

February 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

From Beverley High to Waterloo Road

Over the past 6 months, Year 10 student Esmée T has been working as a supporting artist on the TV series *Waterloo Road*. Esmée secured the role through her casting agent and has been lucky enough to work on set multiple times and continues to do so. Filming takes place in Manchester with the days starting as early as 7am; this means Esmée has to wake up at 4am, and usually doesn't get home until 8 o'clock in the evening. The days are long but some of the things she loves are seeing how a real TV programme is made, meeting the cast, experiencing hair and makeup, making new friends and the delicious food!

Esmée recalled on one of the filming days that a local school were taking the pupils on a tour around the set, she remembers seeing the children's faces who were in awe at seeing a real TV programme being made, and Esmée thinking that she was no longer one of these children, she was now one of the cast! Esmée hopes that this is just the start of her acting career and aspires to be involved in more opportunities in the future. Well done Esmée, your school is very proud of you.



Behind the Magic at Disneyland Paris

This month, Year 11 student, Zara W, was selected to perform at Disneyland Paris with Stagecoach Performing Arts, Beverley as part of their Behind the Magic experience.

Working alongside the Disney Performing Arts Programme, selected students spent four immersive days taking part in workshops, mock auditions, and rehearsals led by Disney professionals. The experience culminated in two public performances of Beauty and the Beast favourites "Be Our Guest" and "Tale as Old as Time" at the Videopolis Auditorium, alongside Beauty and her beloved Beast.

This year marked Zara's third consecutive year attending the programme. Zara's mum says that the skills, confidence, and professional insight she has gained through these experiences, alongside her training at Stagecoach Performing Arts School, have been invaluable. Zara has also successfully used her experiences from previous years to achieve her Bronze Arts Award through Trinity College London, further supporting her ambition to pursue a professional career in performing arts. Well done Zara, your school is very proud of you.



Year 12 Geography Residential Fieldtrip to Cranedale

Last week, our Year 12 Geographers embarked on fieldwork with the Cranedale Field Studies Centre in the North York Moors. After settling in, they enjoyed a 3-course meal, and received an introduction to the NEA (non-examined assessment) process, in preparation for investigating “place” in Scarborough.

The following day, after a hearty cooked breakfast, students explored Scarborough’s representation through artwork; used iPads to record emotions; observed how different spaces were used by the public; and surveyed the diversity of the town’s eateries. The evening was spent back in the classroom, where students presented their data and explored GIS techniques.

On Friday, we ventured into Dalby Forest—where the weather was on our side! Students gathered data on carbon sequestration in trees and soil, and surveyed soil moisture and infiltration rates on the moorland. We ended the day by measuring river discharge to compare how afforested areas impact drainage basins, and students inevitably got a little wet and muddy!

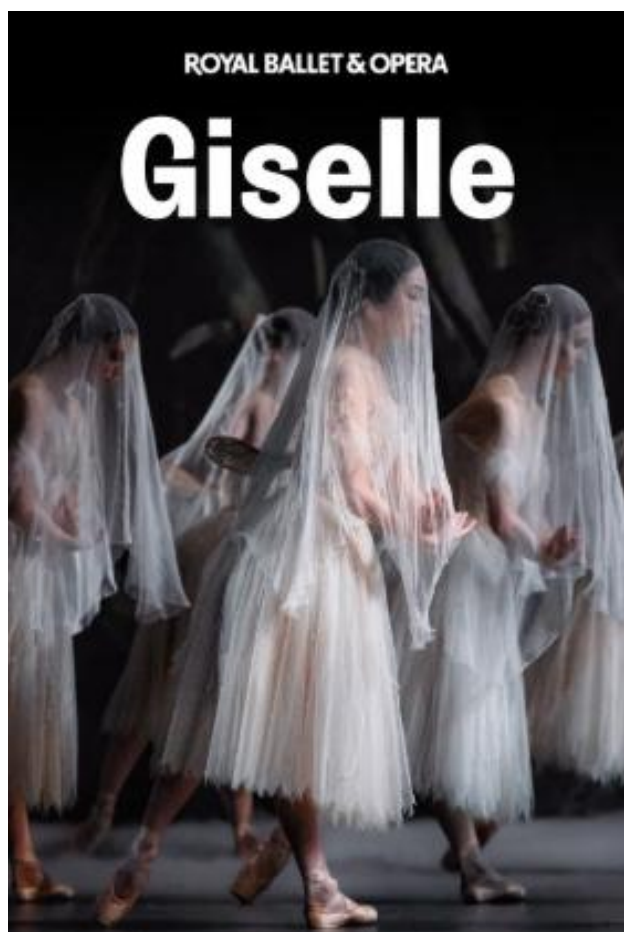
It was a fantastic trip, packed with hands-on learning experiences. Hopefully, our students are now brimming with inspiration for their own NEAs, which they will begin very soon!



