so

many families on 3rd October. We received very positive feedback - from the quality of discussions between staff and parents to the range of activities available to engage and excite the Y6 children as they begin their journey to secondary school.



Next Steps

Sixth Form Open Evening

Prospective Year 12 students and their parents enjoyed a very informative evening in November, meeting with subject teachers and talking to current Sixth Formers as well as taking the opportunity to view our fantastic Sixth Form centre!



We also held an 'Alternatives to Sixth Form' evening, providing an ideal opportunity for Y11s and their parents/carers to find out about other post-16 options.

Parent feedback was extremely positive 'It gave us more insight into the process of choosing the way ahead' and the event was 'Very informative'.



Our Journey to Excellence - a message from the governors

Our aspiration is for Meadowhead Academy to be an excellent school where all our students love to learn, do great work, achieve well and take care of themselves, others in our community, the wider society and the environment. These six themes show the direction of travel the school is taking in its quest for 'Excellence':

- A High Quality Curriculum
- A Safe School
- Teaching
- Learning
- Parental Support
- Student Outcomes & Destinations



You can read the 'Governors' Vision' in full on our website: *About Us - The Governing Body - Governors' Vision*

Well-Being

The first term for Y7s

Our Y7 students have made an excellent and positive

start to their time at Meadowhead and we are pleased to show you students enjoying their Art, Design and Technology lessons. The Y7 student parliament representatives met for the first time

this term; this is a fantastic opportunity to represent their peers at meetings with Mrs Grewal-Joy, to develop leadership skills and contribute to the life of the school. The vast majority of students are choosing to join at least one after school activity - there are many to choose from and the full list is on our website.



"I love the mixed materials you use" Megija 7A art club

"It's fun and we do different tasks working with people you don't normally work with" Asha Y7 Drama club



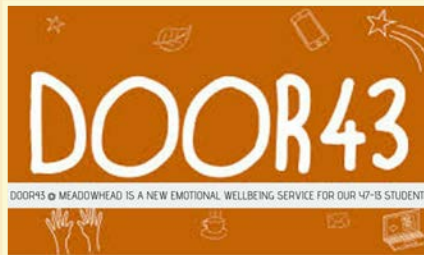
Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-bullying week ran from 11th – 15th November. Our team of anti-bullying ambassadors decorated the Rosling with blue ribbons to raise awareness and assemblies were used to launch our new anti-bullying strategy. On the Tuesday lots of people joined in to show that it is 'OK to be different' by wearing odd socks. All tutors groups have signed an anti-bullying charter to show their support of our new strategy and Key Stage 3 students have been completing a survey to help us form an action plan of our next steps.



Door 43 Mental Health Initiative

As part of our Healthy Minds programme, we are working with Door 43 to launch a Well Being Café in school once a week. Door 43 are a local organisation who provide support for young people's emotional well-being. The 'café' is a safe space for our students to talk and get advice on coping with the issues faced by young people today. They will also be working with targeted groups around various issues such as resilience and exam pressure.



Well-Being

Christmas Jumper Day



Fundraising



Bears of Sheffield

Remember the Herd of Sheffield elephant sculpture trail? Our school contributed to the £610,000 raised for Sheffield Children's Hospital by local businesses, communities, artists and schools and we are now looking forward to supporting the new Bears of Sheffield project in 2020.

Our first fundraising event was on the last day of the Autumn term with a non-uniform/Christmas Jumper Day. Look out for many more fundraising opportunities to help transform the Cancer and Leukaemia Ward at the Sheffield Children's Hospital.



Remembrance Day 2019

The whole school stood in silence as we marked the signing of the Armistice at 11.00 am on 11th November. Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's poppy appeal - we raised £258.60



Extended Learning

Reading Mentors

Following their training earlier this term, our Y10 Reading Mentors are meeting weekly with their Y7 Partners, with the aim of boosting reading confidence and enjoyment. Mentors support the students in finding the right book and use activities to build up reading skills. Thank you to both Y7s and Y10s for their commitment and effort so far!



