



DANESGATE COMMUNITY

PRU newsletter, Autumn 2026/27



A very warm welcome to our pupils, parents and carers to the new Academic year.

Headteachers welcome

From Chris Nichols



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pride that I welcome you all to the new academic year as Headteacher of Danesgate Community. I hope that you all had a wonderful, restful summer break with your families, loved ones and friends.

To those parents, carers, and pupils who are joining our community for the very first time this term: an incredibly warm welcome to Danesgate. We are delighted to have you with us. To our long-standing families, it is wonderful to welcome you back for another year.

Since its launch back in the summer term of 2025, our termly newsletter has grown into an essential way we communicate with you all. It has become a truly valuable guide, packed with key contacts, insights into your child's class and their learning, details on upcoming events, and significant calendar dates. We hope you find this Autumn 2026 edition both helpful and informative as we kick off the new year.

I am incredibly excited for the year ahead and the opportunity to make a lasting difference to the lives of the young people and families that we support at Danesgate Community. As a staff team, our mission remains rooted in ensuring all of our young people are empowered to:

- **STRIVE:** The Danesgate Community endeavours to help young people STRIVE to develop positive behaviours and constructive attitudes, and to overcome barriers to learning,
- **THRIVE:** The Danesgate Community endeavours to provide young people with the skills to overcome learning barriers for the future, in order that they can THRIVE in society,
- **ACHIEVE:** The Danesgate Community endeavours to teach young people to ACHIEVE academically, emotionally, and socially. All of our pupils have different starting points and experiences of school when they join Danesgate, and we celebrate every success.

I am certain that over the coming year, by working closely in partnership, we will be able to support your child so that they are happy, safe, and making the very most of every opportunity school has to offer.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support, and for the positive, respectful way you work alongside Danesgate staff. Together, we will ensure that everyone at Danesgate can STRIVE, THRIVE, and ACHIEVE.

Warmest wishes,

Chris Nichols (Headteacher, Danesgate Community)

IN THIS NEWSLETTER



**Key dates
this year**



Our curriculum



**Safeguarding
updates**



**Welcome from
each Key Worker**

KEY DATES FOR 2026/27

Tuesday 6 October

INSET day (School Closed)

October Half term

26/10/26 to 30/10/26

Thursday 10 December

Parents Day

Christmas Holidays

21/12/26 to 1/1/27

Monday 4 January

INSET day (School Closed)

February Half term

8/2/27 to 12/2/27

Wednesday 17 March

Parents Day

Easter Holidays

22/3/27 to 2/4/27

Friday 20 April

INSET day (School Closed)

Monday 3 May

Bank Holiday (School Closed)

Monday 10 May

Year 11 exams start

Summer Half term

31/5/27 to 4/6/27

Wednesday 16 July

Parents Day

Final day of the academic year

Friday 23 July

Monday 26 July

INSET Day (School Closed)

GCSE Results Day

Thursday 19 August

Summer Holidays

27/7/27 to 6/9/26

Provision Lead welcome



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another school year! As the nights draw in and those multiple heatwaves become a distant memory, we are looking forward to getting students back into school and working towards their futures!

On the back of Year 11 success with their exam results in August, we have made some quite significant changes to the structure and offer of the PRU over the last few months and as such, some of the details we need you to know are included here. For example, following government changes to smart phone rules, we have been forced to adopt a system whereby students have to take more responsibility for managing their own phones. However, if they are unable to do this and their phone becomes a distraction, we have set up a way for students to be supported in making this work (see page 5).

As ever, regular contact with home is incredibly important in ensuring that we are able to support students in the best possible way. We are therefore asking that parents/carers support us this year in pushing students to aim for strong levels of attendance, punctuality and a positive willingness to engage in learning. As a response, as a staff team, we have then formalised our commitment to making sure the offer that students receive is of high quality (detailed on page 6).

If there are any problems, please do hesitate to contact me or your child's key worker via the normal means (details provided on the following pages).

We look forward to seeing you throughout the year!

Many thanks,

Nick



Parent/Carer Voice

Please complete our short Parent/Carer Voice survey by [CLICKING HERE](#) or see your emails.

The curriculum 2026/27

Key Stage 3: Years 7, 8 and 9...

Our curriculum at Key Stage 3 is designed to:

- Interest and motivate students in their learning,
- Embed the foundational knowledge and skills in English and Maths,
- Provide the knowledge and skills to be successful when moving up to at Key Stage 4.