Year 8 London Trips

This month brought two Year 8 trips to London. The rescheduled (from December) day trip to the National Theatre to see the play of Noel Streatfield's 1936 children's novel, Ballet Shoes and a day trip to the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden to see the Royal Ballet perform Giselle.

Following surveys which showed that 40% of Year 8 had not visited our capital city, we decided to offer this opportunity to all of the year group. There will be five trips in total over the course of the year, so that every Year 8 student has the opportunity to take the train to the capital, ride the tube, see the sights along the River Thames and take part in a high-quality cultural experience. The third trip will take place next month to see a performance of William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet at the Globe Theatre.



After the trip, students fed back that the "sightseeing was amazing...seeing famous landmarks in person", "the Royal Opera House was beautiful", "the theatre performance was great", "I especially enjoyed the ballet", "I am grateful for such an opportunity", "it was an unforgettable experience", "a once in a lifetime opportunity", "I loved it".

They also seemed to enjoy the long train journeys and everyone soon got over any apprehension they had about riding the underground!



French Debating Competition Trip

A group of nine Key Stage 5 students from Beverley High and Beverley Grammar School J6 travelled to York this month to represent and support each other at the North East round of the MFL debating competition. Lex H and Catherine P (Year 13) and Eva-Rose F and Emma A (Year 12) worked in teams of two, debating in French against students from other schools including St. Peter's, Harrogate, Hymers, Huntington, Fulford, Wakefield, Bradford, the Grammar School at Leeds, Bootham and Ripon – they held their own and received fantastic feedback from the judges after each motion. The first motion was:

Motion 1: Les portables devraient être interdits aux moins de seize ans (Mobile phones should be banned for under 16s)

and the second motion was:

Motion 2: - Voyager est la meilleure façon de connaître d'autres cultures (Travelling is the best way to learn about other cultures)

Although both teams competed well in the first motion, their opponents fared slightly better. However, the second motion provided the perfect opportunity for our intelligent, hard-working and articulate students to really show everyone what they were made of! They impressed the judges with their team-work, and their ability to formulate ideas, opinions and counter-arguments without relying heavily on their notes. Their speed of response and their high level of French language was a treat to behold. Huge praise for these four students who really put themselves out of their comfort zone and did themselves (and their school!) proud.



ESU Public Speaking Competition Round 2

Five members of our Joint (with Beverley Grammar School) Key Stage 4 Debate Club travelled to St. Peter's School in York to take part in the second round of the English Speaking Union (ESU)'s [Public Speaking competition](#). The first round of the competition had taken place online, and now it was time to collaborate with different schools in front of a live audience!

The team had 20 minutes to meet other students and prepare their joint presentations. Year 10 student, Gabby G did an excellent job of stepping up as Timer at short notice, while Year 11 student, Ross showed wonderful teamwork skills, giving support and encouragement to our presenters throughout the evening.

The ESU judges praised our Chairwoman, Year 11 student, Daisy B for creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere in her introduction, her engagement with the topic, and for summarising the key messages of the Speaker from St Peter's School in a clear and succinct way for the audience. They also praised our Questioner Year 11 student, Emily M for her listening skills and ability to grow an organic conversation with the Speaker, rather than relying on pre-prepared notes.

Meanwhile in a separate presentation, Year 11 student Jacob, gave a wonderful speech he had prepared, arguing that 'Healthcare is a right, not a privilege'. He was praised by judges for the scope of his argument, making substantial points backed by research, and concluding powerfully.

Competition was fierce and while our team won't be proceeding to the regional finals, we are very proud of the students for their achievements and their commitment to developing skills that will serve them very well in the next stage of their lives.

Our Joint KS4 Debate Club was set up last September, following the success of Key Stage 3 inter-school debate competitions between Beverley High School and Beverley Grammar School. It is now taking a break for the exam season, however we look forward to starting up again at Beverley Library in the summer term - with new recruits from Year 9, ready to compete as Year 10s next academic year!