"I enjoyed it. I can read to people now and feel more confident with my reading" William 7A

Black History Month

October was Black History Month and we used the opportunity to raise awareness amongst our students of the achievements and contributions black people have made both to our history and in current times, such as Olivette Otele who became the UK's first black female history professor in 2018 and Johny Pitts, writer, photographer and journalist who has awards for his work exploring African-European identity.



Student Parliament

Two representatives (who are elected by their peers) from each form in Years 7-11 met with Mrs Grewal-Joy in the library in November and December. The main agenda item was to discuss ideas on sustainability and being an environmentally friendly school. Students also had the opportunity to share issues raised by their peers in form time. *"I've enjoyed discussing how we can fix the school and make it a better place"* Asha Craig 7A



Newly elected Y7 Student Parliament members

Sixth Form students explored the importance of Black History Month when president of Sheffield Hallam Students' Union, Sheriff Muhammad, kindly came into school to talk to our students. He underlined the importance of highlighting the stories of people of colour throughout history and is pictured here with our student president team and Mr Beigel, Head of Y13.

Student vice-president Laraib said *"Sheriff was very informative and motivational. He really encouraged us to show our ability and showed us that your background shouldn't be a barrier to success in school or in life."*

Mahan (Y12) added *"Sheriff's presentation was excellent. It really helped me understand the issues and gave me more motivation for my learning."*



Student Achievements

We are very proud of our students, and we are delighted to share some of their achievements out of school.

Well Done!

Waterpolo



Cameron (Y9) was selected to represent the North East Region U14 waterpolo team at the Inter-Regional Championships in Walsall in December. The North East region includes the counties of Yorkshire, Northumberland and Durham. This is a huge achievement for Cameron as he has only been playing the game for just over a year, having started playing in September last year with Sheffield City Waterpolo club.

Cameron has just been nominated to play for 'England O6' team and says he is looking forward to the first training session in January. *"It's a sport not many people know about, but going from swimming lengths to playing is really fun".* We look forward to hearing more news from Cameron as he continues to enjoy this sport.

West End Performances

Claudia and Asha, both students in Y7, performed on stage in London's West End on 8th December at Her Majesty's Theatre, the home to the hit musical The Phantom of the Opera. Claudia formed part of the 'Addams Family' cast and

Asha played Morticia Addams (with great gusto). This was a show case put together by Razzamatazz Theatre Schools with students from around the UK performing excerpts from famous musicals.

Claudia's mum said *"Claudia's love of the performing arts started at a very young age and she has been attending theatre school since she was 5 years old."*

Appearing on stage in the West End was such an amazing opportunity for Claudia. She has been working hard at rehearsals since April and to finally see her perform at such an iconic venue was quite emotional."



Claudia told us *"It was the most amazing experience to perform on stage at HM Theatre and have the privilege to be backstage and see the costumes and props of the iconic Phantom of the Opera. It was a dream come true."*



The following Meadowhead students also performed with Razzamatazz in London: Owen Brice, Nat Kershaw, Lena Marsten-Giroux and Sophie Bloom and former Meadowhead student Joe Downs.

Follow us on Twitter

<https://twitter.com/MeadowheadSch>

Like us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MeadowheadSchool>

and get news and events details as they happen



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

Robotics

As part of a Royal Society of Engineering project, some of our Year 8 students had the opportunity to work with students from other schools to build a four-wheeled all terrain robot able to lift and manoeuvre items. The pupils also learnt about coding and careers in the robotics sector.

Miss Deal's **Computer Club** have been going into Bradway Primary to teach their pupils and teacher how to use the Lego Mindstorm kits,



which we lent out to Bradway as one of our Trust Partner schools. This has been a

great way to encourage younger pupils into STEM and robotics in particular, and they really enjoyed it!

