

January 2026 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

Beverley High Students' Flags in Antarctica!

You may remember that back in December the Geography Department ran a *Design a Flag* competition to mark Antarctica Day. We are delighted to share some very exciting news: the winning design, along with four runners-up, had their flags photographed at the Rothera Research Station in Antarctica, as well as on board the plane that transports scientists to the continent!

The organiser told us, "the flags from your school have made it to Rothera, Antarctica. Your flags were carried by Sian Thorpe, Andrew Hoffman and Rohi who are all glaciologists. The photographs are taken at Rothera Research Station and on board a Twin Otter aircraft which carries the scientists to the Antarctic Peninsula. Glaciologists study the formation of glaciers and how they move. At the field site where they carry out their research they were studying how meltwater affects the ice. When there is more water underneath a glacier it can make the ice more slippery and change how fast it moves." Each of the flag designers has received this information plus a certificate and a print of the photos.

It is a truly unique achievement for our students to have their work represented in one of the most remote places on Earth, and we think you'll agree that the results are pretty special!





Antarctica Day 2025

This certificate is awarded to: Beverley High School
For designing inspirational flags "in the interests of all mankind!"

Your flag travelled to Rothera Research Station
Latitude 67° 34' 8" S
Longitude 68° 7' 29" E
Flag bearer Sian Thorpe and Andrew Hoffman, Glaciologists



Signed: Fiona Sheriff & Rose Edmondson
Antarctic Flags Project Co-ordinators, on behalf of UKPN

VIP Tour of Westminster



This month, Year 8 pupil, Catherine M, was lucky enough to be offered a private tour of the Palace of Westminster. This was a rare and unique opportunity which enabled her to visit many historic parts of the Palace, which included the House of Commons and the House of Lords (HoL). Catherine was lucky enough to watch a sitting of the House of Lords and lean on the Dispatch Box where the Prime Minister speaks (the Box was a gift from New Zealand).

Catherine's tour also included Westminster Hall: (where many famous figures from history faced trial, including Sir Thomas More and William Wallace), the Chapel of St Mary Undercroft, the Robing Room, The Speaker of the House of Commons' private residence and Portcullis House. She even had lunch in the Palace facilities, describing the food as simple but really tasty.

Catherine was inspired by the visit and her favourite part was holding the Mace which was very fortunate as the Mace leaves the House of Lords when it's not sitting and sits each night in a secret safe in the Lord Speakers Office. During long holidays, known as Recess, it stays in the Tower of London, next to the Royal Crown Jewels!

Catherine is pictured above with the House of Lords' Mace in the Lord Speaker's Office and working at the Lord Speaker's desk and sitting on his chair.

We hope you enjoyed your day at the Palace of Westminster, Catherine, and that this unique trip has inspired you. Who knows, one day we may see you there in a professional capacity in the not-to- distant future!

Visit by Futaba Junior High School, Japan

Students from Futaba Junior High School, Japan, attended Beverley High School this month as part of a cultural exchange. Two pupils from Year 8 and two from Year 9 visited Beverley High School as well as Longcroft School and Beverley Grammar School. The students experienced a typical day in a UK school and took part in cultural activities along with our students. They were accompanied by Futaba's Superintendent of Education, Mr Akio Tateshita, Futaba Town Education Board Members, Mr Masato Yamamoto and Mr Masaru Kowata, Junior High School Teacher, Mrs Tomomi Muroi and Futaba Town Assistant Language Teacher, Mr Philip Jellyman.

Philip, a former East Riding pupil, moved to Futaba-machi to teach children English and he now works at the Futaba Town Board of Education. He has facilitated a number of visits for Futaba educational representatives to meet with East Riding education representatives so that young people can take part in cultural exchanges.

Councillor Victoria Aitken, cabinet member for children, families and education said: "The delegation visited last year, where we talked about inviting students from Futaba to experience school life here in the East Riding. I'm delighted that this was able to happen, and I know that pupils in our Beverley schools will have also learned a lot from the visit, including understanding more about different cultures."

Shiro Izawa, Mayor of Futaba town: "We sincerely appreciate the cooperation with East Riding Council and we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the schools for kindly hosting a visit by Futaba Junior High School students. Through this international exchange program, we truly look forward to promoting interaction among the students and fulfilling mutual learning experiences between the two towns, deepening their friendship and further strengthening their relationship through continued cultural and educational exchanges."

With thanks to Anna Pilgrim from East Riding of Yorkshire Council for the article.



Geography News

Careers in Geography

Students in Years 9–13 were previously sent a link to a Royal Geographical Society (RGS) careers webinar earlier this term, focusing on careers in energy. We hope that those who were able to attend found it useful and inspiring.

