

NEWSLETTER



WELCOME BACK

Happy New Year and welcome back to what promises to be another exciting and inspiring term at Settlebeck School! As we begin 2025, we want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements and events from last term that showcased the very best of our school community.

A Few Words from the Headteacher

Last term was filled with accomplishments and community spirit. I am so proud of the dedication, resilience, and enthusiasm shown by our students and staff. Together, we have made Settlebeck School a place where everyone can achieve their best and feel a true sense of belonging. Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a successful term.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

We are delighted to begin this newsletter by celebrating a remarkable achievement. Every year the Department of Education publishes data about the performance of secondary schools across the country. Our Progress 8 score of +0.45 places us in the top 10% of schools nationally. This outstanding result is a reflection of the hard work and commitment of our students and staff, and it demonstrates the high-quality education and support provided at Settlebeck School. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this fantastic success!

CHRISTMAS DRAW

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our Grand Christmas Draw. Thanks to your incredible generosity, we raised an impressive £1851. These funds will make a significant difference in supporting school initiatives and enriching the experience of our students. We are truly grateful for your continued support.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

The Annual Awards Evening 2024 was a fantastic celebration of our students' achievements and dedication throughout the year. The event highlighted the incredible talent, perseverance, and community spirit that defines our school. From academic excellence to personal triumphs and contributions to school life, every award reflected the hard work and commitment of our students. Parents, staff, and governors joined together to applaud their successes, creating a memorable evening of pride and inspiration. We were also delighted to welcome our special guest presenter, Brian Cannon, who shared an inspiring message with our students and helped present the awards. Congratulations to all our award winners — your accomplishments set a shining example for us all!

We were also privileged to host a Gypsy Roma Traveller workshop led by Billy Welch and Bill Lloyd. This event provided a platform for understanding and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the GRT community. The workshop fostered an inclusive environment and encouraged meaningful conversations about diversity and respect. Thank you to PC Adam Roberts for supporting with the organisation.

Our Year 7 students had a fantastic time at the Hawse End residential. This trip provided them with the opportunity to develop teamwork, resilience, and independence while participating in outdoor activities. The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and it was wonderful to see them bonding and growing together.

Students also took part in the BAE Women in STEM workshops, where they learned about exciting careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The workshops were inspiring and empowering, showing students the vast opportunities available to them in these fields.

49 of our students embarked on an inspiring STEM trip to Edinburgh, where they explored cutting-edge scientific innovations and participated in hands-on activities. These experiences sparked curiosity and reinforced the importance of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in shaping the future.

A particular highlight was the visit from renowned author Catherine Bruton. Her engaging discussions with our students about her books and the creative writing process have left a lasting impact. Catherine's visit was especially significant as her works are part of our tutor time reading programme, reinforcing the school's emphasis on reading.

We were thrilled by the overwhelming success of our Snow White pantomime. The hard work and dedication of our performers, backstage crew, and staff resulted in a production that left the audience enchanted. It was truly a testament to the creativity and collaboration of our school community. A special thank you to the Sedbergh Community Trust for their generous financial support, which played a crucial role in bringing this magical performance to life. We are incredibly proud of everyone involved, and we look forward to future creative endeavors together!

We also embraced important awareness days. For Anti-Bullying Week, students and staff wore odd socks to celebrate individuality and spread the message of kindness and inclusion. Additionally, we participated in Christmas Jumper Day to support Save the Children, raising awareness and funds for this vital cause.

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HOUSE EVENTS

Our house system continues to thrive, promoting camaraderie and healthy competition among students. The skills developed during our house events not only promote teamwork and resilience but also support our school values of respect, responsibility, and aspirations, while reinforcing British values such as democracy, tolerance, and mutual respect.

Last term saw an array of exciting house events:

- **Spelling Bee:** Students showcased their linguistic prowess, impressing us with their vocabulary and quick thinking. Congratulations to everyone who participated!
- **House Football:** The energy and enthusiasm on the field were infectious. It was fantastic to see such spirited teamwork and sportsmanship.
- **House Tag Rugby:** The games were action-packed, with students demonstrating remarkable skill, teamwork, and determination.
- **House Quiz:** Teams demonstrated their knowledge across a range of topics, from current events to general trivia. The competition was fierce, but the camaraderie was even stronger.
- **House Karaoke:** A fun and lively event where students showcased their vocal talents, bringing music and joy to the competition.

These events have reinforced the importance of teamwork, resilience, and school values. It has been wonderful to see students supporting one another and striving for their personal best.

UPCOMING HOUSE EVENTS

Exciting House events are coming up, offering students the chance to compete and show team spirit:

- **House Dobble:** A fast-paced card game that tests reflexes and memory.
- **House Charity Enterprise:** Each house will create a fundraising initiative for a good cause.
- **House Public Speaking:** Students will present their ideas and opinions on various topics.
- **House Netball:** A fun and competitive netball tournament for all abilities.
- **House Mastermind:** Test your knowledge and general trivia skills in this quiz-style competition.
- **House Cross Country:** Lace up your trainers for this endurance challenge that will put your fitness and determination to the test.

We can't wait to see the house spirit in action!

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LOOKING AHEAD

As we move into this term, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges ahead. We will continue to nurture the academic, creative, and personal growth of our students, ensuring that Settlebeck School remains a place where everyone can thrive.

Upcoming Trip to Dubai!

We are thrilled about an exciting opportunity for our Year 9 students. This term, they will have the chance to participate in a trip to Dubai. This adventure promises to be an enriching experience, combining cultural exploration, educational activities, and unforgettable memories.

We are delighted to announce that this incredible trip has been made possible through a significant grant secured from the Turing Scheme. This funding not only helps to cover the costs of the trip but also ensures that our students can access this once-in-a-lifetime educational opportunity, broadening their horizons and enhancing their global perspectives.

We are excited to see our students embark on this unforgettable journey!

Upcoming Trip to Slovenia!

We are thrilled to share that a number of our students will be embarking on an exciting trip to Slovenia! This beautiful country, known for its stunning landscapes, rich history, and vibrant culture, promises an unforgettable experience for all involved.

During the trip, we will explore charming towns, majestic mountains, and perhaps even indulge in some of Slovenia's famous cuisine. From breathtaking scenery to cultural immersion, this adventure is sure to leave lasting memories and broaden our understanding of the world.

We are also incredibly grateful for the support of the Town Twinning Committee, whose financial contribution has been instrumental in making this trip possible. Their commitment to fostering cultural exchange and global connections is deeply appreciated.

Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the trip. We look forward to sharing this adventure with all of you!

Finally, thank you for your continued support in making our school a vibrant and inclusive community. On behalf of all the staff at Settlebeck, we wish you a wonderful start to the new term and look forward to seeing all the incredible things we will achieve together in 2025. Your involvement and encouragement are what make Settlebeck such a special place, and we are excited for the journey ahead!