

December 2025 Edition

Welcome to this month's edition of **Beverley Highlife**. I hope that you will enjoy reading about what has been happening this month at Beverley High School.

Sharon Japp, Headteacher

## Cyber Switch Up Winner!



Congratulations to Year 9 student **Aimee B** who took part in the Yorkshire & Humber Regional Organised Crime Unit **Cyber Switch Up 2025** competition and amazingly **won the Key Stage 3 Competition** for the second year in a row! Once again, she scored highest out of 25 Key Stage 3 students on the day across the 4 Challenges she took part in and should be really proud of her achievements. This is an unprecedented achievement for someone to win the competition twice in a row and this is the first time it has ever happened, so it really is a special achievement to be celebrated. Aimee was the only female in the final too.

As part of her prizes for winning the competition, Aimee has won a 3D Printer for her school. This was presented to her during the Awards Ceremony where she was accompanied by her dad.

What an achievement! Well done, Aimee, your school is very proud of you.



## Cyberfirst Girls' Yorkshire and Humberside Winners

A large number of Year 8 signed up to take part in this year's Cyberfirst Girls' Competition run by GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre. The teams ranged from pairs to teams of 4, filling two computer rooms. We were amongst over 500 schools, with more than 10,000 students from across the UK taking part! The competition is a really positive experience that encouraged team work, problem solving and required a huge commitment of time over a 10-day period. Students worked at lunchtimes, stayed after school and continued to solve challenges at home. The key was to try and complete as many challenges as possible to build the points for their team. The competition contained some advanced cyber topics that are not covered in traditional education but sought to stretch the lateral thinking and additional cyber knowledge of the teams. We have been so impressed with their commitment to the teams and the hours spent on very challenging tasks.



The competition results are now published on the NCSC website – [CyberFirst Girls Competition - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk) and we are delighted to announce that the aptly named CTRL+ALT+ELITE team which comprised Georgiana, Mari, Rose and Esmee have won the Yorkshire and the Humber region! They will be invited to a prize giving gala where they will receive prizes – last year the winning team received a laptop each, as well as other goodies! BHS is very proud of you all.



## Hull Philharmonic Orchestra Trip

A group of Beverley High School pupils enjoyed an evening of 'Operatic Showstoppers' performed by the Hull Philharmonic Orchestra on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Our favourite local orchestra joined forces with singers from the East Riding County Choir and took us on a journey through Opera's best-loved choruses. We heard familiar tunes, such as Puccini's 'Humming Chorus' from *Madame Butterfly*, 'March of the Toreadors' from Bizet's *Carmen* and Verdi's 'Va Pensiero' from *Nabucco*.



We are looking forward to our next Hull Philharmonic concert visit on Saturday 9 May 2026 for the 'Jewels of the East' performance. See you at City Hall!