Subjects:

- English (x5, daily)
- Maths (x5, daily)
- Personal Development including PHSE, Life skills, Careers and King's Trust project units
- History
- Cooking
- Art, PE and ICT
- Construction

Key Stage 4: Years 10 and 11...

Our curriculum at Key Stage 4 is designed to:

- Continue interesting and motivating students to learn,
- Provide opportunities' to gain qualifications and experience success in areas of strength and expertise,
- To provide the knowledge and skills to continue being successful after leaving school...

Compulsory Subjects:

- English (x4, daily)
- Maths (x4, daily)
- Personal Development including PHSE, Life skills and Careers
- King's Trust Personal Development and Employability

Students additionally chose in the following option blocks:

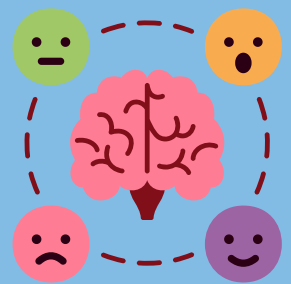
- One of: Biology, History or Health and Social Care
- A Skills subject of: Construction, Catering or Salon

New to this year, on Fridays students have the opportunity to take part in either:

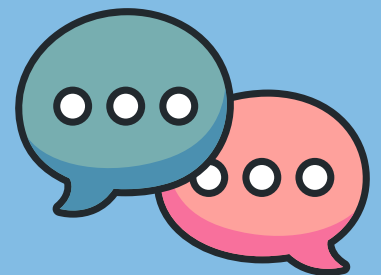
- A formal work experience placement,
- Or at an alternative provision around York e.g, Toolbox, Evolve

For students across both KS3 and KS4, this curriculum allows for a breadth of subjects to be covered; enabling students to build up their knowledge and understanding of the world around them as well as the skills required for adulthood such as resilience, independence and self awareness.

Through the formal curriculum, we also teach our pupils to understand themselves so that they can STRIVE, THRIVE & ACHIEVE through aspects of...



Emotional regulation



Social communication



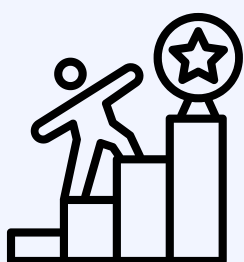
Understanding individuals' needs

What our expectations are in the Bridge...



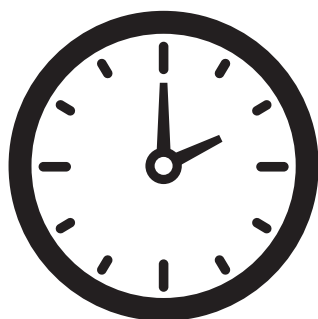
Respect is shown to staff and fellow students by:

- Being polite and positive at all times
- Treating our surroundings with pride - this is our building and we need to look after it
- Communicating with staff if there are problems; we can't help solve these if we don't know about them
- Not vaping or smoking on the school site



Try your best:

- Trust the staff - they are here to help you learn and grow
- Work to the best of your ability and have a go, even if not successful
- Trying is better than not trying at all
- Everyone deserves a fresh start each and every day
- Work together to reflect on the past and make improvements for the future



Attend, be on time and be in the right place:

- School starts at 9am each day
- If you do not attend, we cannot support you
- It is parental responsibility to communicate any absence with the relevant key worker
- Be in the right place and work with the appropriate staff
- If attendance and punctuality becomes problematic, we will require support from home to make improvements



Dress appropriately:

- We do not have a formal school uniform but ask that:
 - Clothing is appropriate for a mixed age school site - no revealing tops or inappropriate shorts
 - No hats and hoods in the classroom



Mobile phones:

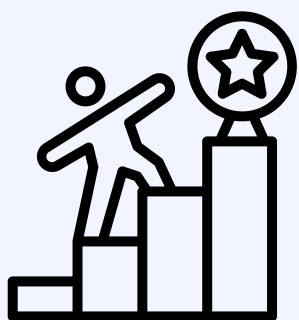
- In school, phones must not be seen (these are the new government rules) but we accept that students are going to have phones on them
- The Bridge is now using a three tiered approach around problems with phones:
 - Strike 1 - students will be asked to put their phone away
 - Strike 2 - if problems persist, students will be required to hand phones in
 - Strike 3 - senior / pastoral staff will insist on student phones being kept in their offices until the end of the students' time in school that day

What you can expect from the Bridge team...



