

Moorbrook Newsletter



Mrs Thompson's end of year review

December
2025

I am really pleased to be writing my part of the Christmas newsletter, as many of you know Christmas is my favourite holiday. As I sit here pondering what to write I am feeling, excited, proud and exhausted in equal measures.

At Moorbrook we promote more than just academic learning, social and emotional skills are as important for success in life and being happy as academic success. In the last week of term we have had time to celebrate Christmas at school; enjoying Christmas activities, Christmas lunch, extra trips and a few competitions, not least the annual Christmas treasure hunt. One of the Y11 pupils checked in a few weeks ago to ensure we were having the treasure hunt; it's a time where pupils and staff work in small teams running around school solving clues to win a small prize. Over the years I have come to realise it is not the prize that matters, it is the joy of competition and team work, it's a familiar fun routine. Not all pupils join in some find it too much and this is OK, they quietly read a book, watch a movie or play a game. This is what Christmas is all about celebrating the season in the way you feel best that suits you and your family.

The Autumn term is the longest and everyone works very hard during this term: staff are settling in the new pupils and settling other pupils back to school, senior leaders are supporting and training new staff and we always get hit with illnesses in this term. I'd like to thank them all for their hard work and say how please we are to have welcomed our newer staff, I am proud to lead one of the best teams in Lancashire. For pupils it is equally hard, settling back to school after a 6 week break or starting a new adventure in a new school, pupils work really hard in this term I am very proud of how the new pupils have settled into school, they and the staff have worked very hard to make sure the start to high school is a successful one. I am equally proud of the older pupils who have supported the new pupils and been fantastic mentors, the kindness and caring nature of our pupils is one thing that makes me smile every day.

Please enjoy your holiday, stay safe, have fun and relax – I know I will be doing all those things, which is why I'm excited for the break.

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Mathematics with Mr Barnes

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It has been a busy term in the Maths department, with all of the pupils putting in lots of effort and making good progress.

Well done to the Year 8's for working hard this term and getting on well as a class. All of the boys have produced some brilliant pieces of work and tackled some difficult concepts.

My Year 9 pupils have made the transition into KS4 very well and are showing great resilience when faced with more challenging topics. The Year 10's have begun studying the 2-year GCSE course and have shown a great attitude towards this.

Finally, my Year 11's have made the step up to top of the school very well. They are a great example to the younger pupils. All the boys have shown a mature attitude and brilliant effort levels.

I wish all of the pupil's and their families a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. Make sure you have plenty of fun and get lots of rest.

Best wishes,
Mr Barnes

$$\text{Teddy Bear} + \text{Teddy Bear} + \text{Teddy Bear} = 6$$

$$\text{Teddy Bear} + \text{Christmas Tree} = 13$$

$$\text{Christmas Tree} - \text{Gift} = 4$$

$$\text{Teddy Bear} + \text{Christmas Tree} + \text{Gift} = ?$$

Moorbrook Newsletter

English with Ms Morton



December
2025

As we come to the end of a busy but productive term in English I would like to say well done to all the boys for their efforts this year.

This half term, Year 8b have been learning about fiction and our novel has been 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. They have looked at the different characters and what makes a good story.

There have been some great discussions and predictions about how the story will end! Year 9 have been studying the novel 'Stone Cold' by Robert Swindells, they have really been absorbed by the characters and storyline and it's a pleasure to see them keen to find out where the story will go next and develop their own views and opinions on the setting and the characters.

Year 10's novella has been 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens inspired by their introduction to some of the characters in our non-fiction scheme of work last year. This is a complex text but their understanding of the characters and themes has been fantastic, we will finish the term with a watch of the Muppet version at their request.



Year 11 have looked at paper 2 this half term. We have studied the different questions and assessment objectives and had a go at completing different parts of the paper, this time with the focus being non-fiction reading and writing. This is really tricky and requires concentration and resilience. We will continue to build on the skills required for a successful English language GCSE next term.

I would like to finish by wishing all the boys and their families a very

Happy Christmas and a wonderful new year!

Enjoy the break and I'll see you all in 2026



Ms Morton

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Science with Mr Adam



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Year 7A and 7B

The 7As and 7Bs have been investigating the states of matter. As part of their experiments, they explored the melting points of different types of chocolate and observed how ice melts at various temperatures.

Year 8A

The 8As have been learning about how plants grow and investigating how different conditions affect the rate at which garlic grows. They have also been exploring different types of plants and the wider topic of plant biology.

