

# NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2025

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding autumn term, I want to take a moment to reflect on all the exciting opportunities our students have enjoyed. From the unforgettable football trip to Lisbon, to the adventurous Year 7 residential at Hawes End, and the inspiring visit to London, this term has been filled with experiences that enrich learning beyond the classroom.

One of the highlights so far this year was our Awards Evening, where we celebrated the achievements of our students in style. We were privileged to welcome Ashley John-Baptiste as our guest speaker. Ashley spoke passionately about his childhood experiences in care and how he overcame challenges to become an award-winning journalist and presenter of The One Show. His story was truly inspiring and reminded us all of the power of resilience and determination.

Thank you to all staff, students, and families for your support in making this term such a success. As we head into the festive season, I wish you all a restful and joyful Christmas and a very happy New Year. May the holidays bring peace, laughter, and time with loved ones. I look forward to an equally vibrant spring term ahead!

## STAFF NEWS: FAREWELL AND WELCOME

### Farewell and Best Wishes to Sally Ingham.

In 1989, Mrs. Ingham joined Settlebeck and, for more than three decades, has been the heart and soul of our school. Starting as an English teacher, her passion for literature and love of all things book quickly became infectious, inspiring generations of students to discover the magic of words. Her journey saw her rise to Head of English and later Assistant Head, where she guided countless young people in shaping their futures through her oversight of careers.

Mrs. Ingham's impact cannot be measured in years alone, but in the thousands of lives she has touched. Her dedication, wisdom, and unwavering care have left an indelible mark on our community. Students and staff alike will deeply miss her warmth, her enthusiasm, and her ability to make everyone feel valued.

As she turns the page to a new chapter, we thank her for everything she has given to Settlebeck. She leaves behind a legacy of learning, kindness, and inspiration that will live on in every story told and every dream pursued.

A massive thank you to everyone that contributed to Mrs. Ingham's leaving assembly. Your efforts made the occasion truly special and a fitting tribute to her incredible career at Settlebeck.

### Welcome to Savannah Robinson

We are delighted to welcome Miss Robinson as our new Pastoral Assistant. She joins us from Keswick School, bringing with her a wealth of pastoral experience and a strong commitment to supporting the wellbeing of our students. We are excited to have her on board and look forward to the positive impact she will make within our school community.

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY VISIT INSPIRES OUR KEY STAGE 4 MATHEMATICIANS

We were delighted to welcome Molly Lockwood, Schools Liaison, Outreach and Recruitment Officer from Queen's College, Oxford University. Molly delivered two inspiring sessions for our Key Stage 4 mathematicians: "Why University?" and "Critical Thinking." These sessions offered invaluable insights into the benefits of higher education and highlighted the importance of developing strong analytical skills. Our students engaged brilliantly, asking thoughtful and challenging questions throughout. It was a fantastic opportunity to broaden horizons and ignite ambition for future academic pathways.



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## YEAR 9 & 10 LONDON TRIP – A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY AND CULTURE

Our recent Year 9 and 10 trip to London was an unforgettable experience, packed with learning, adventure, and cultural enrichment.

After a long journey to London from Sedbergh, Day 1 began with a magical evening at Winter Wonderland, where students soaked up the festive atmosphere and enjoyed the sights and sounds of Hyde Park.

Day 2 was a whirlwind of iconic London experiences. Students cruised along the River Thames, explored the historic Houses of Parliament and the Supreme Court, and even encountered some friendly pigeons outside Buckingham Palace. A ride on the London Eye offered breathtaking views of the city, followed by a visit to the world-famous Harrods. The day concluded in spectacular fashion with a trip to the West End to see the award-winning musical Matilda, a true highlight for many.

On Day 3, the magic continued with a visit to Harry Potter World, where students immersed themselves in the wizarding world and discovered the artistry behind the beloved films.

Throughout the trip, our students represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating maturity, curiosity, and enthusiasm at every stage. Experiences like these are invaluable in building cultural capital, broadening horizons, and inspiring future aspirations.

A huge thank you to the dedicated staff who made this trip possible: Miss Queen, Mrs Waring, Mrs Williams, Mr East, and Mrs Sen. Your hard work and commitment ensured an enriching and memorable experience for all.



## ANNUAL AWARDS EVENING 2025

This year's Annual Awards Evening was a truly special occasion, as we came together to celebrate the outstanding academic achievements and remarkable endeavour demonstrated across all subject areas. It was a privilege to welcome back our Year 11 Class of 2025, who joined us in marking this memorable event.