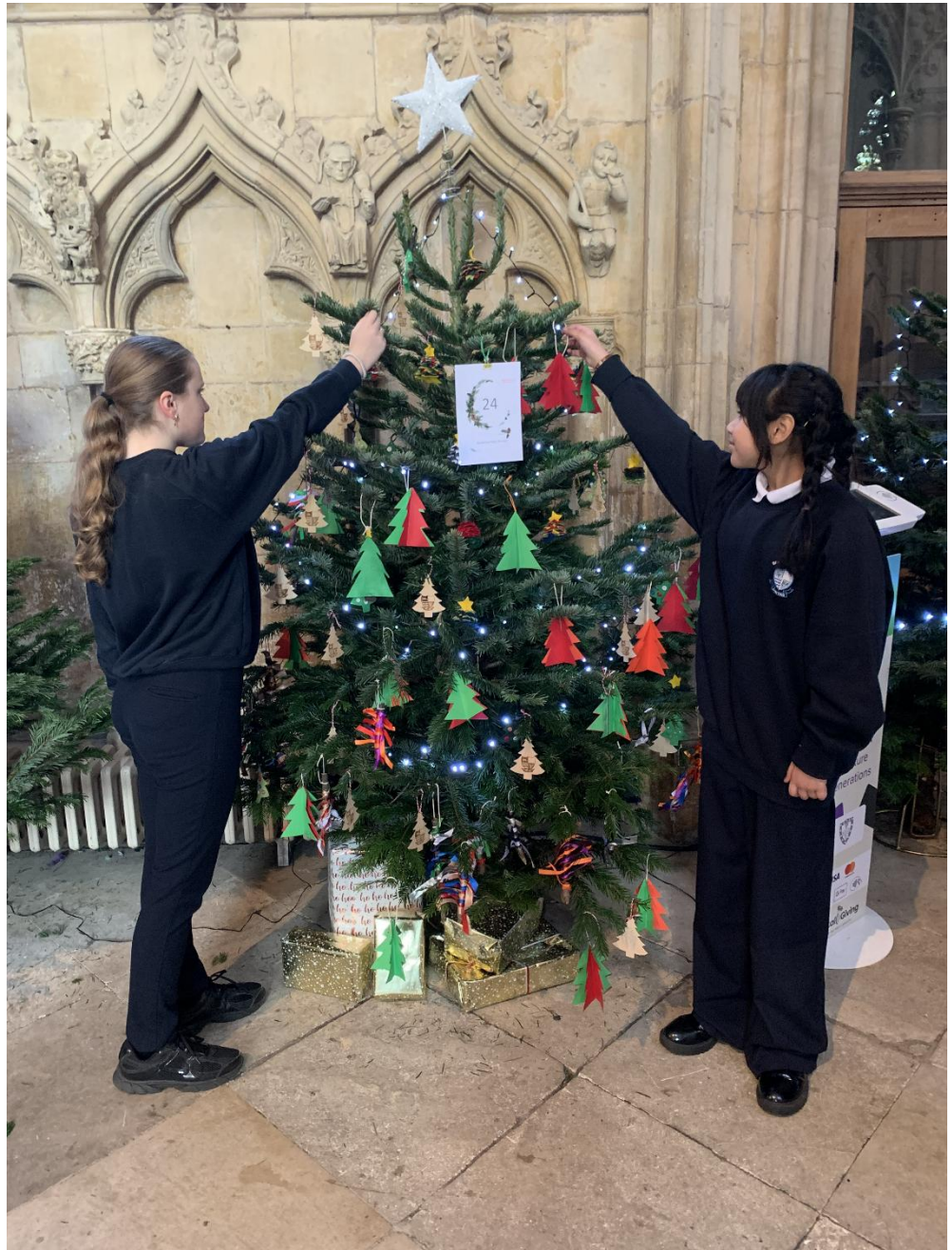


## Beverley Minster Christmas Tree Festival

This month saw the return of the annual Beverley Minster Christmas Tree Festival, where up to 150 Christmas trees are on display. Each tree is sponsored by a different local charity, organisation, school or business and decorated as they wish. Once dressed, the trees are then open to the public and a competition takes place to vote for the best tree.

A lunchtime club took place throughout November which allowed students in all year groups to create a decoration to hang on the tree, this year the theme was Christmas Trees. This resulted in over 80 decorations being hand made in a variety of media such as felt, card and wood. Thank you to everyone who attended the Christmas Club, the decorations looked absolutely fantastic!

The students who attended the club then had an opportunity to be placed in a random draw to select students to go and decorate the tree! On Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Anaya and Elodie took a trip to Beverley Minster to place the decorations on the Beverley High School tree. The students had a wonderful morning at the Minster filled with hot chocolate and a chance to get a sneak peek at the other trees on display. It was a pleasure to take the students on the trip – they were a credit to themselves and their school.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Form Visit Winter Wonderland

78 Year 12 and 13 spent a festive evening at York Designer Outlet on Wednesday 3 December. Students showed impressive skills on the ice rink and enjoyed the chance to eat and shop with friends.



## Year 7 Art Day

On Friday 5 December, a select group of Year 7 students spent the day in Art with the aim of completing twenty five large scale paintings measuring approximately 6ft x 4ft.