Year 8B

The 8Bs have started learning about keeping healthy and the different types of micro-organisms that can attack the body, as well as the body's defence mechanisms..

Year 9

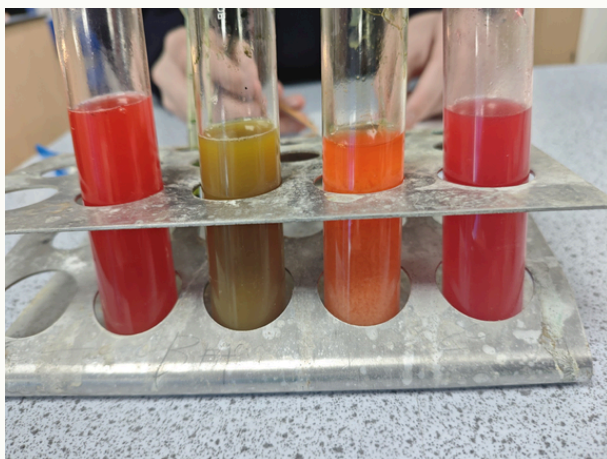
The year 9s are continuing to work through their Entry Level Science course. They have nearly completed the biology unit and will soon be taking their first assessment. Good luck to everyone!

Year 10

Our Year 10 students have been working hard in Biology, recently completing their topics on Infection and Response and Bioenergetics. They have now begun their fifth GCSE Biology topic, Homeostasis and Response, where they are exploring how the body maintains stable internal conditions. Great progress is being made!

Year 11

Our Year 11 students are continuing their preparations for GCSE Biology. They have been revisiting key topics, strengthening their understanding, and refining their exam techniques as they work towards their upcoming assessments. Their dedication and focus are really shining through.



COMPUTING

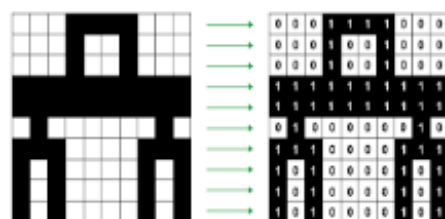


Year 7 and Year 8a

This half term we have been learning all about Scratch Programming and how sprites interact with coding. All pupils have been really engaged and have produced some great animations. Following this we have learnt about algorithms and sequencing, pupils had to type their own algorithm to make a jam or chocolate spread sandwich and then evaluate it. Great work completed.

Year 8b

This half term the year 8b have been investigating the computing language. The pupils have completed learning on Binary conversions, logic gates and truth tables. They have shown great motivation alongside frustration but managed themselves really well. Well done!



Year 9

Year 9 have been learning about Excel spreadsheets – they have used lots of data which they had to convert into charts, they used formulas for addition/subtraction/multiplication and also division. They have analysed given data to answer questions and all worked well.

	A	B	C	D
1		Jan	Feb	
2	Entertainment			
3	Cable TV	52.98	52.98	
4	Video Rentals	7.98	11.97	
5	Movies	16.00	32.00	
6	CDs	18.99	29.99	
7	Totals	=SUM(B3:B6)		
8				

Year 10 and 11



All pupils are working towards their qualifications in computing and are soon going to be entered for their exams. All pupils are trying really hard with the variety of topics we need to cover, the knowledge and skills are being recalled from previous learning and all pupils have been fully engaged.

This half term has been full of new skills and new knowledge in computing and I would like to say thank you to all of the pupils for all of your hard work.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and happy new year.

Mrs. Pennington- Hurst

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Physical Education with Mr McKenna and Mr Wilson



December
2025

It's been another excellent term in PE and the boys have worked extremely hard!

KS3 have worked on a variety of sports this term, with the year 7's concentrating on building and mastering their football skills and have now moved over to using the gym now that it is re-open. We have had some good sessions so far in the gym with Kyle completing 2000m on the rowing machine on his first attempt!

8a's have been working on dodgeball this term, learning the rules and competing sensibly. I think they've enjoyed aiming for Ms Thorpe the most!

8b have been working hard on football this term with Mr Hatton, improving their technique and skills every week to now be able to play full competitive games together, there's been some outstanding bits of play!

KS4 have continued with their sports coaching and sport performance lessons, create different drill and activities to push themselves to the next level. They have tried and tested techniques and we have even invited in the podcasting team in recent weeks to record their sessions audio so we can reflect on them next term.