We will be respectful to all students, staff and parents involved, by:

- Encouraging all members of our community to be respectful and challenging individuals when not
- Problem solving - when there are issues, we will listen and support accordingly with understanding and compassion
- Being understanding of individual circumstances and their challenges



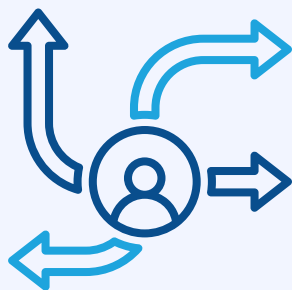
Each day, we will aim to:

- Start our lessons on time with a clear focus on what it is we want to achieve
- Plan carefully to make the most of our lesson time
- Praise and celebrate achievements
- Encourage everyone to engage to the best of their ability
- Provide you with meaningful feedback on how to improve



As key workers, we will champion our students, by:

- Always acting in your best interest
- Providing daily support to you and be your voice where appropriate
- Starting each day with a fresh start
- Being understanding of life's ups and downs



As a school, we will provide all students with the opportunity to STRIVE, THRIVE and ACHIEVE, by:

- Following a curriculum in which students can experience success
- Providing opportunities for all students to gain new knowledge and skills
- Tailoring our teaching to the needs of our students
- Supporting you to grow and become a valued member of society
- Working with you to devise realistic plans for your future