"I like the robotics club because you get to let your imagination run wild."

"I like that you get to build things out of stuff that you haven't used before."

"To build the best robot you have to communicate as a team and be resilient."

"My favourite thing about the robotics club is that it is relaxing after school, but also challenging."

"I feel like I am shaping the minds of tomorrow."

Atoms, Waves and Every in-between

Sheffield Hallam University lecturer Dr. Robin Smith delivered an exciting and mind-melting talk on atoms and radiation. We found out how small atoms really are and that radiation is not as scary as it sounds. Students also had a go at demonstrating the amazing process of nuclear fusion with Lego blocks.



Apollo 11

Y8s enjoyed a trip to watch the amazing documentary film about the Apollo 11 launch mission, which took the first men to walk on the Moon.



Top of the Bench

Congratulations to Isaac (Y9), Thomas (Y9), Lucy (Y10) and Sarah (Y11) who came 2nd in the Top of the Bench Chemistry inter schools competition at King Edward VII Upper School last night.

This was a prestigious event run by Royal Society of Chemistry. The competition involved several rounds including balancing equations, many challenging quiz questions and difficult investigative practical tasks. The work involved stretched their chemistry skills with them having to apply their knowledge to many different situations. Thank you to Mr O'Brien and Mr Murphy for accompanying them.



STEM Clubs

Y7 and Y8 After School STEM Clubs started this term with young scientists looking forward to investigating cars of the future, rocket cannons, the atom, volcanoes and many other fascinating subjects. Interested students can attend the Y7 Science Club on Mondays. Other year group's STEM Clubs are Thursdays, all start at 3pm.



A busy Autumn term for our STEAM Ambassadors

So far this year in the Erasmus+ STEAM (Science, Technology,

Engineering, Art & Maths) project, we have been preparing for the visit of our Spanish and German exchange partners in June 2020.

Extended Learning Opportunities

For the Y6 open evening, some STEAM ambassadors ran a stall to promote the project to prospective students and parents. We have also trialled making our own ceramic soap dishes and bath bombs, in preparation to show our exchange partners how to do this in June.

We have used the E-twinning website to form a STEAM group between Meadowhead, San Valero and Gymnasium auf der Karthause, which we will use to make presentations on the STEAM subjects, as well as Languages. Some ambassadors helped celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Meadowhead Community Learning Trust in December, and everyone attended a party to celebrate the end of the year's STEAM projects.



"I found making the soap dishes really fun"— Eleanor Y11

"STEAM has provided me with many great opportunities to visit workplaces" Leo Y11

"I have really enjoyed the different trips we have done" Somtochi Y11

With thanks to Isaac Waldron Y11 for writing this piece for the e-Phoenix.



Budding Journalists

In October four budding journalists visited Heron Publications, the organisation that produces Active8 community magazine. Students gained insight into how the publishing house operates, and met manager and journalist Mike Firth who talked to them about his varied career in journalism.

These 4 students applied for the role of 'teenage columnist' which was advertised exclusively to Meadowhead students, and all 4 impressed Mike so much that he suggested that they share the role of writing a monthly column in rotation for Active8 for the foreseeable future. The first instalment by Isaac (Y11) was published in the November edition and the second by Grace (Y9) in December's, both on page 16.

Isaac said *"I've really enjoyed the opportunity to test out my journalistic skills in a column for the first time"*



Y8 Media Literacy

We were pleased to welcome The Student View into school in October with an opportunity for a group of our Y8s to improve their media literacy skills.

Students enjoyed discussions on where we get our news & how to trust it, misinformation and identifying local issues.

They then began the process of writing their own journalistic piece and will continue with two further sessions in the new year.



The Meadowhead Community Learning Trust Celebrates 10 years

We were delighted to be joined by many of our trust business and education partners, staff, students and Alumni to help us to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Meadowhead Community Learning Trust in December. Everyone enjoyed a short video showcasing a range of the projects the trust has been involved in.

