

The Great Howarth Gazette

Young Lives. **Bright Futures.**

Issue 5 – December 2024



Dear Parents, Guardians, Students, and Staff

As we reach the end of the first term, I am delighted to reflect on a fantastic few months here at Great Howarth. It has been wonderful to see both familiar faces and new students settling in so well, full of energy and enthusiasm for the months ahead.

One of the highlights of this term was our school being shortlisted for a **NASS (National Association of Independent Schools) Award for Poetry**. This recognition celebrates the creativity and talent of our pupils, who have expressed themselves in such powerful and imaginative ways. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and are excited to see where this journey takes us!

Additionally, we are thrilled to have achieved the **UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award**, an acknowledgment of our commitment to placing children's rights at the heart of everything we do. This award is a testament to the dedication of our staff and students, who have worked together to create a supportive, rights-respecting environment where every child feels valued.

This term, we have also welcomed several new staff members to the Great Howarth team. It has been fantastic to see them quickly integrate into our school community, bringing fresh ideas and energy to enrich the learning environment. Their passion and dedication have already made a positive impact, and we look forward to seeing them continue to thrive in their roles.

As we move into 2025, I look forward to building on these successes and continuing to foster a positive and nurturing atmosphere.

Thank you to our wonderful school community for your ongoing support.

Gavin Hosford, Headteacher

Welcome To The Team!

Amy Thompson – Occupational Therapist

Amy supports our students in developing essential life skills, helping them to gain independence and overcome challenges related to their sensory, physical, and emotional needs. Her work is crucial in ensuring our pupils can engage fully in both school and daily life.

Fleur Hughes – Psychotherapist

Fleur works with students to help them process emotions and experiences, providing a safe space for them to explore feelings and develop coping strategies.

Emma Davies – SENCO

Emma's role is central to ensuring all students with special educational needs receive the tailored support they need to succeed. She works closely with staff, students, stakeholders and families to create individual plans, ensuring every child's specific needs are met.



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NASS Awards 2024 – Breaking Barriers!

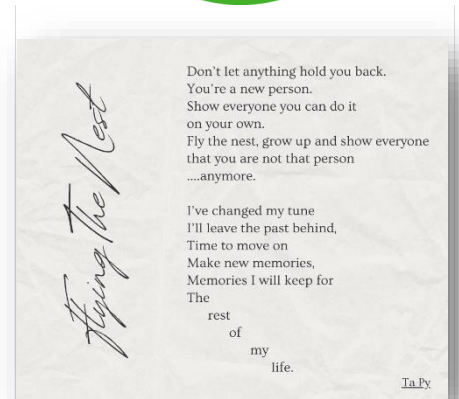
This year the NASS Awards were celebrated at the Queen’s Hotel in Leeds, and Gavin Hosford (Headteacher) and Sarah Leech (Head of English) were privileged to attend, alongside senior Horizon colleagues.

“Seeing the entries for the NASS Awards is one of the best parts of the NASS year. There is no better reminder of the difference that our schools make to children and young people and of the many creative ways in which they seek to do that.” **Claire Dorer, NASS CEO**

Our Poetry By Heart project was delivered in partnership with the Poetry Society and was designed to support pupils with special educational needs by helping them develop confidence and use poetry as a powerful form of expression.



Through this partnership, Great Howarth set out to break down barriers to communication and foster a more inclusive and expressive learning environment. The benefits of this collaboration have been significant, with many of its students discovering a newfound love for literature, sparking a lifelong interest in reading and writing. It led to four pupils receiving high commendations for their entries in the National Poetry Speaking competition for schools and colleges in England.



Unfortunately, Great Howarth missed out on taking the top spot at the awards ceremony, however, as Gavin said;

“Whilst it was amazing for our school to be nominated, the impact of the Poetry By Heart project has been far more profound.

This work has been transformational for our young people and has opened their eyes, their minds and their hearts to poetry – something that by their own admission has never held any interest for them.”



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Celebrating Our UNICEF 'Bronze' Award!

We are thrilled to announce that Great Howarth School has achieved the **UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award – Bronze!** This prestigious award recognises our commitment to promoting children's rights and creating a school environment where every child feels safe, respected, and valued.



