



Wyvern
Academy

Spring 2026

Wyvern
Academy

Enriching Lives. Inspiring Ambitions

The WYVERN WORD



Message from Head Boy and Head Girl

Hello Wyvern,

I'm Jasmine, Deputy Head Girl of Wyvern Academy. As I'm sure you're all aware, exams are right around the corner. Revision can feel quite daunting, and many of you might not know where to start — but it's okay!

My biggest piece of advice is simple: start at the beginning. Not sure how to revise English? Start by reading or watching *Romeo and Juliet*. Unsure where to begin with Biology? Start with B1. It may sound simple, but building your knowledge from the foundations makes everything else easier. Before you know it, you'll feel much more confident across the whole subject.

Now that you've started revising — great! But remember, your mental wellbeing is just as important, if not more so. If you're not eating well, resting properly, or taking time to socialise, revision becomes much harder to sustain. Eventually, your body will catch up with you. With the brighter weather coming in, make sure you take some time to get outside and enjoy it too.

Good luck, Year 11 — you've got this!

I'm Leo, your Head Boy. There are only a few weeks left, but there is still plenty of time to achieve those passes — or even push for grades 8s and 9s.

There are many different ways to revise, but one method I find particularly effective is using revision guides to create flashcards — after all, the school provided them for a reason. Another useful technique is 'blurting' which is where you write down everything you can remember about a topic onto one page. Afterwards, check what you missed and focus on improving those gaps next time. For English, remembering quotes can feel overwhelming. A helpful strategy is to organise flashcards by themes and characters, which can make them easier to recall and apply in exams.

While revision is important, it's equally important not to overwork yourself. Make sure you're taking regular breaks and giving yourself time to relax and recharge.

Good luck with your GCSEs — I'm confident you'll all do brilliantly.

If any Year 11 students would like extra tips or support with revision, please feel free to speak to a member of the Pupil Leadership Team.



WYVERN ACADEMY MARKS HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY WITH POWERFUL STUDENT ASSEMBLY



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY 27/1

Students and staff at Wyvern Academy came together this morning to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, taking time to reflect on the devastating impact of the Holocaust and the importance of remembering the millions of lives lost.

The assembly was led by History teacher Charlotte Dean, who guided students through the historical events of the Holocaust, encouraging thoughtful reflection on themes of prejudice, discrimination and the consequences of hatred. The session also provided an opportunity for students to consider the relevance of Holocaust Memorial Day in today's world and the importance of standing up against injustice in all its forms.



Speaking after the assembly, Charlotte Dean said:

“Holocaust Memorial Day is an opportunity for us not only to remember the six million Jewish people murdered during the Holocaust, but also to reflect on the wider lessons of history. It’s vital that young people understand where hatred and intolerance can lead, and recognise their own role in challenging prejudice and promoting kindness and respect in society today.”





WONDERDOME COMES TO WYVERN

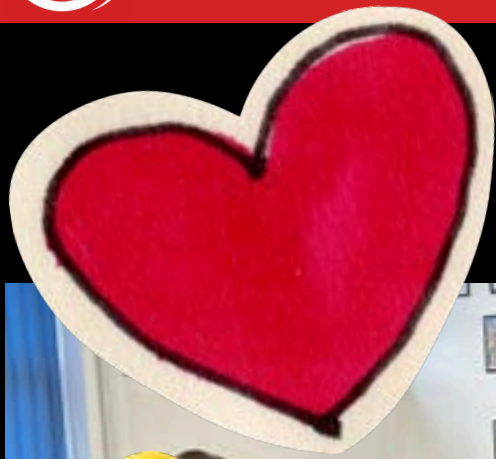
Our Y7 and Y8 students were lucky enough to enjoy an incredible visit from the WonderDome Planetarium on 4th March!

The immersive experience brought the wonders of space to life, allowing pupils to explore planets, stars, and galaxies in a truly unforgettable way. It was a fantastic opportunity to spark curiosity and inspire future scientists and astronauts!

A huge thank you to WonderDome for such an engaging and educational experience.