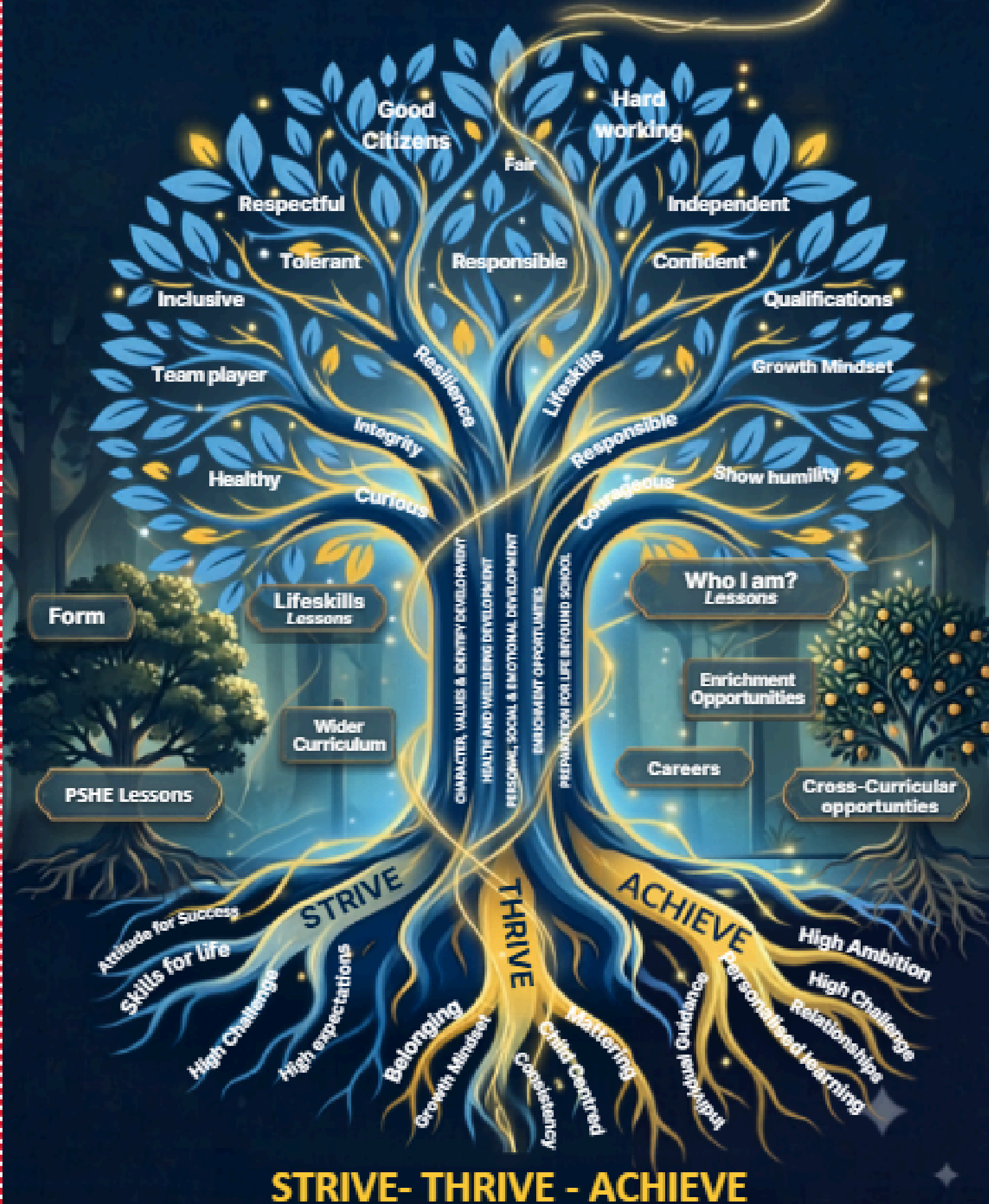


Regular, quality communication is key:

- Staff will communicate regularly to celebrate successes and discuss any challenges
- There will be opportunities to review targets and progress, both in person and over the phone

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Golden Thread @Danesgate



Your Careers Education Journey

Preparing you for your future

STAGE 1: WHO AM I?



Personal Development programme

Character Development, Health and Wellbeing Support, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Enrichment, Preparation for Life beyond School.
(Form, Life skills lessons, PSHE lessons, Wider curriculum, Who I am? lessons, Careers, Enrichment opportunities)

Personalised support
Staff who work with you every day to support you to be the person you want to be



Growth Mindset

Personalised support to develop a Growth Mindset so you believe skills are built through effort. You see challenges as chances to learn, view failure as a temporary setback, and welcome feedback.



Careers Exploration

Discover new opportunities and industries beyond school, through visits and workshops.



Real-World Encounters:

Engagement includes employer encounters, and visits to colleges/training providers.

STAGE 2: WHERE DO I WANT TO GO?

STAGE 3: HOW DO I GET THERE?



Family Partnership:

Parents and carers integrated into the journey to understand pathways and opportunities.



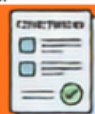
Meaningful Work Experience:

Adapts well to life experiences with local businesses and charities to build employment skills.



Careers Management & 16 Pathways:

Personalised support guiding students toward further education, apprenticeships, or employment.



Practical Adulthood Skills:

Masterclass on essential software applications, preparing for interviews, and understanding workplace expectations.



EHCP-Aligned Pathways:

EHCP-Aligned Plan is built around individual strengths, aspirations, and specific Education, Health and Care Plan outcomes.

THRIVE - STRIVE - ACHIEVE

Post-16 Destinations in York

Your different pathways to your future

After Danesgate you can choose different Pathways to your Future. We support you to choose the pathway that is right for you and for you to be successful in the local job market.



The Local Job Market in York provides further opportunities for you to Strive, Thrive and Achieve.

Construction



- Brick Layer
- Carpenter
- Electrician

Health and Social Care



- Nurse
- Social Worker
- Care Home Manager

Retail



- Customer Service
- Marketing Executive

Transport & Distribution



- Rail track maintenance worker
- Driver

Agriculture



- Farmer
- Tree Surgeon
- Game keeper

Creative Industries



- Web design developer
- Advertising account

Food Manufacturing



- Food scientist
- Baker
- Food process operative

Hospitality & Tourism



- Chef
- Hotel Manager
- Events coordinator

Education



- Teacher
- Caretaker
- Lecturer

THRIVE - STRIVE - ACHIEVE

Bridge 3a and Bridge 3b

3a = Emily Humphreys, Lauren Elcock and Henry Allner

3b = Sarah Fionda and Tudor Jones

This year, for the first time in a long time, we are starting the year with two KS3 groups.

This mirrors the number of students needing support across the city - and as part of this, we are excited about new group leads and students within these groups coming to us for the first time. We look forward to getting to know you and the students in the coming weeks and will be able to meet properly on review day in December.

If there is anything you need, please use the contacts here to keep in touch.

Thanks,
Emily, Lauren, Sarah, Tudor and Henry

Important contacts:

B3a group phone = 07931 245305

Emily H =

e.humphreys@danegatecommunity.org.uk

uk

Lauren E =

l.elcock@danegatecommunity.org.uk

B3b group phone = 07950 471894

Sarah F =

s.fionda@danegatecommunity.org.uk

Tudor J =

t.jones@danegatecommunity.org.uk

ResPEX

Nick Bradley, Doug Adams and Michelle Davies

Important contacts:

Group phone = 07904 889641

Nick =

n.bradley@danegatecommunity.org.uk



ResPEX continues to be used effectively by secondary schools from across the city to allow students the time and space away from their mainstream school to work on issues that they are having on a day to day basis...