The project is a massive undertaking but it is worth it in the end as the finished pieces will hang in the Minster during the Christmas Carol Service. This year's theme was houses, showcasing different types of houses adorned in Christmas themed decorations. The finished artwork looks fantastic and all of Year 7 should be very proud of their efforts.

Below are some photographs of the students hard at work and as we do not want to spoil the surprise, you can see a couple of close-up sections of the finished paintings, overleaf.





## Inter-House Textiles

On Thursday 4 December, the Design and Technology Department hosted an exciting Inter-House Textiles Competition. Each team, made up of five students—one from each of Years 7 to 11—worked collaboratively to design and create a banner inspired by the woman who represents their house.

In the lead-up to the event, students used five form times to plan their designs and prepare their fabrics. On the day itself, they had just five hours from start to finish to bring their ideas to life. Their creativity, teamwork and resilience were outstanding, and they were a real credit to themselves and to the school.

At the end of the day, the banners were judged by Ms Japp and Miss Brownell. We are delighted to announce that **Mary Braddon (MB) House** were the winners! All of the banners were beautifully designed and made, and they will be proudly displayed during upcoming charity events and on Sports Day.



Here are the finished banners:



### Active Travel Ambassadors

Our Active Travel Ambassadors (ATAs) are working to encourage pupils and families to consider more active ways of travelling to and from school. Throughout the year, the ambassadors have been researching the benefits of active travel and will be sharing their findings with pupils, parents and staff through a range of activities and initiatives.

There is strong evidence highlighting the positive impact of walking or cycling to school on both health and the environment. Choosing active forms of transport helps reduce pollution and benefits the wider community. For example, every mile cycled instead of driven prevents approximately one pound of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere.



Health experts recommend that young people aim to be active for around 60 minutes each day; however, only around 20% of UK school-aged children currently achieve this target. Walking or cycling to school can make a valuable contribution towards meeting daily physical activity goals.

Active travel also supports wellbeing. Studies show that people who walk or cycle as part of their daily routine report greater enjoyment and satisfaction with their journey than those who travel by car. Avoiding traffic congestion can reduce stress and, in many cases, active travel can be quicker than expected.

In addition, a 20–30 minute walk has been shown to boost dopamine levels by up to 30%, supporting improved mood and focus. Pupils who walk to school are often able to concentrate for longer during the school day compared with those who travel by car.

We look forward to continuing to share the work of our Active Travel Ambassadors and encourage families to consider how active travel might fit into their daily routines.

As part of our ongoing campaign to encourage pupils to travel actively and safely to school, we were pleased to welcome Becky and Christian from the East Riding Road Safety Team on Wednesday 10 December. They visited our Year 7 pupils to deliver engaging and immersive road safety sessions.

During these sessions, each tutor group took part in an interactive experience using tablets to watch 360-degree videos of cycling journeys through urban environments. This allowed pupils to explore a range of real-life scenarios they may encounter while cycling on the road.

The sessions focused on key aspects of road safety, including staying safe and visible, communicating effectively with other road users, understanding their responsibilities as cyclists, and recognising potential hazards. Pupils found the sessions informative and valuable, helping to build both confidence and awareness when cycling.

Looking ahead to the new year, we are hoping to offer Level 3 cycle training for pupils. Further details will be shared in due course, so please keep an eye out for more information.

## Super League Trophy Visit

On Thursday 27 November we welcomed the victorious Hull KR rugby league club into school with the prestigious Super League Trophy from their recent Grand Final victory. This is the first time that a club from East Yorkshire has won this final and finished as the best team in England since rugby league became a summer sport in 1996. We had over 70 students and staff express an interest in both seeing the trophy and having a photograph taken with it. We thank the club for giving us the opportunity and the students for their excitement and enthusiasm in taking part! If Hull KR win the World Club Challenge and become World Champions we will hopefully be able to have all four of the famous trophies visit us later in the year!