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Super six trips - KS3 and KS4

December
2025

During the final week, the super six's had been confirmed and our awards trips ran!

Congratulations to the following pupils for their magnificent hard work this term that helped them secure their place on the trips!



KS3

Thomas N
Matthew B
Cason
Luke
Eli
Jack Sc



KS4

Armaan
Bleddyn
William
Lewis
Thomas C
Cleon



The 12 hard working students had been rewarded with a trip to Middlebrook retail park, with a choice of two films and a restaurant of their choice! The boys watched 'Zootropolis 2' and 'Now you see me, now you don't' at VUE cinema with some treats. They then headed over to KFC and McDonalds to finalise their day!



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Mrs Baron and Year 7a

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This term Year 7a's topic has been "Around the World". In English they studied Kensuke's Kingdom, a story about a boy, Micheal, who travelled the world on a ship with his family. The boat was subject to a tsunami and he washed up on a dessert island. The pupils created their own island boxes, and described them using new vocabulary.

They used drama techniques to act out and get into character, investigating how different characters felt during different times. In geography, we studied lots of different countries of interest around the world. We used different maps to locate them and research to learn about the culture. The pupils have worked really hard this term and are definitely ready for a break! I hope they have a lovely Christmas break, and I am looking forward to seeing them again in the new year!

Mr Simpson and Year 7b

Another very busy term for the newer pupils. I think everyone has just about found their feet. We've covered some fractions work (actually quite a lot of fractions) and are working on angles now. In our English work we've spent time reading, watching and re-writing Kensuke's Kingdom, a story based on a young boy who ends up on a deserted island, or so he thinks. Geography has meant looking at landmarks, both locally and around the world whilst also including some simple map work. We've looked at grid references and also spent a little time exploring the times and distances between places of interest using Google Maps.

A keen interest in Wordl has developed in Thrive and we have also discovered Bandl, highly recommended if you haven't tried it. With a few very basic clues, music tracks are given in different layers and the idea is to guess it in as few goes as possible. Some are much easier than others!

Moorbrook Newsletter

Ms Thorpe and Year 8a



December
2025

It has been a busy and exciting half-term for 8A! One of our highlights was building a hedgehog house after we found a hedgehog at the front door of school. The students were very enthusiastic about helping our new little visitor feel at home.

We also tried our hand at hatching some sea monkeys, although unfortunately they didn't hatch this time. We're not sure why, maybe we'll have better luck next time!

In geography, the class got very creative making biomes out of shoeboxes and other craft materials. Jack created a Taiga, Alfie designed an Ocean, and Dalton, Kain, and Matthew built a Desert. The results were fantastic and showed lots of imagination and effort.

In drama, we explored *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* over three lessons, focusing on scripts and freeze-frame work. The students engaged brilliantly and really enjoyed bringing the story to life through drama.

Alfie, Jack, Kain, and Dalton all received a Head's Commendation for their fantastic efforts in Creative Writing. As a result, they each have £5 in their bonuses and their work is proudly displayed on the Head's Commendation wall.

Finally, to celebrate Miss Thorpe's birthday, the class went bowling for Friday afternoon activities. It was a fun way to end the week and everyone had a great time together.

8A have shown fantastic creativity, teamwork, and enthusiasm this half-term, and we can't wait to see what they get up to next!



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Coffee & cake morning with Miss Gallagher

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ICoffee, Cake, and Catch-Up: A Thriving Termly Tradition

This term's Coffee, Cake, and Catch-Up proved to be a resounding success, bringing together parents, carers, grandparents, and pupils in a vibrant atmosphere of community and connection.

Held each term, these gatherings have become an invaluable opportunity for families to mix, communicate, network, and share strategies with like-minded people. The event was buzzing with conversation, laughter, and plenty of social interaction for the pupils, creating a true hive of activity.

What made this occasion particularly special was the presence of representatives from a range of agencies and professionals.

We were delighted to welcome:

- Dave, safeguarding professional
- A colleague representing primary mental health from our educational hub
- FazFire Station
- Colleagues from New Beginnings Education
- Debs from the Police Service
- Members of Moorbrook School staff

Their contributions added depth and expertise to the conversations, reinforcing the collaborative spirit that underpins our school community.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Kai, whose hosting and catering skills, learnt on his work experience, ensured everyone felt warmly welcomed. From greeting guests to serving hot drinks, Kai's efforts created a hospitable environment that set the tone for the day.