The Rights Respecting Schools Award is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which outlines the rights every child is entitled to, such as the right to education, safety, and expression. By working towards this award, we ensure that our students not only learn about their rights but also understand how to respect the rights of others.

Achieving the Bronze Award is a fantastic first step. It means we have created a school culture where children's rights are central to everything we do. It also strengthens relationships between students and staff, as everyone works together to make the school a better, more inclusive place.

The benefits of achieving this award are immense. It helps to build a positive school ethos, boosts student confidence and well-being, and prepares our pupils for life beyond school by teaching them the importance of fairness, equality, and respect.

We are excited to continue our journey towards the Silver Award and beyond, embedding these principles even deeper into our school life!

Congratulations!



Independent Travel Training



Preparation for Adulthood



UNICEF UK
RIGHTS RESPECTING
SCHOOLS AWARD

BRONZE – RIGHTS COMMITTED



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Welcome, Nikita!

We are delighted to introduce **Nikita Deans** as the new **Assistant Headteacher** at Great Howarth School.

Nikita brings a wealth of experience and expertise to our team, having worked in various educational settings where she has shown a real commitment to supporting pupils' growth and well-being. As Assistant Headteacher, Nikita will lead the key areas of **Personal Development, Behaviour, and Welfare**, which are central to our mission of ensuring every young person thrives both academically and personally.

In her role, Nikita will oversee the development of pupils' skills beyond the classroom, focusing on developing resilience, confidence, and a positive attitude towards learning. Personal development includes a wide range of activities designed to help young people grow into well-rounded individuals, including our curriculum for life skills, preparation for adulthood and extracurricular opportunities.

Nikita will also be leading the school's approach to behaviour, ensuring we maintain a positive and respectful learning environment where all pupils feel safe and valued. Additionally, she will play a key role in supporting pupil welfare, ensuring that every child receives the guidance and support they need to succeed.

We are excited to have Nikita on our Leadership Team, and look forward to the positive impact she will make on the school community.



Getting To Know Me!

Do you collect anything?

I collect Champagne bottles – I've got loads from all over the world in all different colours and designs!

What are you passionate about?

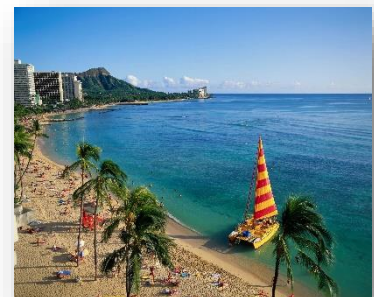
Being a really kind person. I believe in being genuine and showing people the respect that you would like them to show you.

What is the greatest accomplishment of your life?

Professionally, getting this job! In my personal life I'm so proud to be an Auntie – that's my favourite job!

Where is the coolest place you travelled to?

Hawaii! It's paradise!





At Great Howarth, We SHINE!

Our **SHINE (Supporting Healing In Nurturing Environments) Therapeutic Model** allows us to practice using a psychologically informed and trauma responsive approach across Horizon.

SHINE brings together up to date research and approaches which have been found to be essential when supporting young people who have experienced trauma and adversity.

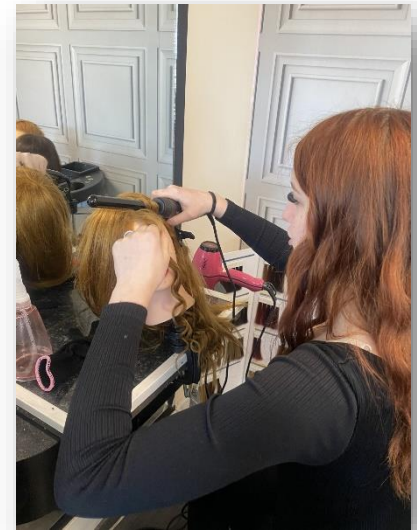
Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy, an evidence-based attachment-focused approach for working with young people incorporating **Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy (PACE – see illustration below)**, underpins our SHINE model. In addition, we also draw from current neuropsychological evidence, notably the work of Bruce Perry, Daniel Siegel and Bessel van der Kolk.