"It was interesting – I want to be an astronaut and feel I know more bout it and want to do it even more." – Keagan A



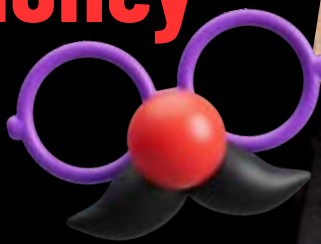
Wyvern hosts Valentine's coffee morning



Thank you to all parents/carers who came to the Valentine's coffee morning. It was lovely to chat to so many people who had their queries answered by our team.

Well done to student prefects who also helped with the morning to ensure it ran smoothly

Wyvern raises money for Comic Relief



Thank you to all those who brought in cakes and donated towards the bake sale as on Friday 20th March.

Wyvern raised a total of £80 for Red Nose Day.

FROZEN

Frozen 2026 – A Magical Production

This year's production of Frozen was a truly spectacular event, bringing the kingdom of Arendelle to life on stage. With 48 students involved across the cast and crew, the show was a remarkable demonstration of teamwork, talent, and dedication.

Across four performances, we welcomed more than 800 audience members, all of whom experienced the magic our students created.

From the moment the curtain rose, the stage was filled with energy and professionalism. The onstage cast delivered their songs with strength, clarity, and confidence, captivating audiences throughout the show. Behind the scenes, our backstage crew executed every set and costume change with impressive precision, ensuring the production flowed seamlessly from scene to scene.



FROZEN

One of the standout moments of the show was a spectacular dress transformation, which drew gasps and applause from the audience each night. The beautiful sets designed by Mrs Cass provided a stunning backdrop, helping transport audiences straight into the world of Arendelle.

Our technical team also played a vital role in the success of the production, making sure every moment was beautifully lit and clearly heard. Their expertise ensured that each performance looked and sounded exceptional.

Bringing a musical of this scale to the stage is a huge undertaking, and it was inspiring to see so many students working together to make it happen. Thanks to their commitment, creativity, and hard work, Arendelle truly came to life—and the students absolutely smashed it.

The quality of our school musicals continues to grow each year, and we are incredibly grateful to the students who bring such passion and dedication to the stage year after year.



Centre Trip

14 nervous year 8 pupils boarded the bus and headed for Yorkshire not sure what challenges they would be embarking on to test them and develop their confidence and resilience! We arrived via a slight detour and were greeted and placed in brand new dormitories which was lovely we even had our own common room! Rooms allocated and beds made - a first for some and help needed for more than a few!

We headed off for lunch and activities, one group went off to Brimhan rocks and they worked together to get over rocks and through rocks and finally squeezed themselves through the 'Cheese grater'. The other group worked together to make a tower of crates and then climbed high and threw themselves off the Leap of faith. After dinner (we were very well catered for!) we had to navigate a night walk so we put on our SLT High Vis jackets, torches at the ready with our maps and made our way out into the darkness. We spotted a lot of toads and walked all the way round our route only getting lost once due to Mr Shields' poor navigating! Next day, we were very lucky with the weather and had a great day. All made it to the top of the mountain easily and had time to make a fire back at the centre and toast marshmallows. The other group had used ropes and climbing equipment to get themselves up their hill and challenges so a great accomplishment all round.



The WYVERN WORD



Morning three the groups swapped over and one did the leap of faith the majority actually brave enough to do it and the other group tackled some hard challenges at Brimham rocks.

We were very lucky as we had the centre to ourselves and we were very looked after by the team however the pupils did us proud and wanted us to stay longer. All pupils achieved something they did not think they would have before they left and had learnt they could do things even if they were hard.

Thanks all for a great trip and hopefully lots of good memories!





Careers

News!

Channel 4

Channel 4 Schools delivered fun interactive workshops to Year 8 students to highlight the importance of transferrable skills.

Students demonstrated their transferrable skills by playing a game of bingo, where the challenge was to network with everyone in the room to be able to complete their bingo card by using communication, teamwork, numerical and problem-solving skills.

The session explained how these transferrable skills are not only taught in school but also by taking part in activities and hobbies outside of school. The workshop linked to skills to subjects at school and the careers they could lead into in the future.