Last year, we saw mostly Year 8 and 9 students requiring this support and we look forward to continue working with our existing students - and of course, in picking up students as we move throughout the school year.

A lot was achieved in the walled garden last year - and with Doug joining the team for regular King's Trust lessons - we look forward to again being able to work outside as well as within the classroom.

Nick, Doug and Michelle

Bridge 4a (Y10)

Wendy Binnington and Janice Elliott

Year 10 is an important step towards adulthood as students embark upon GCSE courses; some of which are compulsory and some of which they are able to pick...

We are looking forward to the Year 10 students, some of which have been in KS3 Bridge groups and some of which haven't, getting started with these courses in the coming weeks.

If there are any problems with daily attendance, support required for students or indeed anything else, do not hesitate to contact us using the details provided...

Thanks,

Wendy and Jan

Important contacts:

Group phone (Wendy and Jan) =
07931 245292

Wendy =
w.binnington@danegatecommunity.org.uk



Bridge 4b and bespoke (both Y11)

Chris Smith and Emma Dolben

Brooke Middleton Barrass

Important contacts:

Group phone = 07534 697207

Chris =

c.smith@danegatecommunity.org.uk

Brooke = 07931 245302

[b.middleton-](mailto:b.middleton-@danegatecommunity.org.uk)

barrass@danegatecommunity.org.uk



Year 11 remains such an important last chance for students to prepare both for GCSE exams and on planning for their next steps. With the support of Sue James (our Learning and Work Advisor), we will begin to map out what students ambitions are for the end of Year 11 and investigate possible routes into college, training or employment.

Whilst Year 11 is advertised as the same as any other year in school, it is actually not the case - with exams kicking in for students in early May, there are only about 30 school weeks (rather than 39) before students leave. We look forward to working with students and parents this year to make sure plans are in place for when we get there!

Chris, Brooke and Emma

We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

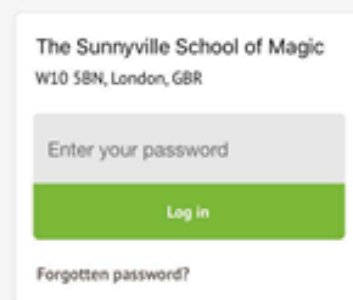
We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday



The Sunnyville School of Magic
W10 5BN, London, GBR

Enter your password

Log in

Forgotten password?

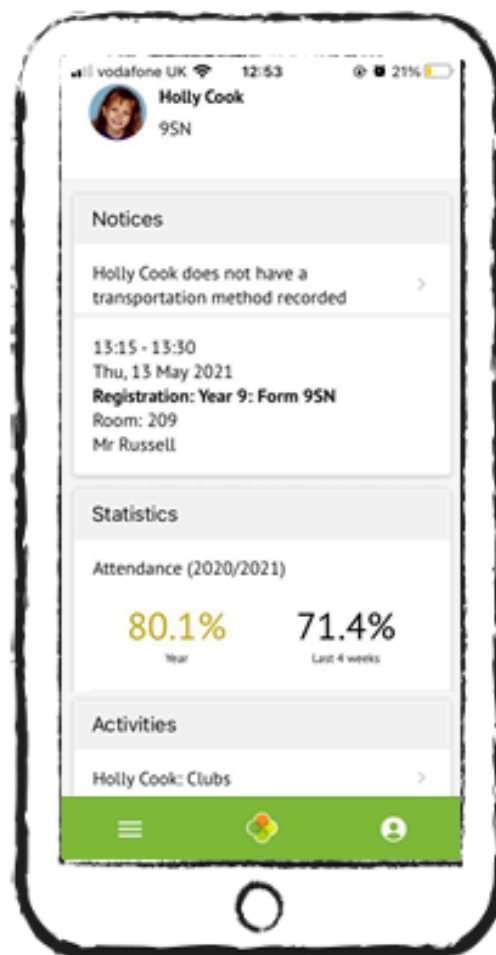
Need help using Arbor?

Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.





SAFEGUARDING & WELLBEING MESSAGES

From Kim and the Pastoral team

As Pastoral Care Manager and Safeguarding Lead, I am delighted to welcome both our returning students and those joining us for the first time. At Danesgate, we believe that every young person deserves to feel safe, respected, supported, and valued. Our pastoral team is committed to building positive relationships with our students and their families, ensuring that everyone has the encouragement and support they need to flourish both personally and academically.

