

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025

THANK YOU AND WISHING YOU A WONDERFUL SUMMER BREAK

As we wrap up another successful school year, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to our entire school community—students, families, staff, and community partners—for your continued support, commitment, and collaboration. Your involvement plays a vital role in our school's growth and success.

We wish everyone a happy, restful, and safe summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back for an exciting and enriching academic year ahead!

A Few Words from the Headteacher

As the school year comes to a close, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been a truly rewarding and successful year for our school community. It has been a privilege to witness the growth, resilience, and accomplishments of our students, supported every step of the way by our dedicated staff and the unwavering encouragement of families, carers and our wider community.

I wish you all a safe, relaxing, and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in the new academic year, ready to build on this year's successes and embrace the opportunities ahead.

OFSTED SUCCESS – SETTLEBECK RATED 'GOOD' IN ALL AREAS

We are delighted to share the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection, which took place on 20–21 May 2025. Settlebeck School has officially been rated 'Good' across all areas, a fantastic achievement that reflects the strength and dedication of our entire school community.

Ofsted judgements:

- Quality of Education – **Good**
- Behaviour and Attitudes – **Good**
- Personal Development – **Good**
- Leadership and Management – **Good**

The report praises our nurturing and inclusive environment, noting that “pupils are happy and proud to attend.” Inspectors highlighted the strong, supportive relationships throughout the school, our high expectations for all learners—including those with SEND—and the respectful, considerate behaviour shown by students.

They also commended our broad and ambitious curriculum, as well as the rich variety of enrichment opportunities available, such as mindfulness, drama, music, and sports. These activities empower students to explore their interests and take responsibility for their personal growth, reflecting the British Value of Individual Liberty.

The report further recognises how our students show “respect, kindness and courtesy” towards one another and staff, demonstrating our commitment to ‘Mutual Respect’ and the wider British Values of ‘Democracy’, the ‘Rule of Law’, and ‘Tolerance of Different Faiths and Beliefs’.

Ofsted concluded that our pupils are well-prepared for their next steps in education or employment, supported by high-quality careers guidance and meaningful employer encounters.

We are incredibly proud that this report recognises the hard work, care, and ambition that happens every day at Settlebeck. It's a true reflection of the commitment of our students, staff, parents, and wider community—and a celebration of our core values: Respect, Responsibility and Aspiration.

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A PACKED AND PROUD TERM AT SETTLEBECK

The final term of the academic year has been filled with exciting events, enriching experiences, and opportunities to celebrate everything that makes Settlebeck so special.

We marked VE Day in true 1940s spirit, with a whole-school assembly led by Mr East, a lively street-style party featuring music and games from the era, and a competitive tug of war. A fantastic bake sale raised £234 for the Royal British Legion, showcasing our students' commitment to the British Values of Mutual Respect and Individual Liberty through active citizenship and remembrance.

Our Year 7 and 8 students explored the importance of good sleep in a workshop led by Barnardo's, learning valuable sleep hygiene and relaxation techniques to support their wellbeing. The session encouraged reflection on self-care and healthy routines—vital tools for managing life both in and out of school.

A real highlight of the term was our Ofsted inspection, which gave us the chance to show the pride we have in our school community. In recognition of everyone's hard work and positive attitude, we held a joyful 'Thank You' afternoon to celebrate the collaborative spirit that makes Settlebeck such a unique place to learn and grow.

Miss Queen once again brought mystery and excitement to school life with another brilliant Secret Guinea Pig Club. As always, students were delighted by the surprise and fun that these unique gatherings bring—adding a sense of magic and curiosity to the school day.

Our talented Year 10 students wowed everyone at the Kendal College Catering Event, where they prepared and served a stunning four-course meal for an audience of parents, carers, and staff. Their professionalism, teamwork, and creativity were truly inspiring, and the evening was a fantastic showcase of their culinary skills and confidence.

We were delighted to welcome the Jervaulx Singers to Settlebeck, who hosted engaging and interactive workshops with our students. The sessions gave pupils a unique opportunity to explore music in a dynamic and collaborative way, inspiring creativity and confidence.

A group of our KS3 students had the incredible opportunity to attend a cricket masterclass at Headingley, one of the UK's most iconic cricket grounds. They spent the day sharpening their skills, building teamwork, and gaining valuable coaching experience in a professional sporting environment.

Art took centre stage this half term as our Year 11 students proudly exhibited their exceptional work in an end-of-year showcase. The exhibition celebrated their creativity, skill, and individual expression—providing a fitting finale to their artistic journeys at Settlebeck.

Meanwhile, our Year 10 students enjoyed a taster day at Kendal College, where they explored a variety of courses including animal care, engineering, and the uniformed services. The day gave students a valuable insight into potential future pathways and helped spark ideas for life beyond school.