STEM

Middlesbrough College hosted a STEM event for Year 9 students with employers A&N Safety Consultants, NAWIC and ESH. 15 students from Wyvern were in teams against 2 other schools tasked with the challenge to build a college with Lego. Students had free reign to decide how they wanted to design their building, but they had to incorporate green space and a 'fun' area, thinking about sustainability and making their design eco-friendly. The event was hosted to inspire more females into the construction industry with students taking on different roles such as project manager, finance manager and designers to highlight the different roles within the construction industry. Throughout the day students built on their transferrable skills, including teamwork and resilience, and improved confidence by presenting their final design to their peers.





ResilientMe Workshops



As part of the FutureMe programme, we were delighted to host ResilientMe workshops for Years 9, 10 and 11 students. These interactive workshops are designed to build students' resilience and develop key skills that will support them in navigating their future steps.

The workshops aim to raise motivation and encourage students to have a positive growth mindset, by providing revision techniques and reflective practices through the tailored sessions, students are equipped with the knowledge and tools to achieve their goals.





Humanities at Wyvern



Year 10 Presentations



Year 10 presented their 'Life in Nazi Germany' projects to Miss Dean, Mrs O'Keefe and their peers. Each team focused on a different group in society and how their lives were affected and changed during Nazi Germany between the years 1933-39.

The students had to create a five minute presentation, a 'textbook page' for their group to share with the rest of the class, a poster with a limited word count, a script, questions to pose to the class throughout their presentation and an example exam question.

Every group presented excellently! Miss Dean is really proud of every single student. Their effort, professionalism and bravery to stand up in front of the class to speak should be celebrated!

This activity helps students to foster other skills such as public speaking, research, building a greater depth of historical knowledge, and teamwork.

Well done!