We were honoured to have Ashley John-Baptiste - acclaimed author and presenter of The One Show - as our guest motivational speaker. Ashley captivated the audience with his powerful and deeply moving story of resilience, sharing his journey from childhood in care to studying at Cambridge University and becoming a successful author and television presenter. His words inspired everyone in the room, and there truly wasn't a dry eye in the house.

A heartfelt thank you goes to Mrs Davies, Mr Greenwood, and Mrs Williams for their exceptional organisation and presentation of the evening; to Mr Pattison for providing beautiful music; Mrs Brewer for the stunning floral arrangements; and Mrs Waring for producing the delicious entrées.

The evening concluded with an emotional farewell speech from Ms Ingham, marking the end of an incredible career spanning over 30 years at our school. Her dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment have left an indelible mark on generations of students and staff. It was a poignant and heartfelt goodbye that perfectly captured the spirit of the evening.

Finally, a huge thank you to all the students, parents, and carers who attended and helped make the evening such a memorable celebration of achievement and community.

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## CINDERELLA PANTOMIME

What a show! This year's pantomime, Cinderella, was nothing short of spectacular. Lucy shone in the title role, bringing grace and charm to Cinderella, while Daniel was every bit the dashing Prince Charming. Matilda had the audience in stitches as the lovable Buttons, and Lorenzo delivered a brilliant performance as Danini. Alida sparkled as Fairy G, and Christa brought magic to the stage as the Fairy Godmother. Adding to the fun, Mr Wild and Daniel stole the show as the outrageous Ugly Sisters, and Mrs Davies was perfectly wicked as the evil Stepmother. The humour throughout was spot-on, thanks to the witty and clever script created by our talented Year 10 Drama students.

One of the highlights of the evening was the hilarious rendition of The 12 Days of Christmas - the audience were in absolute stitches! It was a moment of pure festive joy that will be talked about for years to come.

A huge thank you to Mrs Harrison-Townsend for pulling this incredible production together - it was a night full of laughter, music, and festive cheer that will be remembered for a long time. We are also extremely grateful to Sedbergh Town Council for their generous grant and to Sedbergh School for the loan of some of the beautiful costumes that helped bring the magic to life.

## TACKLING KEY ISSUES: KNIFE CRIME, DRUGS, AND COUNTY LINES

As part of our PSHE curriculum, we were pleased to welcome PC Adam Roberts, Community Beat Officer from Sedbergh, and PC Gillian Jackson from the Child-Centered Policing Team. They delivered an informative and thought-provoking workshop addressing critical issues such as knife crime, drug awareness, and county lines. The session provided our students with practical knowledge, real-life context, and strategies to stay safe and make informed choices. Our students engaged thoughtfully, asking insightful questions and reflecting on the impact these issues have on individuals and communities. This workshop was an invaluable opportunity to raise awareness and empower our young people to make positive decisions.



## FUNDRAISING AT SETTLEBECK: MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER

### MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT

This year, our school community came together for a delicious cause! We hosted a cake sale in support of Macmillan Cancer Support, raising funds to help those affected by cancer and contribute to vital research. The event was a wonderful success, with students and staff showing incredible generosity and enjoying some sweet treats along the way. Thank you to everyone who baked, bought, and donated—you've helped make a real difference.

On World Mental Health Day, Settlebeck was glowing with positivity as students and staff embraced Wear It Yellow Day. The school was lit up with bright yellow clothing to raise awareness and funds for mental health charities. This vibrant event sparked important conversations about wellbeing and reminded us all of the importance of supporting mental health in our community. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and helped spread the message of hope and resilience.



We ended the year in festive style with Christmas Jumper Day, raising money for Save the Children. Students and staff donned their most colorful and creative jumpers, bringing plenty of cheer to the school while supporting a fantastic cause. This event combined fun with fundraising, showing the power of community spirit during the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who joined in and helped make a difference for children around the world.

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## HOUSE EVENTS

House Events this Term: Celebrating British Values and Settlebeck School Values

This term has been packed with exciting house events that brought our school community together while showcasing both British Values and the core values of Settlebeck School.

### KS3 Spelling Bee

Our Spelling Bee encouraged individual liberty as students confidently expressed their knowledge and skills. It also reflected respect and tolerance, as participants supported one another in a friendly, inclusive environment - key aspects of Settlebeck's commitment to respect and aspiration.