## Christmas Lunch

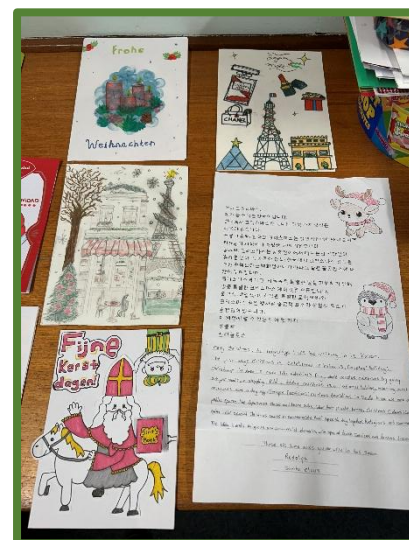
Year 7-13 students and staff tucked into a delicious Christmas lunch last week, courtesy of our catering contactor and wonderful kitchen staff. Thank you for bringing the flavours of Christmas to the school canteen.



## MFL Christmas Card Competition 2025

We had so many wonderful entries again this year, well done to every student who took part and displayed such wonderful creativity. Winning entries were decided upon by our lovely Year 12 French students, who remarked on how impressed they were with the high standard.

Winning cards are pictured below



## Year 14 Reunion

It was wonderful to see our returning Year 14 students at our Annual Reunion yesterday. The evening, which took place at Beverley Grammar School, was a chance to catch up with students who have spent the last few months settling into university life, starting new roles in employment or enjoying time out as part of a gap year.



## KS4 Reward Trip Brings Festive Fun at Meadowhall

After school on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 142 excited Year 10 & 11 students set off on a well-deserved reward trip to Meadowhall in Sheffield. The trip was organised as a seasonal reward to celebrate students who have shown excellent behaviour and consistently high attendance throughout the term.

After weeks of hard work and commitment, the journey to Meadowhall was a chance for students to relax, socialise and enjoy themselves outside the classroom. Upon arrival, students were given time to explore the shopping centre, visit a wide range of shops, and enjoy food from the many restaurants and cafés available. For many, it was also a great opportunity to buy gifts, treat friends, or simply enjoy the lively atmosphere.



Staff praised the students for representing Beverley High School positively throughout the visit. Behaviour was exemplary, and students showed maturity and responsibility, making the trip enjoyable for everyone involved. The reward trip not only celebrated students' achievements but also highlighted the importance of good attendance and positive behaviour. Many students said they felt proud to be recognised and motivated to continue working hard as they move closer to their GCSE exams.

Overall, the Meadowhall trip was a huge success and a memorable experience for Years 10 and 11. It served as a reminder that dedication and effort do not go unnoticed at Beverley High School—and that hard work can come with great rewards.

## Christmas Celebrations

Year 8 and 9 celebrated Christmas in competitive style, including present and people wrapping relays, present opening with bubble wrap gloves, a musical-statues dance off and some creative Christmas film remakes!

Loud and excitable fun was had by all and congratulations to 8MP and 9MW who were Christmas party Champions.

Merry Christmas Year 8 and 9 – your excellent cartwheels will never be forgotten!



## Kindness in Our Community

Each term, our school proudly supports the local foodbank through a whole-school collection. For our December collection, instead of asking students to contribute money for Wear Something Christmassy day, we invited families to donate an item for the foodbank.

The response from our school community was truly overwhelming. The generosity shown by our students, families, and staff resulted in a fantastic collection of much-needed items, which will make a real difference to those in our local area.

We know that Beverley Foodbank greatly appreciates the support we offer, particularly at this time of year, and we are incredibly proud of our school community for continuing to show such kindness and compassion. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped make this collection such a success.



## Jólabókaflóð

This year, our staff once again took part in Jólabókaflóð, (the Christmas book flood) an Icelandic tradition that has now become a much-loved annual event at our school. Each member of staff pulls a name from a hat and buys a book and a bar of chocolate for their chosen colleague to open and enjoy on Christmas Eve.

All the gifts are placed under our school Christmas tree, ready to be collected one evening in the last week of term. Staff enjoy searching for their gift, a mince pie, and having one last catch-up with colleagues before we break for Christmas. It's a simple but meaningful way to celebrate together and mark the end of the busy autumn term.