We celebrated a major milestone as we said goodbye to our Year 11 leavers, who looked absolutely dazzling at their Prom held at Sedbergh Golf Club. The evening was filled with laughter, dancing, and fond memories of their time at Settlebeck.

A group of KS3 students participated in a STEM day at Kendal College, working with local industry professionals, while four lucky students began a once-in-a-lifetime adventure to Cambodia with Miss Hodgson and Camp International—a true demonstration of aspiration, global citizenship, and courage.

The wonders of the universe came to Settlebeck with a visit from the mobile planetarium, which was enjoyed by both our students and pupils from our primary feeder schools. We also hosted an inspiring STEM afternoon for Year 9, led by BAE Systems, sparking curiosity and ambition in future innovators.

SETTLEBECK SCHOOL

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A PACKED AND PROUD TERM AT SETTLEBECK

Our Year 10 students recently completed a successful week of work experience, and we are incredibly proud of the maturity, enthusiasm, and professionalism they demonstrated across a wide variety of placements. This valuable opportunity gave students a first-hand look into the world of work, allowing them to develop essential skills, gain confidence, and explore potential future careers.

Students were placed in a diverse range of settings, from hospitality and retail to healthcare, education, and agriculture. Each experience provided its own unique challenges and rewards:

- Ned worked at Sedbergh Golf Club, supporting staff with events and hospitality tasks—gaining insight into the leisure and customer service sector.
- Jayden contributed brilliantly at the Sedbergh Charity Shop, where he helped sort donations, manage displays, and engage with customers.
- Ed completed his placement at Sedbergh Medical Practice, where he learned about the day-to-day running of a busy GP surgery and gained an understanding of roles in healthcare.
- Eryn spent the week at Speckled Hen Nursery, assisting with activities and care for young children, and developing skills in early years education.

Other students took on placements in local primary schools, veterinary clinics, cafes, engineering workshops, and on working farms. Across the board, employers gave glowing feedback, praising our students for their positivity, adaptability, and strong work ethic.

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the businesses, organisations, and families who welcomed our students and helped make this experience such a success. Your support plays a vital role in preparing them for life beyond school and we are truly grateful.

Finally, we were delighted to welcome our incoming Year 7 students for a fantastic Year 6 Transition Day, thoughtfully organised by Mrs Williams and Mrs Faulkner. The day was full of fun activities, taster lessons, and school tours, giving pupils a great introduction to life at Settlebeck.

Students showed enthusiasm and curiosity throughout, making new friends and feeling more confident about starting secondary school. We can't wait to see them back in September and watch them flourish as part of our community. Welcome to Settlebeck!

BEHAVIOUR CURRICULUM LAUNCH

BUILDING A CULTURE OF RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, ASPIRATION

This term, we are proud to launch our new Behaviour Curriculum, designed to help students understand and meet the high expectations that support a positive and purposeful school environment. The curriculum is built around five key strands:

- Punctuality and Uniform** – promoting **responsibility** and respect
- Being Prepared** – encouraging **responsibility**
- Movement Around Site** – reinforcing **respect**
- Relationships with Others** – nurturing mutual **respect**
- Engagement in Learning** – driving **aspiration** and **responsibility**

Each strand reflects our core school values of Respect, Responsibility, and Aspiration, helping students develop habits that will benefit them both in school and in life beyond.

The Behaviour Curriculum also supports the British Value of 'Mutual Respect', encouraging all students to take ownership of their actions, consider the needs of others, and contribute to a calm, respectful and aspirational school community.

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AN UNFORGETTABLE JOURNEY: SETTLEBECK STUDENTS EMBARK ON LIFE-CHANGING CAMBODIA EXPEDITION

On Friday 4th July, four Settlebeck students, accompanied by Miss Hodgson, set off on an extraordinary four-week adventure with Camps International's Camp Cambodia expedition.

This immersive experience combines meaningful community service with cultural exploration. Our students will take part in hands-on projects such as building wells, constructing toilets, and improving school facilities—work that makes a real difference in local villages. Alongside these vital tasks, they will learn traditional skills and gain a deeper understanding of the daily challenges faced by Cambodian communities.

Beyond their service work, the group will explore Cambodia's rich heritage, visiting iconic sites like the UNESCO World Heritage Angkor Wat and important historical locations such as the S21 prison and the Killing Fields. These visits provide powerful insights into both ancient and recent Cambodian history. Evenings will be filled with cultural exchanges, including language lessons, traditional crafts, and games with local children.

The adventure also includes a challenging jungle trek through Cambodia's lush landscapes, pushing students to embrace both personal growth and the stunning natural environment. They will stay in traditional longhouses and enjoy authentic Cambodian cuisine, immersing themselves fully in local life.

The expedition will culminate in a vibrant performance by the Phare Circus, celebrating Cambodia's unique arts and storytelling traditions.