Careers in Computing Trip

On the 25 and 26 February our Year 10 Computer Science students attended a brilliant "From Player to Page" workshop at Hull University. The event focused on the importance of creative writing for the gaming industry, with game development sessions; career discussions from a range of four very experienced gamers who had worked all over the world; Q&A; and the opportunity to work as part of a team of over 70 students. Our students produced imaginative ideas with vivid details and showed outstanding ability to turn gaming experiences into rich inspiring gaming themes.

Shanty Singing Workshop

Just before half term we were visited by Keith and Kate Ayling, founders of the shanty band Saltburn Smugglers. Professor of Songwriting Keith and Choir Leader Kate delivered a workshop on sea shanties and introduced us to the musical legacy of the North Yorkshire Coast.



A group of Year 7 and 8 pupils participated in fun warm up games and musical activities and created beautiful performances of traditional sea shanties. We even had a surprise performance on the drum by Grace (Year 7) who did a great job keeping us all in time! What a wonderful way to end the first half-term of 2026. Well done to everyone involved!



Coastal Change Team Visit Year 7

Year 7 recently welcomed the Coastal Change Team from the East Riding Council, who delivered an engaging and interactive talk about how the Holderness Coast is managed. Students learned about different coastal landforms and explored a range of strategies used to protect and manage the coastline.

The team also explained the variety of job roles involved in coastal management, helping students understand how Geography links to real careers. The session complemented our current work on coasts and gave students a valuable real-world insight into the challenges of managing a rapidly changing coastline.



Quick Reminder – please continue to support our bid for Geography fieldwork equipment at the Tesco community fund and pop in the blue tokens. It closes very soon so every token helps!



Inter-House Drama Competition

On 5 February, 20 pupils from Years 7-10 competed in the Interhouse Drama competition. Pupils from across these year groups worked together with members of their Houses to create inspiring Drama pieces. The brief was to create a piece of theatre based on the inspirational woman that your house represents. Students were told they could do this however they wished. They conducted their own research and planning and then used fantastic team work to create and rehearse their performances. In the afternoon, the teams performed and prizes were awarded for best overall House performance and for the best individual performers in each year group. The students worked incredibly hard all day and created some fantastic and moving pieces. A huge congratulations must go to MP house who won the overall team prize, as well as our individual winners for best performer in each year group.

MP House Winners: Leonora Y10, Niamh Y7, Imogen Y9 and Mari Y8



Best performer prizes: Methuki Y7, Mari Y8, Imogen Y9 and Lois Y10



Inter-House Debate Competition

On the final day of term, students from across the school came together to take part in this year's debates. The room buzzed with activity as students got to know each other and embraced the challenge of preparing for the first round. Who would they champion as the figurehead for a fictional Sixth House?

Then, in a twist on previous years, the semi-finalists and finalists only had 15 minutes to prepare for their debates! This really tested their teamwork and quick thinking, and everyone rose brilliantly to the occasion.

Special thanks go to our staff judging panel and Eva-Rose F, our guest judge from the Sixth Form. Mrs Brooke said: "What a privilege it was to be able to judge the Inter-House Debating Competition. It was lovely to see pupils working together as a team putting forward their rigorous and insightful arguments in a mature and clear manner. They coped well with the time pressures and it was lovely to see pupils develop their skills as the rounds progressed. All of the pupils who participated should be very proud of themselves."

Find out more from our student reporter Milly G, in the next issue of the school magazine, Inspire!

Overall winners: Mary Wollstonecraft House (MW)

Year 7 - Aiza A, Year 8 - Hollie-Mai R, Year 9 - Aimee B, Year 10 - Flora F

Runners-Up: Pat Albeck House (PA)

Year 7 - Megan H, Year 8 - Naomi M, Year 9 - Ada L, Year 10 - Bella M

Semi-finalists: Hilda Lyon House (HL)

Year 7 - Scarlett S, Year 8 - Radhika J, Year 9 - Esme D, Year 10 - Gabby G

Semi-finalists: Margaret Powell House (MP)

Year 7 - Antonia C, Year 8 - Milly G, Year 9 - Imogen S, Year 10 - Olivia M

Participating teams: Mary Braddon House (MB)

Year 7 - Elsa B, Year 8 - Alice C, Year 9 - Lizzie N, Year 10 - Darcey E

Participating teams: Sixth House

Year 7 - Imogen C (MB), Year 8 - Lucy B (MW), Year 9 - Sophie H (PA), Year 9 - Matilda B (HL)