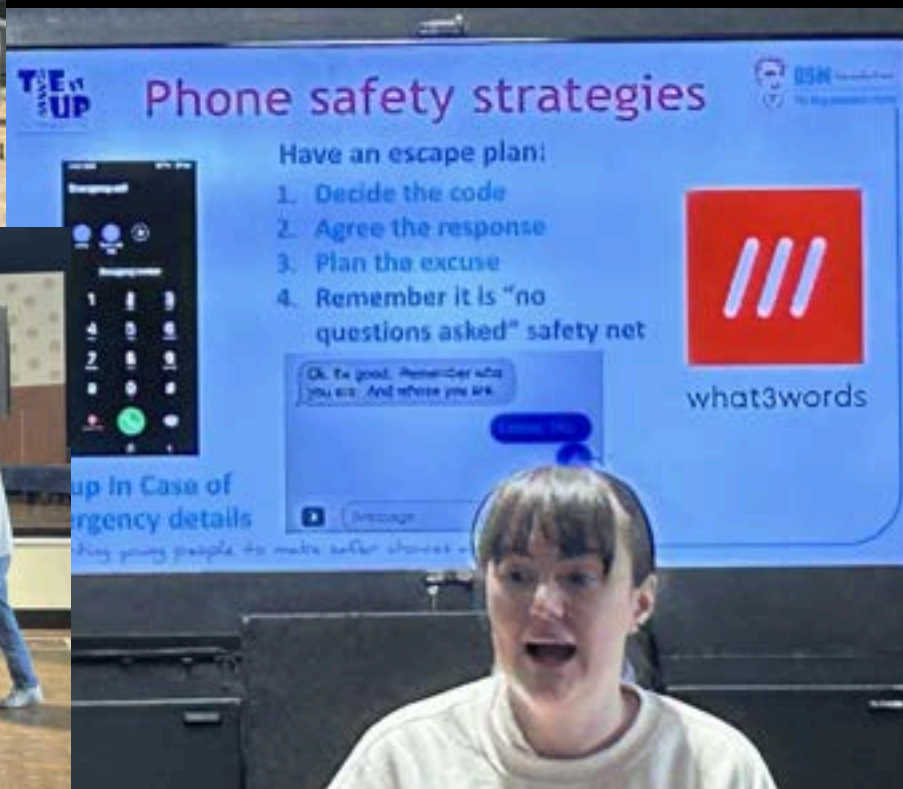
THEATRE GROUP VISITS WYVERN

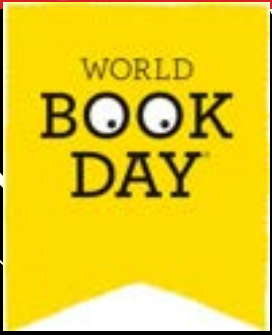
We were delighted to welcome TiU Theatre to Wyvern Academy on 24th March, where our Year 10 students watched the powerful film “I Love You, Mum – I Promise I Won’t Die.”

The production tells a real-life story with a deeply moving message, encouraging students to reflect on important choices and consequences.

Following the screening, students took part in an interactive workshop, where they engaged thoughtfully, asked insightful questions, and explored the themes in greater depth.

It was fantastic to see such mature responses and active participation—our students were a credit to the school and clearly gained a lot from this impactful experience.





WYVERN World Book Day



Pupils and staff at Wyvern Academy have enjoyed a fun-filled week of World Book Day related activities.

Throughout the week, KS3 pupils have enjoyed a 'Book Tasting Café' during their Library lesson where they have been able to sample and complete activities on eight different genres of books.

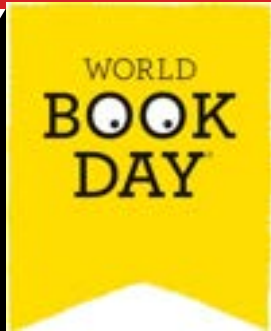
All pupils have been gifted a free World Book Day book and received their £1 book voucher to spend in their local bookshop. The Academy has also received a huge amount of book donations from staff, which formed a 'Book Drive' at breaktime, where pupils are able to pick a book and take home with them. Both staff and pupils have dressed up for the day, with characters from Winnie the Pooh, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Harry Potter and many more!





The Wyvern Word

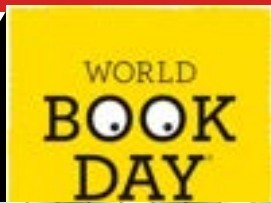
WYVERN WORLD BOOK DAY





The Wyvern Word

WYVERN World Book Day





WYVERN World Book Day

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

Best Dressed Book Day Winner

A big thank you to everyone who took part in our World Book Day celebrations last week. We were delighted to see such a fantastic range of creative costumes across all year groups. Staff and students had the difficult task of voting for their favourites, as the effort and imagination on display were truly impressive. Congratulations to our winners, who are featured!

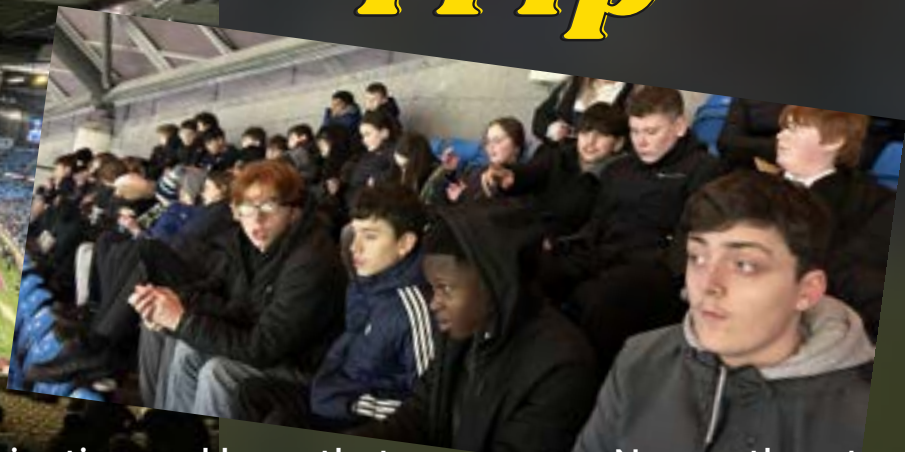




PE

Department News

Man City Trip



40 young people were full of anticipation and hope that we may see Newcastle get through to another cup final at Wembley, however we were already a goal down and knew it was going to be tough. We also took some Manchester City supporters who knew we had any in Darlington!!