There is another webinar taking place on Wednesday 22 April, this time focusing on careers in the built environment. Students can sign up using the following link:

<https://www.rgs.org/events/upcoming-events/careers-in-built-environment>

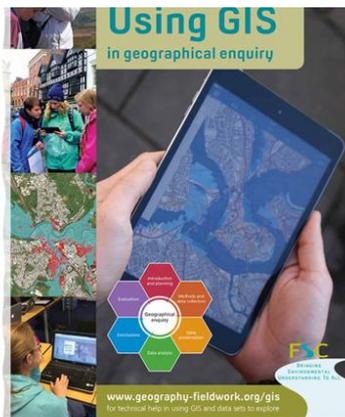
Tesco Blue Token Scheme

We are also pleased to share that the Geography Department is currently one of the projects featured in the Tesco blue token scheme at the Beverley store. We are hoping to raise funds to purchase additional fieldwork equipment, such as clinometers, soil augers and iPads to support data collection using GIS software.

If you shop at Tesco Beverley, please support us by adding a blue token to our slot each time you visit until the end of March. Every token really does help!

Support BHS Geography!

- Every time you buy something in Tesco (Beverley store), please add a blue token to the "**Geoggers Fieldwork Equipment**" box.
- Please ask local family and friends to support too.
- We are hoping to buy iPads with protective cases so we can use them to collect fieldwork data on GIS software like ArcGIS.
- We also hope to buy other fieldwork equipment such as soil augers and clinometers so we can do more learning outside.



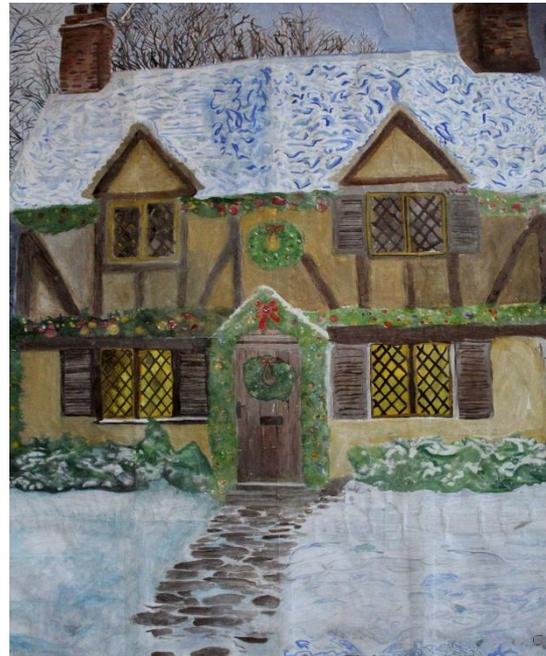
Year 7 Parents' Evening

Thank you to the Year 7 parents/carers who logged in to Year 7 Parents' Evening this month, teachers enjoyed feeding back to you about your child's first term at Beverley High School.

Year 7 Christmas Carol Service Paintings

The whole of Year 7 contributed to the production of 25 very successful (and massive) paintings based on the theme of houses at Christmas. The work was displayed in Beverley Minster during the school's Carol Service. The paintings looked fabulous and the students should be very proud of their efforts.

The work is currently being displayed on the Art staircase (on rotation as there are a lot of them) and they will be seen in the Art Department exhibition which will be held in June.







White Ribbon Art Competition

To launch White Ribbon awareness in all East Riding schools, the White Ribbon board ran a Poster Competition. The aim was to encourage students to create powerful, thought-provoking posters that challenge everyday sexism and promote a culture of respect, safety, and equality for women and girls.

It was a challenging brief and I am very pleased to announce that Stella in Year 9 won the competition. The results were publicised via the East Riding County Council Facebook page.

Well done Stella, that is a great achievement! Your school is very proud of you.



Discover Your Voice Workshop

On Thursday 22nd January, 30 KS3 pupils from Beverley High and Beverley Grammar schools came together to take part in a debating workshop run by the English Speaking Union (ESU). Pupils spent the morning practising key oracy skills while discussing a range of thought-provoking topics, such as:

- "Social media is harmful for teams"
- "This House would require the media to display, promote and report women's sport equally to men's sport"
- "This House would ban cars from major cities"
- "This House would...ban the sale and consumption of meat"

As the workshop developed, pupils were asked to consider how some of these proposed policy changes could affect a wide range of stakeholders. They were asked to adopt different stakeholder positions and argue from this perspective rather than their own, which added an extra layer of challenge!