Jo Silverwood, Trust Manager who organised the event commented *"The 30 business and education partners on the MCLT trust board work together tirelessly year on year to provide a rich variety of learning opportunities and projects to support learners aged 3-19 in the Meadowhead Community. The trust is really something special, and I feel truly proud to be part of such a unique group of dedicated trustees, and to have helped the trust to grow from just 5 to 30 partners over the last 10 years."*

After the celebration, members of the trust held their annual general meeting with many positive ideas for future projects. Here's to the next 10 years!

(Left) Two STEAM Erasmus+ ambassadors chat with Maureen Neil, chair of the MCLT and to Jo Silverwood, Trust Manager.

To mark the occasion, we have also created a video highlighting some of the many Trust Projects, which you can view on our website: [About Us](#) - [Community](#) - [Trust Partnership](#) - [Celebrating 10 Years](#)



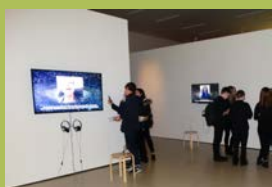
Careers

This term, students have benefited from a range of employer encounters and experiences, including:

- Y10 Health & Social Care: Career in Healthcare exhibition at Northern General Hospital
- Y12 Business: online webinar to find out about careers with PwC
- Students from Y7, 8 and 9 developed their entrepreneurial skills by entering Big Challenge 2020
- Y11s heard from post-16 providers in assemblies and at Alternatives to Sixth Form and various open evenings
- Meeting employers at the Apprenticeship Information Evening for Y11s and Y13s.

Creative Careers Week

As part of Creative Careers Week 2019, a group of Y10 art and design students got the chance to visit Site Gallery and Yorkshire Artspace. They enjoyed interviewing a range of staff about their jobs, as well as touring the artists' studios and chatting to staff working in the creative industries.



NCS Gold Award

In recognition of our commitment to the National Citizen Service we are proud to be awarded the Champion School Gold Award. The NCS summer programme is a unique opportunity for Y11 students to get a taste for independence and pick up new skills. *"It was really good - best bit was probably meeting new people"* Ethan Hall Y12
"I enjoyed trying new activities - definitely recommend it!" Will Harper Y12. Any Y11s wanting to experience NCS this summer can sign up at <https://wearencs.com/>



Big Challenge

Our young entrepreneurs at school have been working hard this term to start new businesses at part of Big Challenge 2020. They have been working in small teams to research their target market, plan their marketing strategies and develop their products for sale. You might have seen some of the students at Christmas markets across the city, as well as pop-up stalls at The Moor Market and Crystal Peaks



Market. They also sold their products to staff and students at Meadowhead's very own Christmas Market in the mornings before school. The experience has helped them to become more enterprising, learn the challenges of setting up a business, as well as develop skills for the future in teamwork, problem-solving, creativity and resilience.



"It's good because it give you a better understanding of how businesses work" Archie Mosforth Y9

"It gives you a taste of real life" Xianna Carberry-Consadine Y9

"When you start, it's quite difficult but you learn more and more as you go through it with your Big Challenge team" Eric Chen Y9



"I've got better at talking to people I don't know" Mia Harris Y7



The Festive Season

This year, we hosted the **Christmas Concert** in the Rosling, as our performers gathered around our new baby grand piano. A wide selection of group and solo performances were very well received and the ambience of the evening was enchanting. We are confident that everyone left feeling very festive!

Thank you to all the parents and members of staff who freely gave their time to support this evening. A huge thank you must go to the young people who brought such energy, enthusiasm and commitment to this Christmas Concert.



Christmas Carol Concert at The Woodland View Care Home

We were delighted to be asked to perform at the Woodland View Care home this year. We brought a selection of musicians and singers to perform a range of Christmas Carols, where the audience were invited to join in. They sang and danced their way in to the festive period and our students, as always, represented themselves and our school in an impeccable manner.



