



CUNDALL MANOR SCHOOL

MICHAELMAS TERM ROUNDUP

NOV- DEC '24

INSIGHTS



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Welcome



The final four weeks of the Michaelmas Term at Cundall Manor have been filled with engaging and dynamic learning experiences.

In the Creative Arts, Pre-Prep pupils performed their Nativity production, Angel Express. For many, it was their first time on stage, and they approached the experience with courage and enthusiasm, supported by a supportive audience.

Years 3 and 4 staged an impressive production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, confidently performing solo parts delivering a show to be proud of.

The term's calendar was further enriched by theatre trips, festive baking days, the Christmas Fair, and a joyful whole school Christmas lunch. It all culminated in a magnificent whole-school Service of Nine Lessons at Ripon Cathedral. Nearly 80 singers and nine readers joined together for a beautiful service reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas.

In sport, the girls have had a remarkable hockey season, with the U11 and U16 teams proudly crowned County Champions. Beyond the playing fields, visits to local museums and hands-on workshops brought learning to life, offering pupils meaningful and immersive educational experiences throughout the term.

As the term comes to a close, we wish you and your families a restful and joyous Christmas break and look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year.

Reception Celebrate Diwali

Reception has been learning about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light. They have had lots of fun in the 'home corner' decorating their house and celebrating together. In their PE lessons, they learnt a Diwali celebration dance. The children explored individual dance moves, worked in pairs, and used ribbons in their performance to represent fireworks.



Great Fire of London in the Wild Acre Wood

To conclude Year 1's Topic learning of the Great Fire of London, pupils created model houses and discussed the materials used in 17th-century construction. In their weekly outdoor Wild Acre Wood lesson, with guidance from Mr Jackson, they set the "bakery" alight to illustrate how the fire spread through the city.



Are Computer Games Good for You?

As part of their English studies on debating and balanced arguments, Year 6 engaged in a structured debate on the motion, 'Are Computer Games Good for You?' The boys presented well-considered points on both sides, listening carefully to each other's views. The session concluded with a close vote: 8:4 against the motion. There were great ideas from our young debaters!



Swale's Willow Weaving

Swale were introduced to the art of willow weaving with @anna_and_the_willow and enjoyed working with a new medium. Using Japanese basketry tools and sustainable natural materials grown in the UK, they collaborated to create impressive 3D sculptures of hares. We're excited to see these pieces displayed around the school grounds.



Crucial Crew

Year 6 had an informative and potentially lifesaving morning at Crucial Crew with North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service. The pupils took part in several workshop sessions throughout the morning, covering personal safety topics such as internet safety, water safety, fire safety and escape routes, how to make an emergency call, and the effects of smoking and vaping. They enjoyed the interactive sessions and also appreciated hearing valuable safety tips from experts from North Yorkshire Police and the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.



101 Dalmatians at the Grand Opera House

Fifty-one pupils from Aram to Thornton attended a performance of 101 Dalmatians: The Musical at the Grand Opera House, York, on Thursday. This new production updates the beloved tale of Pongo, Perdi, and their owners with energetic songs, dynamic dance routines, and a host of wacky characters. The character of Cruella De Vil, portrayed by Kym Marsh, was particularly terrifying!

The pupils had a brilliant time, and the surprise appearance of a real Dalmatian puppy at the end was an extra special moment.

This experience has enhanced the pupils' understanding of live theatre and demonstrated what can be achieved on stage. It will also support their practical work in lessons.



Viking Adventure at Jorvik and Dig

Year 1 enjoyed visiting Jorvik and Dig in York. They had great fun learning about Vikings and the children noticed that the Vikings made their houses out of wattle and daub just like the houses in 1666. They explored the different galleries and thoroughly enjoyed being archaeologists for the day. They were all very impressed to see one of York's biggest archaeological discoveries - Viking Pool!



Tudor Life with Hands-On Workshop

This term, Year 5 are studying the Tudors as part of their History topic. To enrich this unit, historian John Conyard from Historical Interpretations provided an in-school workshop on the Tudors. Pupils handled artefacts from both wealthy and poor Tudors and discussed the differences in the materials they were made from. They also tried to figure out the purposes of a variety of objects – some of which were very puzzling!

They explored Tudor schools and examined Tudor weapons, including longbows, muskets, helmets, and swords. Some pupils even had the chance to dress up in Tudor armour. They rounded off the session with some Tudor dancing. It was a truly memorable history lesson!