Pupil feedback indicates that they overwhelmingly enjoyed the session. The vast majority talked to or worked with someone they didn't know before the workshop, and felt more confident about speaking in public afterwards. Staff including the ESU facilitator were very impressed with the pupils' focus and enthusiasm.

Some highlights from pupil feedback:

- *"I really enjoyed this workshop. I made a new friend and it made me more comfortable talking to others"*
- *"It gives people the opportunity to put their ideas forward, make new friends and feel more supported/confident when talking to a larger audience"*
- *"I think this workshop on a whole was amazing and it was so much fun that we got to be able to ask questions and I think it helped develop my skills in debate"*
- *"Knowing how to properly debate is a life skill everyone should have that opportunity"*
- *"It was sooo fun and I felt more confident I wish I could do it again in Year 9!!"*
- *"I think it was really good because everyone spoke"*

Pupils signed up to the event, or were already part of our KS3 Debate Clubs at the High or Grammar school. Our KS3 Debate Club runs on Mondays after school in the Drama Room, 3.15-4.15pm, and we're always excited to welcome new members from Years 7-9.



Inter-School Debate Competition

Also on Thursday 22nd January, we held our termly inter-school debate competition with Beverley Grammar! As usual, KS3 pupils competed in separate school teams, while members of our KS4 Joint Debate Club competed in blended teams.

Our judging panel had their work cut out for them! The second two debates were also watched by an enthusiastic Year 7 class, who got to see the development of pupils' debating skills from KS3 to KS4.

The results are below. Congratulations to everyone who took part - especially if it was your first time speaking! Pupils received a certificate of participation, a winner's certificate and prizes, or an individual speaker's award.



KS3 Debate 1

Motion: This House would make volunteering compulsory

Winners - Opposition (BGS) - Alexander, Jayden, Oliver (best individual speaker)

Proposition team (BHS) - Radhika J, Rose C (best individual speaker), Martha F

Timer: Christie J

KS4 Debate 1

Motion: This House would return the Elgin marbles

Winners - Proposition - Jacob (best individual speaker), Gabby G, Kitty A

Opposition team - Daisy B (best individual speaker), Miles, Ross

Timer: Christie J

KS3 Debate 2

Motion: This House believes celebrities are bad role models

Winners - Opposition (BHS) - Anaya M, Mari R (best individual speaker), Evie T

Proposition team (BGS) - Fernando, William (best individual speaker), Oscar

Timer: Christie J

KS4 Debate 2

Motion - This House would ban anonymous accounts on social media

Winners - Opposition - Ross (best individual speaker), Daisy B, Miles

Proposition team - Kitty A (best individual speaker), Gabby G, Jacob

Timer: Anaya M

Debate Club Graduates

The Inter-School Debate competition was also the last appearance of our longest-standing Debate Club members, Kitty A and Daisy B. Both students began debating in Year 7, in the first year that we had a debate club. They are now in Year 11 and have supported the club for the entirety of their secondary school careers, moving from KS3 to the recently established KS4 Joint Debate Club. As well as taking part in debate club competitions and wider school initiatives such as the annual Inter-House Debating day, they have also enjoyed participating in the [ESU's Schools' Mace](#) and [Public Speaking](#) competitions in Years 10 and 11.



We are incredibly proud of the way they've developed their confidence in public speaking, but more importantly their dedication, resilience and spirit. Thank you, Kitty and Daisy!

Employment Fair

On the 27 January we hosted our annual Employment Fair. We were delighted that 60 businesses from a range of specialisms agreed to support our event and take time out of their busy schedules. The Employment Fair was visited by students from Beverley High School and Beverley Grammar School giving them an opportunity to speak to professionals. Students gained insights into different industries; asked questions and found out what businesses expect from job applications. It was fantastic to see our students engaging with employers in such a professional manner. Later in the day we welcomed parents and carers enabling them to ask questions from a parental perspective and further understand ways to support their child to achieve their career ambitions. Thank you to all employers, parents/carers and students for making the day such a success and to Miss Brownell for organising it all.

Students valued the experience:

“It was brilliant. I spoke to 15 different businesses and even managed to secure work experience. It was really helpful.”

“I really liked the in-depth explanations we got from people with so much experience in their field.”

“There was a good range and the people were friendly.”

Employers’ feedback has been extremely positive:

“Excellent conversations with students from all groups around all of our subjects” (Frankie, University of Law)

“An excellent event, all students have been engaged, asking great questions and very courteous.” (Natalie, Drax)

“We would just like to add all students were very polite and showed great interest.” (Aimi and Tarina ERYC - Childcare)

If you would be interested as an employer in supporting future events, please email s.brownell@beverleyhigh.net

Year 11 Future Plans Interviews

Year 11 this week had 1:1 interviews with staff about their plans beyond Year 11. It was lovely to have dedicated time for individual conversations about future career ambitions and to ensure that everyone has a secure plan in place for next September.