Anyway after a swift bus ride down we managed to see the Manchester City Squad arrival and spotted quite a few of the big names in Foden and Harland.

Sadly, for the Newcastle fans it was not a pleasant night of football as Manchester City scored too many goals to remember and put on an excellent display of football. However it was a good experience for some of our pupils who had never been to a football match never mind seeing some of the most talented footballers in the country and some in the world.

A long ride home but well done for everyone being in the next day!



VIAM

Emma, Millie and Megan before they went in to perform at Wembley arena in front of 12 thousand people

The girls are dance Ambassadors for a north east singer called Channy. The performance was for VIAM (voice in a million) at Wembley arena. Another well done, girls!



Sports Leaders

On Monday 12th January, fourteen Year 8 Sports Leaders helped to run a Key Stage 1 Multi Skills event at the Dolphin Centre.

Over the course of the day the leaders worked with pupils from 12 primary schools, where they explained, demonstrated, encouraged and praised pupils with lots of enthusiasm and professionalism! There were lots of positive comments from the primary teachers about how well the leaders presented themselves and communicated with the primary school children. There will be more leadership opportunities for pupils in Key Stage 3 as we move into the summer term.

(Team photo from the day attached).

PE Department News



Wyvern Girls Rugby



An impressive performance from the team, they were all amazing, demonstrating the school values throughout the day!

After a tough game against Carmel, a 1 try difference against Haughton, Wyvern smashed it out the park against Polam, with all 4 tries scored by Peculiar!!!





MR HENSON

The Wyvern Word

PUBLISHES HIS FIRST BOOK.

Author Spotlight: Daryl Henson launches debut novel *Delayed Exposure: Hawthorne*

We are delighted to celebrate the launch of *Delayed Exposure: Hawthorne*, the debut novel by our very own Head of English, Daryl Henson. In this interview, he shares the inspiration behind the book, the challenges of writing a novel alongside school life, and why reading and writing remain so important.

Interview with Daryl Henson.

Q: First of all, congratulations on the launch of your debut novel, *Delayed Exposure: Hawthorne*. How does it feel to see it finally out in the world?

A: Thank you. It feels surreal, if I'm honest. Writing a novel is something that begins quietly, often with a single idea, a character, or even just a feeling. For a long time, it exists only in your own head. To finally see it become a finished book is incredibly rewarding. It's a proud moment, but also quite strange knowing that other people can now step into a story that lived with me for such a long time.

Q: Tell us a little about *Delayed Exposure: Hawthorne*. What can readers expect?

A: *Delayed Exposure: Hawthorne* is a crime thriller with a strong sense of atmosphere and mystery. At its heart is Leslie "Les" Hayes, a sharp, determined central character who is drawn into a case with deeper roots than it first appears. The novel explores secrets, place, memory, and truth, with a story that gradually reveals just how much the past can shape the present. I wanted it to feel tense, cinematic, and layered, with characters that readers would genuinely care about.

Q: Where did the idea for the novel come from?

A: The idea grew from a mixture of things: a fascination with crime fiction, an interest in how places hold history, and a desire to create a story that felt grounded and real. I've always liked novels where the setting almost becomes a character in itself, and that was important to me when developing this book. I wanted to write something gripping, but also something thoughtful beneath the surface. The character Les Hayes is inspired by my Dad who always wanted to be a 'Private Eye', this is a tribute to him.





MR HENSON

**PUBLISHES HIS
FIRST BOOK.**

Q: What inspired you to start writing fiction?

A: As an English teacher, I'm surrounded by stories all the time, so writing fiction felt like a natural extension of that. I've always admired the power of stories to entertain, challenge, and stay with us long after we've finished reading. At some point, I wanted to see if I could create that experience myself. Writing a novel is very different from teaching literature, of course, but the love of language and storytelling sits at the heart of both.

Q: Do you think students can learn something from seeing their teacher publish a novel?