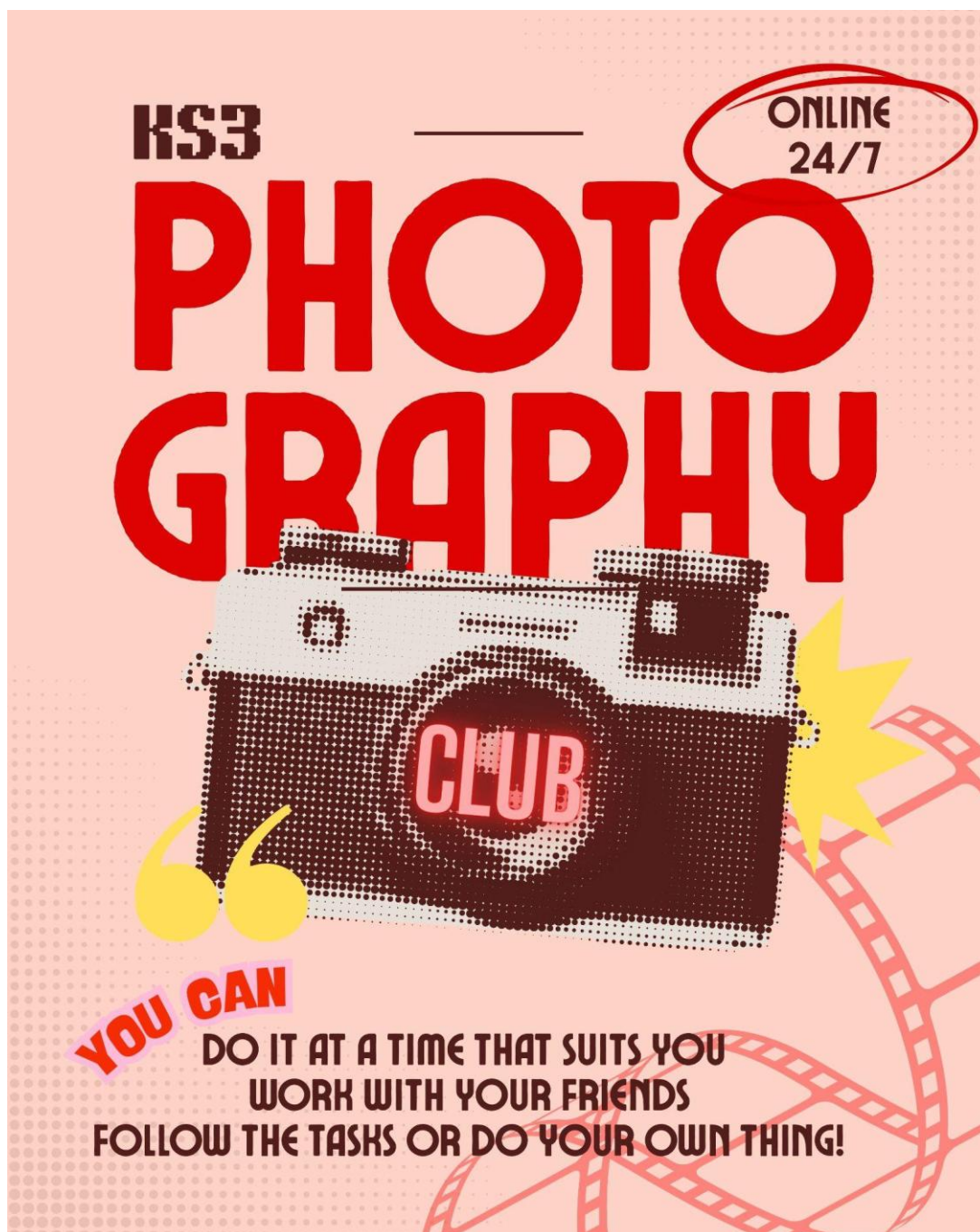


Key Stage 3 Photography Club

The Art Department has recently launched an online Key Stage 3 Photography Club. The idea is that students can express their creativity in a different way whilst also getting a taste of what it might be like to study GCSE Photography. There has been a great uptake since the club launched and because it is all online it does not matter how many students choose to join.

The link below is to a PDF that gives the full details of how to sign up.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zfhfKwh5Zn1RVdQlBv_1614tJvZQNxXd/view?usp=sharing



KS3

**ONLINE
24/7**

PHOTOGRAPHY

CLUB

YOU CAN

**DO IT AT A TIME THAT SUITS YOU
WORK WITH YOUR FRIENDS
FOLLOW THE TASKS OR DO YOUR OWN THING!**

Year 12 Food Practicals

Our Year 12 Food students completed their first practical just before half term. Students were challenged to create a starter, main and dessert for a hotel restaurant — producing at least two portions of each dish and presenting them beautifully on the plate. They had three and half hours to complete the task and took 1 hour to wash up!