"Performing to the residents was very heartwarming" Katie Y11



This year's school Christmas cards were created from a piece of art work by Miriam Levy Y12 and beautifully hand written by our Y7 student volunteers.



A Christmas Carol

A timely, seasonal and fresh performance of

Charles Dickens' classic story entertained a full hall of Y11 students. A great way to finish the term and it will really help with their study of this novel. Thank you to the very talented Quantum Theatre Company.



KS3 Families got Creative for Christmas!

Invited families from Y7-Y9 enjoyed developing their creative skills this half term in our Creative Christmas evening workshops led by our very helpful ADT staff.

Y7 families designed wooden and acrylic Christmas tree decorations, followed by some festive baking.

Meanwhile Y8/9 families designed and made beautiful fabric Christmas cards using Batik dyeing technique and sewing skills to enhance the designs.

Family feedback was 100% positive, and many parents/carers said that they enjoyed learning new skills, spending one on one time with their child, meeting other parents and getting to know the teachers in an informal setting.



"The sessions provide a relaxed atmosphere in school, with exciting activities to do with your teenager whilst sharing quality time communicating and helping each other to create masterpieces!"

"My daughter and I really enjoyed the workshops and wished there were more! If you get chance to go please do – you get to meet other parents and have quality one to one time with your child"



New Year New Language Skills?

Meadowhead School
Academy Trust



Courses continue 16 / 01 / 20

✉ languagecollege@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk

☎ **Contact Sue Beres:** 0114 23 72723 ext 888

🌐 **For more information:** www.meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk



Out and About

On the 28th of November Year 13 students were given the opportunity to visit the University of Sheffield as part of their 'Discover' programme. Whilst there they covered two main topics- 'Academic Resilience' which aims to help students to develop strategies in order to complete their work against a variety of setbacks and pressures and 'Revision Skills' which helps students to revise effectively by teaching a variety of revision strategies alongside core memory principles and tackling procrastination. This visit will be followed up on the 28th January when representatives from the University will be coming in to school to deliver a session on effective note taking.

Sports Special Mentions

Well done to **Tom Bentley**, our Y10 athletics multi eventer, who recently competed in the English Schools Combined Events in Exeter.

We were pleased to hear that **Franklyn Gordon** Y7 has recently been signed for Sheffield United! He was originally at Everton but decided to sign for his home town club. He has also put in some solid performances for the school football team this season.



Lucia Hilton Y13 was signed by Leeds United Women's Football Team at the start of this season and is currently playing in their U23s team. This is a great achievement and fully deserved by the modest student. We would like to wish her luck for the rest of the season.



Ally in Y9 made us incredibly proud when she achieved first place at the Yorkshire Trampoline Competition in the elite performers category. Ally has worked incredibly hard for her success and thoroughly deserves this recognition of her talent. Ally will now progress to represent Yorkshire in the Northern Competition.

Jak and Bailey of Y9 have both been selected to play for South Yorkshire Football. They have represented Sheffield for a number of years and greatly deserve their call up. Well done boys!



Twitter

Did you know that the PE department have joined social media? For club fixtures, results and news follow us on Twitter @MeadowheadPE and get #greenarmy trending.



Sports

Boys Football

The **Y7 boys** have made an impeccable start to their campaign so far. They are unbeaten in all competitions and have a 100% win record. We are in the last 8 of the Sheffield schools Cup, South Yorkshire schools Cup and in round 4 of the national cup.

Our Y7 five-a-side team played in the Sheffield finals at Concord Sports Centre and were amazing winning all their games to reach the city final with minimal numbers and a recognised keeper. They played Birley in the final and had the majority of possession but failed to take their chances in front of goal.