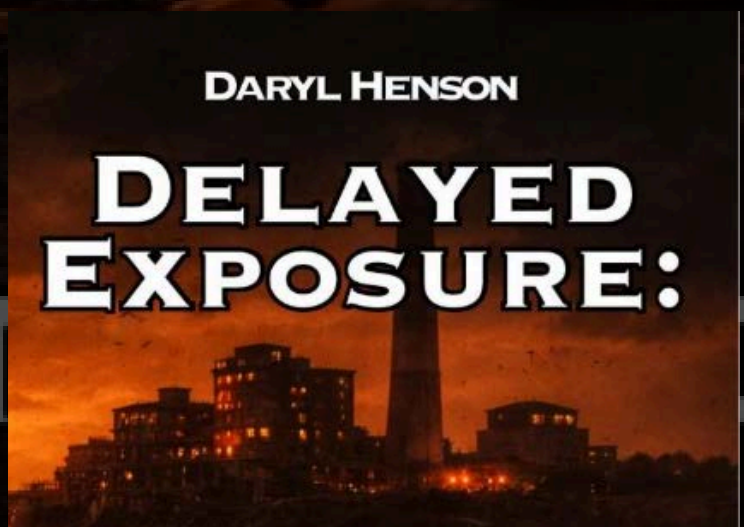
A: I hope so. More than anything, I hope it shows that writing is real, meaningful, and worth pursuing. We often ask students to be creative, to draft carefully, to read widely, and to persevere when something is difficult. Publishing a novel is a reminder that those habits matter beyond the classroom too. I'd like students to see that ideas can become something tangible if you keep working at them.

Q: What advice would you give to young writers in school?

A: Read a lot, write often, and don't be afraid to improve your work. Too many people think writing has to be perfect immediately, but that's not how it works. The first version is only the beginning. Also, trust your own ideas. If something interests you, unsettles you, or stays in your mind, there is usually a story there worth exploring.

Delayed Exposure: Hawthorne is out now.

We congratulate Daryl Henson on this fantastic achievement and look forward to seeing where his writing journey goes next.



HAW



Safeguarding

Information

At Wyvern Academy we know how important safeguarding is. Safeguarding is a vital aspect of any school setting, as it ensures the safety and wellbeing of all students, staff and visitors. We foster a culture and practice of safeguarding. All staff have annual safeguarding training and all school policies and practices are fully compliant with Keeping Children Safe in Education.

We work with professionals to ensure students can thrive and be safe. We take action to enable all children have the best outcomes, as we want our students to have the best start to life.

All staff are trained level 2 safeguarding leads and are able to support your child if they are need to speak to them about their concerns.

Safeguarding Team

Wyvern Academy is committed to promoting the safeguarding and wellbeing of every pupil. We encourage you not to ignore anything you see, hear or read which causes you concern for the safety of our pupils and school community

Please report any concerns to one of the team, or email at wyv.safeguarding@consilium-at.com

Useful Links



**Growing
Healthy**



**The
Samaritans**



MIND



KOOTH

**Scan the above QR codes for
more information**



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Year 11s - Don't
forget the
Easter Revision
Sessions!**

Easter Holidays

Friday 3rd April - Monday 20th April

Parents' Evenings

(4pm-6pm)

Year 8 - Thursday 30th April 2026

Year 10 - Thursday 9th July 2026

GCSE Exam Dates

Tuesday 5th May 2026- Friday 26th June 2026

Year 6 Transition Dates

Wednesday 24th June 2026- Friday 26th June 2026

Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 29th June 2026 - Friday 3rd July 2026

Mock Exam Dates

Year 10 mock exams: 16th June 2026

Trips

Teesside University Wednesday 13th May 2026
(Year 10)

Teesside University Thursday 14th May 2026
(Year 10)

Beamish/History trip Thursday 21st May 2026
(Year 8)

Year 11 Prom

1st July 2026

Year 11 Leavers Assembly

Monday 15th June 2026

Holiday Dates

Monday 25th May 2026-Friday 29th May 2026

Summer Holidays:

Monday 20th July 2026- Wednesday 2nd September 2026



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