Valentine's Day Bake Sale

Year 13 hosted a Valentine's Day bake sale for fellow sixth formers to raise money for their Prom which is taking place in June at Beverley Barn.



Sports Report

England Schools' Netball

On 31 January our U14 Netball team competed at the Regional Round of the England Schools' Netball competition. They competed against the other top seven schools in Yorkshire, a fantastic experience where the students really did themselves proud.

We drew with our local rivals South Hunsley and beat one of the South Yorkshire schools but lost to the other teams. The level of netball was very high, and the students competed well against some of the best.

Our overall placing was 7th in Yorkshire - a fantastic achievement! Well done to the whole team for the enthusiasm and determination they showed for the whole tournament. Coaches' players of the tournament were Annie H, who played Centre and Chloe M who played GK. We hope the team can qualify next year to get the chance to compete again.



U14 Netball Team



On 28 January our Year 7 & 8 teams enjoyed some very competitive games against South Hunsley School. We lost both games to very strong Hunsley teams, but the students progressed as the match went on and displayed some excellent movement and passing skills throughout the court.



Year 7 Team



Year 8 Team

On the 24 February our Year 9 & 10 teams played against local rivals Longcroft School. The students really gelled together as a team and came away with two convincing wins. Coaches' players of the match were Isabel M (Year 10) & Serena C (Year 9).



Year 9 Team



Year 10 Team

The last match of the league was against Wolfreton School on Thursday 26th February. The Year 8 team only conceded one goal and had a convincing win. Our team was strong in defence and attack, gaining lots of turnovers which were converted to goals. Year 7 had a very close match ending in a 4-4 draw, for quite a few players this was their first competitive school match, the attitude from every player was positive and they supported and encouraged each other throughout the whole match. Well done to Coaches players – Edie S (Year 8) & Phoebe D (Year 7).



Year 7 Team



Year 8 Team

Basketball Sessions

A coach from Beverley Red Kites Basketball club came to deliver a session to some of our Year 9 students who are studying this activity in lessons. The students had the chance to develop their skills through a carousel of guided activities and drills, which they then applied to games. The students really enjoyed the session, with a few now enthusiastic to continue the sport outside of school.

If any students are interested in joining the club outside of school, more information can be found at the PE office.



Yoga in Lessons

We were lucky enough to have Tristessa from Yoga Therapy Hull deliver some sessions to our Year 11 and Year 9 students this term. The focus for Year 11 was on relaxation and mindfulness, which the students found useful in the lead up to their GCSE exams and the Year 9 sessions focused on core strength, flexibility and paired yoga which the students found fun. Below is some feedback from two students who particularly enjoyed the sessions:



“A few of the students in the Year 11 PE class had the wonderful opportunity of experiencing a yoga session to help relieve some exam stress and improve altogether wellbeing. I had a chance to participate in this session which was fantastic”

“The session was really calming and helped me feel more relaxed. The instructor was friendly and made it very enjoyable, we did yoga positions with our partners and then she helped us relax at the end. Overall, it was a fun experience and I’d be happy to do yoga in PE again. It was a great way to take a break and focus on our wellbeing.”

Year 11 Parents' Evening

Thank you to the parents/carers of Year 11 students who logged in this month for the last parents' evening of their child's compulsory education! Teachers appreciated the opportunity to feed back to you about your child's progress.

Beverley High Features in the Good Schools Guide

This month we hosted a visit by a researcher for the Good Schools Guide (GSG). The GSG positions itself as 'the only guide that gives parents genuinely impartial advice and information about schools and education'. Paul Buckland, a retired secondary school Headteacher, spent a day in school, speaking with staff and students, visiting lessons, lunchtime clubs and the canteen and getting a real flavour of what it is like to be a student at Beverley High School. His report can be found on GSG website.

He found:

"Girls we spoke to were invariably delightful and enthusiastic about their education and the opportunities on offer"

"Parents have an overwhelmingly positive view of the school – 'superb, my gut instinct was right, said one' "

"Excellent outcomes, a measured balance between academic and personal development and a determination for every girl to 'be inspired to reach their full potential'. We'll give the last word to a student: "I feel incredibly lucky to be a student at Beverley High School."



Travel Update from a Former Student

It's always lovely to hear from former students about their gap year travels and, this month, we heard from Niamh who is currently travelling in Australia.

Here she is getting to know the locals!

Niamh will be continuing her studies next year at university.