The **Y8 boys** football team have had an excellent start to the year in the league. They are currently unbeaten with only four fixtures still to play against Tapton, Ecclesfield, Parkwood and Bradfield. Unfortunately, High Storrs knocked the boys out of the English Schools cup in a close game, which could have gone either way. However, the boys have progressed to the next round of the Sheffield Schools cup with a 2-0 win against our neighbours Newfield.

Y9 Football team are currently unbeaten in all competitions! They are in the quarter final of the Sheffield Cup the Quarter final of the South Yorkshire cup, into round 4 of the National cup with a big game coming up against Ecclesfield School. They are still unbeaten in the Sheffield Premier league. Keep up the good work - there are so many fantastic performances throughout the full squad.

Y10 Football Team have had a great start to the season and are through to the 3rd round of the South Yorkshire Schools cup and in the league campaign the team is currently undefeated. The Y10 season highlight so far was a great win against KES with Brandon Coleman receiving player of the match.

The Y11s have made a mixed start to their final year of football at Meadowhead. With a small run in the Clegg shield, they eventually got knocked out by All Saints. The lads have registered a few wins and a few losses in the league. We now turn to the fixtures after Christmas to hopefully finish on a high for the seasons.

All our teams have shown excellent skill and perseverance this term. Well done to all.

Girls Football

U14s are currently 4th in the Sheffield league. The girls are playing some really good football and are representing the school in an excellent manner

U15 girls are currently 2nd in the Sheffield league and are through to Round 4 of the English schools national cup competition, playing against Cardinal Heenan school in Leeds.

U16s are winning the Sheffield league competition at the



moment and are also through to Round 4 of the English Schools competition with the matches played in Leicester at the end of term.

Boys Rugby

Our Rugby teams have all had a brilliant start to the year, battling through some tough weather conditions.

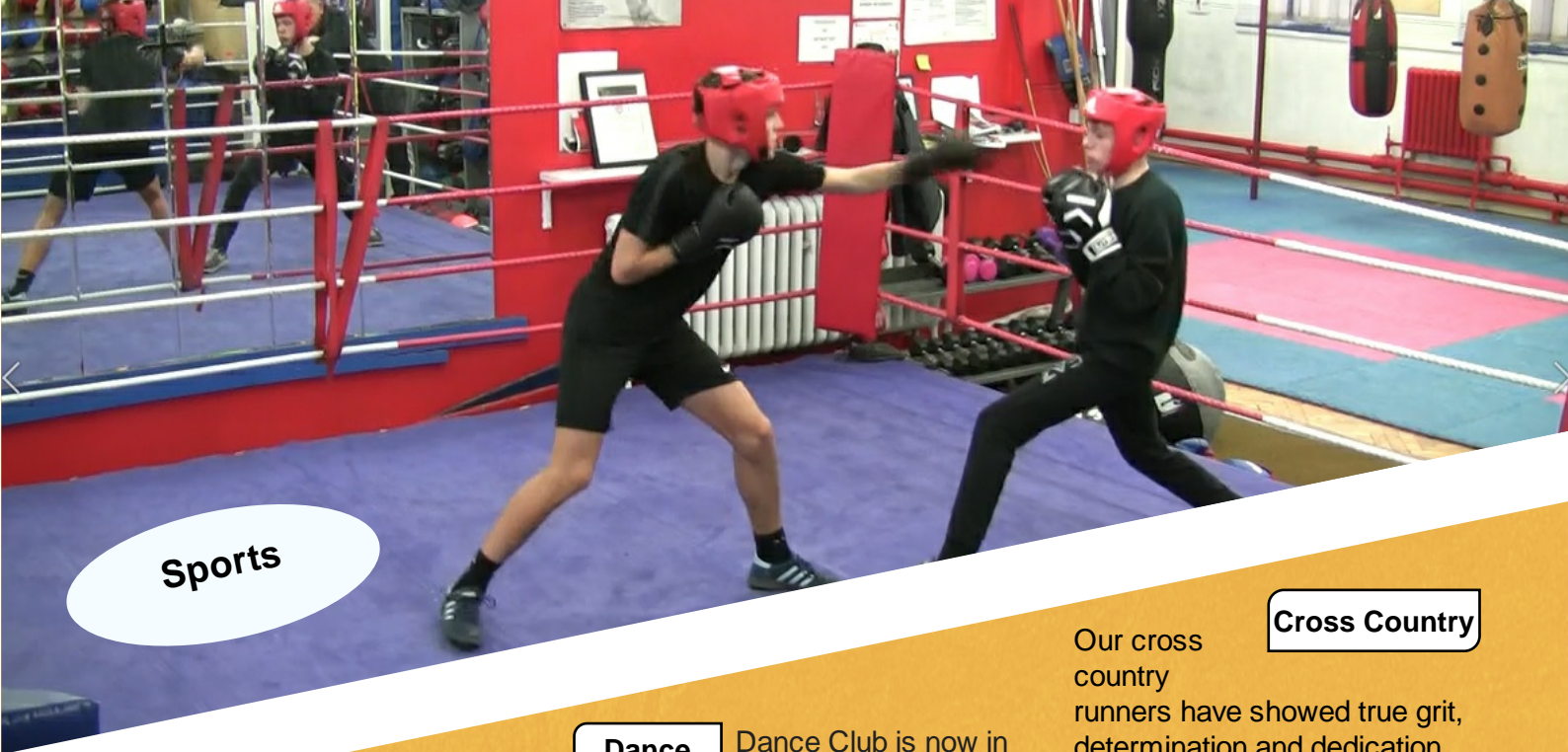
Our **Y7 team** are really showing their strength, getting good numbers in training, some quality ball in hand time and strong physical running.