I am are thrilled by the turnout and grateful for the support shown by all who attended. Events like these highlight the strength of our community and the importance of working together to support our children's growth and well-being.

I look forward to many more successful Coffee, Cake, and Catch-Up mornings in the future!

Next one to be confirmed March 2026, see you there, Angela Family Support



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Educational visits with
Miss Gallagher

December
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Knife crime awareness

Earlier this term, myself and the MIP team took nine pupils to a knife crime awareness awards event held at Preston North End Football Club. The day was both educational and deeply impactful for everyone involved. During the event, pupils learned about how to stay safe, how to avoid knife crime, and the devastating effects it can have on individuals, families, and entire communities. They were also taught the seriousness of the law surrounding knife crime – including that anyone over the age of 10 is considered legally responsible, and that knowing someone is carrying a knife and failing to report it can result in being charged with a crime by association.

The hosts at Preston North End also provided a guided tour of the football ground and changing rooms, which was a fantastic experience for the pupils. Later, they listened to a powerful and emotional talk from Bryon, who shared the tragic story of how his brother lost his life as a result of knife crime in Preston. His message had a lasting impact on everyone in the room.

After lunch (pizza and chips), pupils took part in a hands-on first aid session using life-size mannequins. They learned how to respond to serious bleeding and how to give potentially life-saving support in an emergency.

Although we hope none of our pupils ever have to face such situations, the key message was made very clear: If you are ever at risk – run, get to safety, and tell the police or a responsible adult immediately. If someone is bleeding, apply firm pressure to stop the bleed and never remove a knife from a wound.

Foxhall Centre

This week, we received a wonderfully warm welcome at the Foxhall Centre as we proudly delivered 18 bags of generous winter clothing donations. These kind contributions were collected to help restore faith in the true spirit of Christmas and in human kindness.

The donated items will now be distributed to those living on the streets and to individuals and families most in need during these cold winter months. Each bag represents warmth, dignity, and care – and will truly make a meaningful difference to the lives of others at a time when support is needed most.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who took the time to donate. Your generosity and compassion have helped to bring comfort, hope, and reassurance to those who may be facing extremely difficult circumstances. Acts of kindness like these remind us all of the power of community and the importance of looking out for one another.

Thank you once again to everyone who contributed – your kindness will not be forgotten.

Fire station visit

Today, Year 8A enjoyed an exciting and educational visit to the local Fire Station as part of our ongoing fire safety awareness programme. Pupils were welcomed by the fire crew and given a detailed tour of the station, including demonstrations of the specialist equipment, a closer look at the two different fire engines, and even a visit to the life-saving rescue boat.

At the Education Centre, students learned about the importance of fire safety in everyday life and how firefighters respond to different emergencies. Every pupil had the opportunity to fire water using the hose, try on the helmets, and sit inside the fire engines—an experience they won't forget!

A real highlight of the trip occurred when the station received a live 999 call. Pupils were able to observe, first-hand, the firefighters quickly collecting their PPE, assembling as a team, and heading out to respond to an emergency. This unique moment offered a powerful insight into the fast-paced and vital work carried out by the fire service.

Throughout the visit, Year 8A were exceptional. They were courteous, inquisitive, and fully engaged in every activity. As a result of their exemplary behaviour and enthusiasm, the pupils are now recognised as Fire Ambassadors for the school. They will play an important role in helping to promote and share the fire safety messages they have learned.

We are incredibly proud of Year 8A for representing the school so well and for embracing this valuable learning experience.

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Afternoon options

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Podcasting with Mrs Sheridan

The podcasting team has been working hard on preparing updates for the school website. These include a new and updated tour video for everyone to view, interviewing teachers about the subjects they teach, and students from across the year groups sharing their wonderful experiences at Moorbrook School. Keep your eyes peeled for more!

We have also decided on a name for the school podcast, and we would like to formally confirm it as "Moorbrook Unpacked - "from our corridors to yours"

Home maintenance with Mr Wilson

The boys have been excellent this half term in home maintenance, constantly improving their DIY and handman skills. We have focused on making Christmas style wooden decorations in this section, with the pupils able to take theirs home. We have also created wooden baubles to be able to purchase and paint at one of our community days. Lewis has taken a route of recycler this term, dismantling unused wooden furniture and pallets to allow us to have the materials to create!

Well done boys - have an excellent festive break and see you soon!