Starting a new school year can bring excitement, new opportunities, and sometimes a few worries too. Please remember that no concern is ever too small, and we are always here to listen, offer guidance, and work together to help our students overcome any challenges they may face. We are looking forward to another year of celebrating successes, supporting one another, and helping every student reach their full potential.

On behalf of the pastoral team, I wish you all a happy, successful, and rewarding year ahead. We can't wait to see what this year brings!

Kind regards

Kim Mower and the team

If you are looking at this page and have an urgent safeguarding concern which you are not able to discuss with a member of staff, please use these contacts:



MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) – Office hours
telephone: 01904 551900



Urgent assistance with mental health, please call
York CAMHS Crisis Team telephone: 08000 516171

MEET THE TEAM



Steve Burdett
Pastoral Support Advisor



Steve Burdett
Pastoral Support Advisor



James Walker
Pastoral Support Advisor



Clare Eland
Pastoral Attendance Officer

If you need help...

Where can you get support and help...?



Raise York
Your Family Hub Network

Raise York

The Raise York website is designed to support parents, carers, children, young people and anyone who works with children, young people and families.

Contact York Family Information Service by
telephone: 01904 554444
text telephone: 07786 202241
email: fis@york.gov.uk

and an Information Officer will try and help you.



City of York
Safeguarding Children Partnership

Safeguarding

Visit:

www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/advice-parents-carers-1/parents-carers to find help and advice on the following:

- Reporting safeguarding concerns
- Child protection
- Private fostering
- Local and national advice for parents
- Mental health resources
- Online safety tips

**Or phone MASH on
01904 551900**



York SENDIASS

York SENDIASS supports children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and their parents / carers.

They provide a free, impartial and confidential service to help with concerns or questions around education, health, social care, inclusion and preparing for adulthood.

Visit:

www.yorksendiass.org.uk
01904 554312



**Change
Grow
Live**

Change, Grow, Live

offer a free, confidential drug and alcohol service for young people and those affected by issues around usage.

Visit:

www.changegrowlive.org/service/york-the-gate/info#offer to find out more.

Phone: 01904 464680

Email: TheGateYork@cgl.org.uk



York Mind

York Mind offers a range of different support, including:

- 1 to 1 Counselling for people aged 12 to 21
- Yorchoice drop in service for 14-21 (up to 25 SEND)
- Young people group support
- Yormind website and podcast

To find out more visit: <https://www.yorkmind.org.uk/how-we-help/young-peoples-service/>



York Foodbank

York Foodbank don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why they provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to in crisis.

To find out more visit:

<https://york.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/>

If you need help...

Where else can you get support and help...?



Childline

Childline is a free, 24-hour service for children and young people up to the age of 19 in the UK.

It provides support, advice, and a listening ear for young people who may be facing any kind of difficulty or distress, whether it's related to bullying, mental health, family issues, or other concerns.

www.childline.org.uk



NHS: Better Health
The 'Every Mind Matters' campaign from the NHS includes guides on dealing with change, self-care and dealing with social media.

There are tips for parents/carers to help support children who may be struggling with their mental health.

Visit: www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-wellbeing-tips/youth-mental-health/



Kooth

Kooth is an online mental health service for children, young people and adults. In North Yorkshire, Kooth offers free online counselling and emotional well-being support for children and young people.

Try the mini-activities to boost your wellbeing or chat with our friendly team. It is a judgement-free forum to get advice, help others and share your story

Visit: www.kooth.com



IDAS are proud to deliver high quality services that help protect victims and survivors whatever choice they make about their future. We also work to transform the systems that can directly or indirectly harm survivors and through our training, prevention and educational work we inspire individuals and organisations to tackle the causes of domestic abuse.



Young Carers

Young Carers support young people aged between 5 and 18 who are helping to look after someone at home.

You might be helping look after a brother or sister, parent or grandparent with an illness, disability, mental health problem or a problem with alcohol or drugs.

yorkcarerscentre.co.uk



<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>

For lots of advice on parenting. Remember, there's no such thing as a perfect parent. One day all's calm, the next it's chaos. However it's going, we're here with advice and support for parents and carers.



**If you ever have any questions,
please do not hesitate to contact reception on:
01904 555555 or your child's key worker directly**

**or visit our website at:
www.danesgatecommunity.org.uk**



STRIVE - THRIVE - ACHIEVE