At Great Howarth we provide opportunities which enable young people and colleagues to achieve their full potential. Therapeutic and compassionate care is at the heart of our practice.

Our SHINE Therapeutic Model allows us to deliver attachment-aware and trauma-informed education, care and support across our services.

We believe that everyone deserves their opportunity to shine.



Vocational Education

Our vocational education provision at ACE Training in Rochdale offers a valuable alternative for students who may find it difficult to connect with traditional academic approaches.

These experiences provide hands-on, practical learning that can feel more relevant and meaningful, helping students see the direct application of their skills in real-world situations.

For those who struggle to engage with classroom-based lessons, vocational education can reignite their motivation, build their confidence, and offer a sense of achievement.



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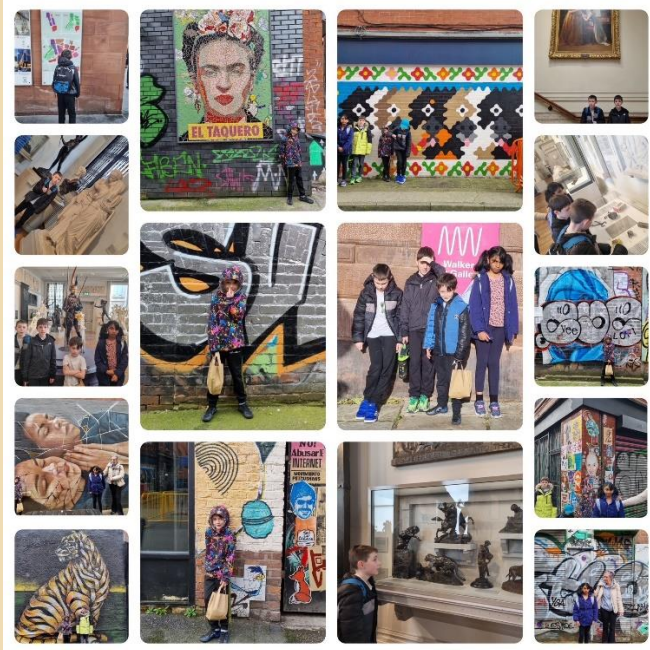
It's Chriiiiiiiiiiiiiissssstmaaaaaaasssssssss!



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Art Week!



This term, our students took part in an exciting **Art Week**, which provided them with a unique opportunity to explore different styles of art through hands-on experiences and gallery visits.

The week began with a trip to **Manchester's Northern Quarter**, where students were immersed in the vibrant world of graffiti and street art. They were fascinated by the creativity, boldness, and powerful messages communicated through the murals and street designs, learning how public spaces can be transformed into dynamic canvases.

To contrast this experience, we also visited the **Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool**, one of the UK's most prestigious galleries. Here, students had the chance to view classical and contemporary works of art, gaining insight into more traditional forms of artistic expression. They were able to reflect on the differences between graffiti and gallery art, looking at how both forms express ideas and emotions in unique ways.

Art Week was a fantastic way for our students to engage with different artistic styles, develop their own creativity, and understand that art is all around us – whether on the streets or hanging in a gallery.

Our 'ChariTree'!

This year we are redoubling our efforts to raise much-needed funds for a variety of charities that benefit children and young people across the UK.

Each month we will be running events that our pupils will be actively participating in, and we will be looking to grow our 'Great Howarth ChariTree' – a tree mural painted on one of our corridors that shows how much money we have raised over time.



So far, in the first term we have raised over **£1000** for **Macmillan Cancer Support, Young Minds, and Children in Need, Save the Children and Jeans For Genes** – *incredibly worthwhile causes.*

Please support us when you can, and if you are able to do so.



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Great Howarth School Office Contact Number:

01706 631 804

Rachel Williams – Admin Officer

Lucy Whelan – Admin Assistant



This is the number to contact for any student absences, and of course any queries you may have.

Dates for the diary

Staff Training Day – School Closed

Monday 6th January 2025

First Day of Spring Term 1

Tuesday 7th January 2025

Last Day of Spring Half Term 1

Friday 14th February 2025

First Day of Spring Half Term 2

Monday 24th February 2025