Our **Year 8s** had a standout win against King Egberts who are a very strong team.

Our **Year 9s** have been up against a number of larger more physical teams and had a very close match against Silverdale recently.

We are all hoping to keep our momentum up for our fixtures after the Christmas Season.





Sports

GCSE Boxing

Our Y11 GCSE students have been completing a Contender Boxing Course at Sheffield City boxing club, receiving some quality coaching from Brendan Warburton and Callum Beardow. This has ran in conjunction with their GCSE to enable them to use it towards their grade. The students have showed brilliant maturity and composure and have relished this opportunity that is not often offered by schools.



Dance

Dance Club is now in full swing with our dancers choreographing their own dance pieces for next year's Dance Show. Our theme is going to be female icons; the groups have all chosen their own female icons and so far have choreographed some amazing ideas!

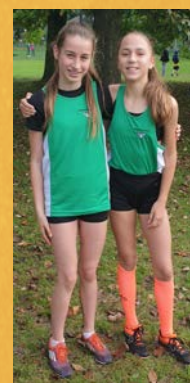
Table Tennis

We recently had our U16 and U13 teams play in a South Yorkshire competition at Sheffield's EIS. Both teams competed valiantly against a number of teams across South Yorkshire. They did Meadowhead proud and learnt a lot from this great experience. Both teams reached the semi-finals and narrowly lost out to Birkdale and Notre Dame.

"A very fun good teacher and friends I don't normally see" Ben 7A table tennis club

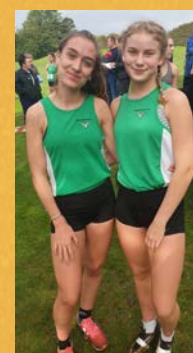
Cross Country

Our cross country runners have showed true grit, determination and dedication running in some very adverse weather conditions.



The school as a

whole are currently in 8th position with special mention going to the Y10/11 girls who are currently 2nd in their team competition.



Netball

Netball has gone from strength to strength this year. We currently have over 50 students regularly attending training each week, with many students competing competitively against Sheffield Schools. This year, all year groups are currently undefeated, winning all of their league matches against all opponents. Looking ahead, we have the Y10 Netball tournament and many more fixtures against different schools across the city.



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