Home life skills with Mr Appleby

In our home life skills/domesticity lessons this term, our students have a?? themselves really well and been enthusiastic about all the 'jobs' they've done. They've been learning how to make a good cup of tea: budgeting for the household; ironing; using a washing machine; looking after their shoes; cleaning windows and all the while working well together as a group. In 2026, we're going to keep on top of the skills they've been learning and throwing a few more into the mix. We can't wait!

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Getting to know our staff with Ms Thorpe



December
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What do you love most about being part of our school community here at Moorbrook?

The best part of joining Moorbrook has been the incredibly warm welcome from staff and students. The sense of teamwork and belonging is clear from day one. I really enjoy keyworker time and watching students proudly spend their bonus money in the shop, and our weekly celebration assemblies are a highlight. They show just how encouraging and positive our school community is.

How do you think the students would describe you?

I hope the students would describe me as happy, calm, and fun to be around. I aim to create a positive atmosphere where they feel comfortable being themselves. I also hope they see that I'm always trying to inspire them to learn, explore new ideas, and believe in what they can achieve.

What is your first memory of Moorbrook?

My first memory of Moorbrook is playing UNO with Jack and him beating me several times in a row. It was a great ice-breaker and a fun way to start getting to know the students.

What are your hobbies outside of school?

Outside of school, I enjoy going to the gym and lifting weights. I also love hiking and being outdoors. I've set myself a couple of challenges this year: to take part in another powerlifting competition and to complete as many Wainwrights as I can.

What is your dream holiday destination?

My dream holiday destination is the Maldives with clear water, sandy beaches, and total relaxation.

What is your favourite film? Why?

My favourite film is Forrest Gump. I love the performances, the heartwarming story, and the way it weaves in so many moments of history. It's a film that makes you laugh, think, and feel all at once.

What is your favourite school meal?

Roast dinner with Booths sausages, easily the best.

What advice or inspirational message would you give to our students?

Keep trying, keep learning, and never underestimate what you can achieve with persistence. Every challenge you face at school is helping to prepare you for your future. Make the most of your time here, work hard, and know that the teachers are wonderful and genuinely want the best for you. With their support, you can achieve great things and look back on your time at Moorbrook with pride and fond memories.



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Birthdays and signing off

December
2025

A big birthday shout out to those who celebrate their birthday between now and our February half term - we hope you have an excellent day!

Logan
Junior
Keelan
Alfie (Yr8)
Kain
Jak
Thomas C
Kai



All staff at Moorbrook would like to wish our students and families a wonderful Christmas and a restful festive break!

We look forward to welcoming the students back on the 5th of January, ready for another year of success and personal development.

Merry Christmas and see you soon!

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Emergency numbers

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General support

Citizen's Advice – offers a range of support for benefits, work, debt and money, consumer, housing, family, law and courts and health.

National help line: 03444 111 444.

Services can also be accessed online at www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Health and wellbeing

Samaritans – for any one suffering with their mental health.

Call for free -116 123 / Email – jo@samaritans.org

Child line – help and support for a wide range of issues including depression anxiety, or generally feeling overwhelmed.

Phone – 0800 1111. There are also online counselling forums, message boards simply visit childline.org.uk

Northwest Children's Social Care contact details

Lancashire – 0300 123 6720 / Emergency Duty Team: 0300 123 6722

Domestic abuse/ violence SAFENET

0300 3033 581 or email contact@safenet.org.uk

Preston Domestic violence services – 01772 201601

Drugs and alcohol support

Inspire – inspirenorthlancs.org.uk – self-referral form online.

Police Non-emergency number – 101

Food Banks

Luv Preston – Phone: 01772 298107 / Email: contact@luvpreston.com

Noor food bank– referral form is required. Can be done online @ www.noorfoodbank.co.uk

The Salvation Army – Tuesdays 10 – 2.30pm drop in and distribution of food parcels.

Citizens advice Skelmersdale – Go to the office for a voucher.

St Mary's Church, Leyland – Mon– Fri 10am until 12pm

Citizens advice Chorley – Go to the office for a voucher.

IF AT ANY POINT YOU BELIEVE A CHILD TO BE AT IMMEDIATE RISK OF HARM OR THERE IS A RISK TO YOUR SAFETY PHONE 999 IF A CHILD IS AT RISK OF HARM OR HAS BEEN HARMED PHONE CHILDRENS SOCIAL CARE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE – ANYONE CAN DO THIS.