A massive thank you to Miss Hodgson for organising this incredible opportunity and guiding our students every step of the way. We also want to congratulate the students for their remarkable dedication in fundraising thousands of pounds to make this journey possible—your hard work and commitment truly paid off!

This expedition promises to be a truly transformative experience, fostering cultural appreciation, personal development, and lasting memories for our students and the communities they serve.

We look forward to sharing updates on their amazing adventure in our next newsletter as the trip unfolds through the summer holidays.

BE EQUIPED, BE READY TO LEARN

As your child prepares to return in September, please ensure they are fully equipped for learning.

Our minimum equipment expectations include:

- pens (black or blue)
- pencil
- rubber
- ruler
- scientific calculator (recommended model: FX-85GTCW-W-UT | CASIO)

Having the right tools means students can participate fully in lessons without delay.

In addition, it's beneficial for students to bring highlighters, a glue stick, and a protractor to support a range of activities and subjects. Being equipped helps everyone make the most of every learning opportunity!

To support this, essential equipment will be available for purchase in the school office from September.

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HOUSE EVENTS

KS4 House Mastermind (Brain of Settlebeck)

The year kicked off with the Brain of Settlebeck, where KS4 students faced tough questions in a high-pressure quiz. Contestants impressed with their knowledge, focus, and composure whilst representing their houses.

House Arts

Creativity shone in our House Arts events. Students showcased impressive talents while working together in a fun, supportive atmosphere.

Tug of War

Strength and teamwork were key in the Tug of War. With plenty of cheering and determination, each house gave their all in this classic, spirited competition.

House Quiz

The House Quiz brought lively rounds of trivia, testing students on everything from science to pop culture. Held twice this year, it sparked friendly competition and plenty of laughs.

House Assembly

The House Assembly gave us a chance to reflect on achievements, celebrate effort, and build excitement for the events ahead. A moment of unity and encouragement for all.

House Rounders

Sunshine, teamwork, and great sportsmanship marked our House Rounders event. Whether batting, fielding, or cheering, everyone contributed to a fun and energetic afternoon.

Sports Day

A calendar highlight, Sports Day brought together students from all houses for a day of athletics and encouragement. Events like sprints, relays, and jumps showcased determination and house spirit.

House Song & Performance

The year closed with the joyful House Song challenge. Each house chose, rehearsed, and performed a group song, ending the year with energy, creativity, and a true sense of togetherness.

FANTASTIC SPORTS DAY

What a fantastic day of competition, teamwork, and house spirit! Congratulations to our house winners:

- 1st Place: Tarn
- 2nd Place: Dale
- 3rd Place: Ghyll
- 4th Place: Beck
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With a wide range of events from running and jumping to throwing and team relays, there was truly a sport for everyone to enjoy and shine in. Every student showed incredible enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the day, making it a memorable celebration of fitness and fun.

A special shoutout to Dan (Year 7), who was awarded Sports Person of the Day for his outstanding effort and positive attitude. Well done to all students who participated and supported the event—your energy and commitment made Sports Day a huge success!

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HEADS OF HOUSES

Meet Your Heads of House for Next Year!

We're excited to introduce the passionate and dedicated staff who will be guiding each house in the coming academic year:

- **Dale** House will be led by Mr Wild, bringing energy and enthusiasm to the team.
- **Beck** House is in great hands with Mr East, ready to inspire and support every student.
- **Ghyll** House will continue to thrive under the leadership of Mrs Waring, known for his commitment and positivity.
- **Tarn** House will be guided by Ms Harrison-Townsend and Mrs Faulkner, whose encouragement and care will help students achieve their best.

We look forward to a fantastic year ahead under their leadership, full of spirit, teamwork, and success!

STAFF NEWS: FAREWELL AND WELCOME

Farewell and Best Wishes to Miss Yates

We say a fond goodbye to Miss Yates, who will be leaving us to take up a new role teaching Maths at Queen Katherine School in Kendal. We thank her for all her hard work and dedication at Settlebeck and wish her every success in the next exciting step of her career.

Farewell and Best Wishes to Mrs Huntington

We say a fond goodbye to Mrs Huntington, who will be leaving us to take up a new role at Oversands School as a Family Liaison officer. We thank her for all the support that she have given the students during her time at Settlebeck.

Welcome to Miss Dunkinson

We are pleased to welcome Miss Dunkinson to the Settlebeck team as our new Maths teacher. We look forward to seeing her inspire and support our students in the year ahead.

HOUSE WINNERS

Hot Off the Press!

This afternoon, we hosted our much-anticipated annual House Song competition—and, as always, it was a spectacular event! Congratulations to Ghyll House, who took home the top spot with a brilliant performance of "Thriller."

A huge round of applause as well to Dale House, who emerged as this year's overall house champion, earning an impressive 15,452 house points. Well done, Dale!