## Sports Report

### Sports Hall Athletics

The School Sports Partnership organised the Year 7 & 8 Sports Hall Athletics competition for local schools in early December, with the event being held at Longcroft School. The competition is a team event consisting of a variety of indoor jumps, throws and running races.

It is always an exciting event, as we don't know the scores until the very end when they announce the results. Our students showed great enthusiasm and determination in all the events, it was lovely to see how supportive they were of each other and other local schools, cheering on all the competitors – they really showed great team spirit!

We were pleased to hear at the end of the competition that both our Year 7 and Year 8 teams came first!!

### Year 8 Team



### Year 7 Team



## Badminton

After qualifying for the East Riding final, both our KS3 and KS4 badminton teams competed against the other top two schools from the area. KS4 had some very tough competition and came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the East Riding. KS3 won all their games and were crowned **East Riding Winners**, making it through to the Humber final next year!



East Riding Winners!

KS3 Team



East Riding 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

KS4 Team



## Year 7 Inter-House Football Results

Well, done to all the Year 7 students who have been coming down to the Sports Hall at lunchtimes over the last few weeks to compete in the indoor football inter-house competition. The students' attitudes and effort were fantastic, with every form organising their own squads and showing great enthusiasm to play. There was only one point between the top two teams with 7HL crowned champions. The rest of the results are overleaf.



Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
7	HL	PA	MP	MB	MW

### 5 aside Football Tournament

Well done to our Year 7 and Year 8 Football teams who competed against other schools in the East Riding at the 5-aside football tournament at The Market Weighton School in early December. The Year 7 team battled hard and had some good wins to make it through to the semi-final but after 0-0 at full time it went to penalties, unfortunately after 26 penalties taken in total, we just missed out on a place in the final!

Well played to the Year 8 team who showed some great skills and determination in their games but unfortunately didn't make it through to the semi-final.

Year 7 Team



Year 8 Team



## U15 Football

Our U15 football team had a friendly against Cottingham High School on a very wet Thursday afternoon. This was a good chance for the Year 9 & 10 students to play together as a team before their first Humberside league game. The game was played in tricky weather conditions but the students show real promise and ability for the matches ahead, Cottingham High School won 5-2 in the end. Opponents' player of the match was awarded to Poppy G for amazing goalkeeping and coaches' player was awarded to Madeline W for sterling defending.

## England Netball Schools' Humberside Final

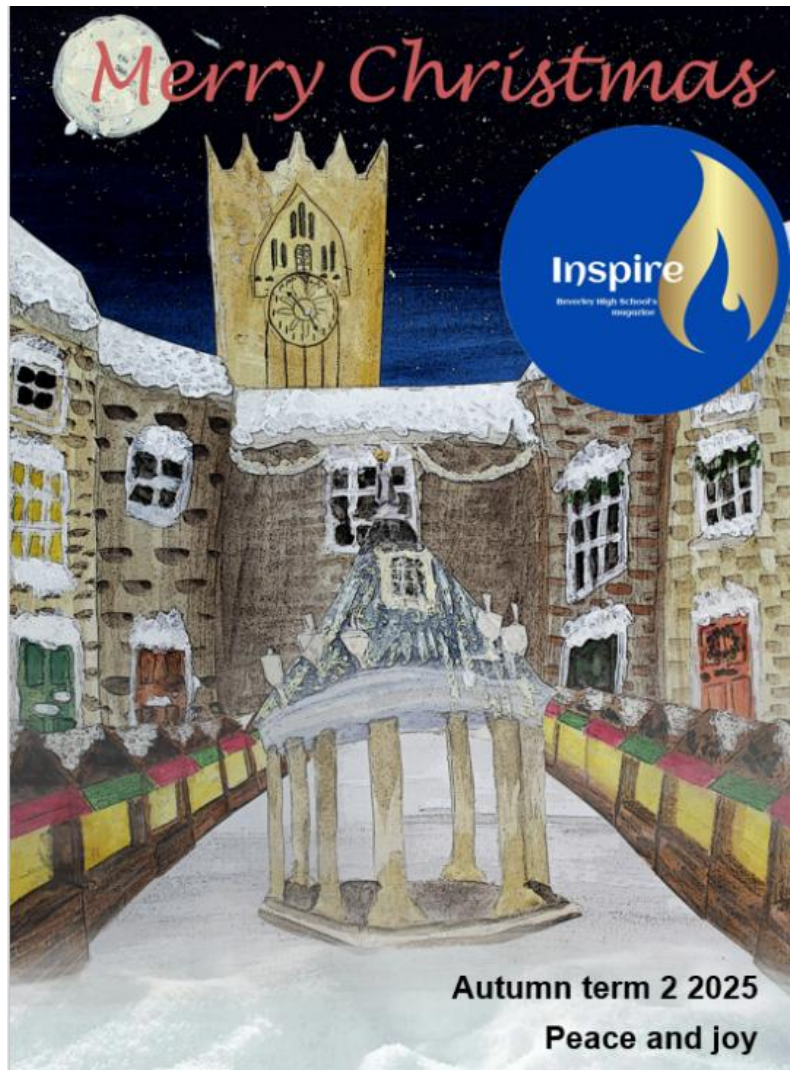
After qualifying through to the Humberside round of the England Netball Schools' competition, held at Hull University at the end of November, we are thrilled that our U14 team have made it through to the Yorkshire round. It was a tough competition with some extremely close matches. All teams there showed some fantastic skills and the matches were of a high-quality. They beat Hymers (11-8) Kelvin Hall (15-7) and lost to South Hunsley (8-12) to be placed second in the Humber. They will now compete against the best schools in Yorkshire in January.