East Riding Youth Parliament Elections

East Riding schools are currently preparing to take part in the East Riding Youth Parliament elections. These take place bi-annually and require candidates to prepare a 25 second, anonymous presentation as a form of manifesto. All schools across the East Riding share these with students who are then given the opportunity to vote for which candidate they would prefer. The two candidates with the most votes then become part of the Youth Parliament, involving representing young people both within the local area and at a national level – this includes having the opportunity to express their ideas within the House of Commons.



We are pleased to say that 8 of our students are standing as candidates. Early in January, Dave Brown, Community Vision Voice Support Officer, came into school to help them to prepare their presentations and all candidates produced a manifesto that they deserve to be proud of. It was a pleasure to hear about the different ideas that they wish to raise and stand for – these range from standing up to discrimination to advocating for greater mental health support in society. We wish them all the best in the upcoming election.



Sports Report

Netball

Year 10 & 11 GCSE Netball Match

On Tuesday 13th January our GCSE PE students got the chance to practise their skills in a competitive game against local rivals Longcroft. It was a close game with students showing a high level of skill and fitness. It was a great opportunity for those who don't play regularly to also develop their knowledge and understanding of the game. We came away with a 10-8 win in the end, with Lucy H being voted player of the match by Longcroft.



Football

Humberside League

Our U13 football team played a Humberside cup game against Longcroft on Tuesday 20th January. Despite the wet weather, it was a great game!

Beverley High were leading 1-0 in the first half but Longcroft scored an equaliser. After a close game with both schools showing some great skills in attack and defence it finished 1-1 at full time. Unfortunately, we lost on penalties in the end but it was a fantastic effort by the whole team and a great game!

Congratulations to Esme A, our goal keeper, who was coaches' player of the match!





Badminton

Humber Finals

The KS3 team qualified to compete at the Humber finals in January. They played the top schools from Hull and Lincolnshire in both singles and doubles matches. The quality of the matches was very high and our students were able to compete well at this standard. They showed enthusiasm and determination throughout the tournament and came **3rd place overall** – a fantastic achievement! Congratulations to Esme W who was coaches' player of the tournament.



Cross Country

Humberside Schools Finals

This took place in Scunthorpe on Tuesday 20th January. All of our teams qualified from the East Riding round through to the Humber finals from Year 7 -11.

Well done to all our students who ran! The conditions were much better this year. As always students remained positive throughout the whole day and showed perseverance and determination to complete the course. Many students improved from their placings last year, it is lovely to see the progress they are making. All students showed great team spirit, supporting and encouraging each other.



We had some fabulous results:

Out of 35 schools across Humberside our **Year 7 team came 4th** with Alice J and Esme B coming 14th and 15th place out of 117 runners!

Our **Junior team** (Yr8 & 9) came **6th** out of 32 schools. Our first runners back were Bea S and Jess M with 25th & 28th place out of 128 in the race.

The senior students (Year 10 & 11) did not have enough to place a team this year, however we still had some fantastic results, with all of our runners coming in the top half of the race and our first two runners securing a place in the Schools Humberside team to compete at the English Schools Cross Country Championships in Liverpool.

Nia J came 6th and Isabel M came 7th out of 117 runners in their race.

We are really proud of both students and wish them the best for the English Schools Championships!

Year 10 Team



Junior Team (Years 8 & 9)



Year 7 Team



Panathlon Challenge

Thursday 29th January saw four Year 7 and four Year 8 pupils represent the school in the School Sport's Partnership's Panathlon Challenge.

All pupils completed the challenges with determination and enthusiasm, experiencing a range of activities, most of which they had not tried before.

This trip was supported by the Emotional Support Workers, Mrs Edwards and Ms Brocklesby, along with Ms Calcutt (SENCO).



'I got a 10 on the curling and on the speed ball I got it first try.'

'I enjoyed the basketball and I made new friends.'

'I enjoyed the Panathlon because the speed bounce and the cricket were really fun.'



Farewell

At the end of the Autumn term we bade farewell to Learning Support Manager, Mrs Helen Butler, who had worked at Beverley High School for 18 years. She has gone back to her roots and is now working full-time on her family farm. We thank Mrs Butler for all her work at the school on behalf of students and staff both past and present and wish her well for the future.

Christmas Carol Service 2025