### KS3 and KS4 House Football

The football tournament was a fantastic display of democracy and mutual respect, with teams working together and following agreed rules. It embodied Settlebeck's values of teamwork and resilience, as players showed determination and sportsmanship throughout.

### House Dobble

This fast-paced game promoted fair play and rule of law, reminding us of the importance of structure and equality in competition. It also highlighted Settlebeck's value of community, as students from different houses came together for a fun, inclusive challenge.

### KS3 and KS4 Tag Rugby

Tag Rugby showcased mutual respect and individual liberty, allowing students to enjoy physical activity while respecting others' abilities. It reinforced Settlebeck's values of perseverance and collaboration, as teams worked hard and supported each other.

## YEAR 7 HAWES END RESIDENTIAL

Our Year 7 students recently enjoyed an unforgettable three-day residential at Hawes End, designed to help them build friendships and create stronger bonds as a year group. Despite some dreadful weather at times, their strength of character and resilience truly shone through - and fun was had all around!

Students embraced a range of exciting outdoor activities, including abseiling, ghyll scrambling, canoeing, bush craft, and even marshmallow toasting by the fire. These experiences not only tested their teamwork and determination but also created lasting memories.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Williams for her superb organisation of the event, and to all the staff who accompanied and supported the students throughout the trip. Rumour has it that Mrs Campbell enjoyed the adventure so much that she's already planning to return next year - and can't wait to have go at ghyll scrambling!

## LISBON FOOTBALL CUP – PORTUGAL TRIP

Our recent football trip to Portugal was an incredible experience for our Year 10 and 11 team as they took part in the prestigious Lisbon Football Cup tournament. The event was packed full of thrilling matches—some hard-fought wins and a few tough losses - but through it all, our boys did us proud, playing every game with passion, determination, and the heart of mighty lions.

A huge thank you goes to Mr Wild for his organisation of the trip and to Mr Greenwood for accompanying the team and providing invaluable support throughout.

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## LIBBY BATEMAN VISITS OUR STUDENTS

We were delighted to welcome Libby Bateman - recently announced as the Liberal Democrats' candidate for the Cumbria Mayoral elections in May 2027 - along with Councillor Hazel Hodgson, for an engaging and informative session with our students.

Libby, a former Settlebeck student, spoke passionately about the importance of voting and reminded our students that, by the time of the 2027 elections, many of them will be 16 and eligible to cast their vote. She emphasised that every individual voice matters and plays a vital role in shaping the future of our communities.

The session included an overview of the different political parties, helping students understand the variety of perspectives within our democratic system. Hazel also provided valuable insight into the role of local councils and the essential services they deliver to residents.

It was an inspiring and thought-provoking visit that encouraged our students to think about their role as active citizens and the power of participation in democracy.

A huge thank you to Libby and Hazel for taking the time to visit us and share their knowledge and experiences.

## A VISIT FROM OUR LOCAL MP, LIZZIE COLLINGE

We were delighted to welcome our local MP, Lizzie Collinge, to Settlebeck for a special assembly. Lizzie gave an engaging talk about a day in the life of an MP, sharing what it's really like to represent our community in Parliament. Students were fascinated to hear about the variety of tasks MPs juggle—from debates and committees to meeting constituents and shaping policy.

Lizzie also treated us to some insider information about one of Westminster's most famous residents: Larry the Cat! Did you know Larry has lived at 10 Downing Street for over 17 years - which is far longer than any recent Prime Minister? Clearly, stability in politics comes with four paws and a tail!

And if Lizzie thought Prime Minister's Question Time was tough, she might reconsider after facing our students—whose questions were sharper, smarter, and far more challenging than anything she gets in the Commons!

It was an inspiring and informative session, and we thank Lizzie for taking the time to visit and answer our students' questions.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

On November 11th, our school came together for a moving Remembrance Day assembly led by Rev Andy Burgess and Rev Rob Saner-Haigh, the Bishop of Carlisle. The service was a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by so many, and the importance of honouring their memory.

We were privileged to hear Bishop Rob share his personal journey into bishophood, offering an inspiring message about service, faith, and leadership. His words encouraged us all to reflect on the values of courage and compassion that underpin this significant day.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to Peter Packham, a former Settlebeck student, who returned to play The Last Post with great skill and emotion. As the haunting notes filled the hall, the entire school observed two minutes of silence - a powerful moment of unity and respect.

As we stood together, we were reminded of the enduring phrase: "Lest we forget." These words call us to remember not only those who gave their lives but also the lessons of history, ensuring that peace and hope remain at the heart of our future.