### U14 Netball Team



## School magazine Inspire - issue 2 out now

Our second issue of the new school magazine Inspire (formerly The Journal) has now been emailed to parents/carers and pupils. This issue's theme is Peace and Joy and showcases this year's winning Christmas card designed in the Inter-House Art competition by Hilda Lyon house, along with pupils' entries to the Queen's Commonwealth Essay competition. Other cracking content includes a piece on local ice hockey team Hull Seahawks and predictions for the GRAMMYS 2026! We hope you enjoy.



## Year 7 Super Curriculum Stars

Congratulations to the following pupils who have gone above and beyond in their Super Curriculum efforts this term, whether that's completing extra activities in all 13 subjects, making an impressive start to their Year 7 Reading Challenge - or both! Well done to Anna A, Amrit B, Ella B, Molly B, Florence B, Nicola C, Willow D, Lily G, Christie J, Alice J, Charlotte M-M, Iris R, Charlotte S, Scarlett S, Methuki W and Alicja Z.

## KS3 Debate Club Christmassy competition

On the final Monday of term, our KS3 Debate Club enjoyed a friendly competition on festive hot topics! For half of them, it was the first time that they had taken part in a formal debate and everyone did an excellent job, while also creating a very supportive and enjoyable atmosphere. Congratulations to all our participants and we look forward to starting again in January, when we'll be competing against Beverley Grammar in our next inter-school competition...

Motion 1: We should not be telling young children that Santa Claus exists

Proposition team: Kasia L and Anaya M (Winners)

Opposition team: Martha F, Radhika J

Motion 2: Christmas trees and decorations should stay up all January

Proposition team: Rose C, Christie J

Opposition team: Mari R, Evie T (Winners)

## Year 7 Christmas Party and Christmas Kindness Activities

On the penultimate Friday of term, Year 7 enjoyed a festive celebration in the school canteen in their Christmassy accessories. They sang and danced through the Twelve Days of Christmas, enjoyed the suspense of their form "Santa's Lucky Dip" and played a nail-biting game of bingo on a grand scale!

In their lessons with their Head of Year, each form have also written Christmas cards to residents of Lindum House care home, using the design from Hilda Lyon house that won this year's Inter-House Art competition.

Finally, each form have also been enjoying their Advent Calendar of Kindness for the last 24 days of term, with daily inspiration for little acts of kindness they could do.

We want to congratulate Year 7 for completing their first full term at Beverley High as they have settled in very well.



**I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas-time**