Experiencing the Arts in Liverpool

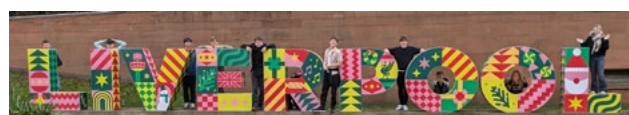
Our GCSE Music & Drama pupils enjoyed an unforgettable trip to Liverpool this week. It started with Dear Evan Hansen at the Liverpool Empire Theatre, a thought-provoking and well-loved musical exploring themes of social anxiety and fitting in.

The following day, they delved into the world of popular music at the British Music Experience. This interactive museum showcased the history and evolution of music, from iconic instruments to legendary artists.

To extend their cultural experience, pupils attended a careers talk at the Liverpool Playhouse, gaining valuable insights into the diverse opportunities within the performing arts industry.

The trip culminated in a spectacular evening concert given by the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, which included a percussion concerto by film composer Danny Elfman. After the concert, Danny gave a talk about his creative process and inspirations.

This enriching visit provided our pupils with a unique opportunity to engage with live performances, explore the music industry, and gain a deeper understanding of the arts.



Remembrance Day: Honouring Service and Sacrifice

On Monday, we gathered on the Front Lawn for Remembrance Day to honour and remember those who have bravely served our country. Our alumnus, Henry, played The Last Post, after which the whole school observed a two-minute silence. It was an opportunity to reflect on and appreciate the bravery and commitment of both past and present servicemen and women.

Thanks to our Prefects for raising £226.37 in support of the Poppy Appeal.



History trip to Skipton Castle

Form 2 had a wonderful day out visiting Skipton Castle. Although the temperature was cold, the sun was shining and kept them warm.

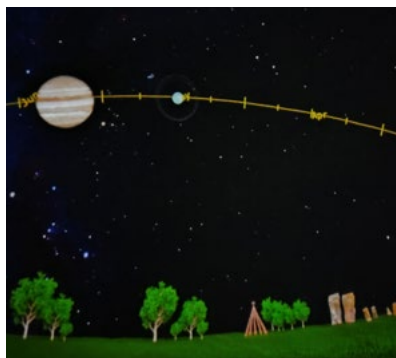
They enjoyed a superb tour of the castle led by Peter, who was fantastic. He educated the pupils brilliantly while also entertaining them with his magic tricks along the way.

Skipton Castle is stunning, and it was highly beneficial for the pupils to see in real life everything they had discussed in class.

After lunch, the pupils did some impromptu sketches of the castle while soaking up the sunshine.

The detail in their drawings was excellent!

It was another fantastic trip and a day filled with wonderful memories. Well done, Form 2, for representing our school so well once again!



Unveiling the Universe

Form 5 went to Limetrees Observatory in Grewelthorpe. The year group have been studying Earth and Space, and this was the perfect opportunity to put all this learning to the test. The curved dome ensured that the experience was immersive. The visuals were phenomenal and "WOW" was uttered on several occasions. This is a place to visit if you ever get the chance.

African Dance Workshop

Year 5 have been drawing and making African masks in Art with Mr Vale. To enrich their understanding of African culture, they also took part in an African Dance workshop with DanceDays.com. This involved learning three different dances and performing these to different African music. Knowing how much the year 3 girls enjoyed dance, they were invited too. It was a really enjoyable workshop.





Ripon Cathedral Christmas Fair

Our Musical Theatre enrichment group sang at Ripon Cathedral Christmas Food and Gift Fair, entertaining the shoppers with a mixture of Christmas hits and songs from the shows. There were beautiful solos from Poppy R, Poppy W and Lowery, followed by a varied programme of everything from "Silent Night" to "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree".

'Ho Ho!' Hockey Festival

Pupils of all ages and abilities gathered on the Astro for spirited festive hockey festival before the Christmas Fair began. It was a great way to start the festive celebrations.



FOCM Wreath Making

Friends of Cundall Manor wreath-making workshops, led by Susi Hart, were a wonderful success, with many beautiful wreaths created to decorate homes across Yorkshire!



FOCM Christmas Fair

The festive season had officially started with the 'Friends of Cundall' Christmas Fair in the Quad, at the end of November. The event included Santa train rides to a magical visit with Father Christmas in the library, gorgeous gift stalls, imaginative pupil stalls, festive food, an inflatable zone and non stop musical entertainment - it was a lovely afternoon. Many thanks to all the businesses and volunteers who supported the event.



MUSICAL PRODUCTIONS



'Angel Express' Nativity Performance

We are so proud of Pre-Prep for their Nativity production of 'Angel Express' at the Galtres Centre, Easingwold. Pupils overcame their pre-performance nerves and were having a smiley time on stage waving to all their supportive parents! The children worked so hard learning their lines, stage direction and the lyrics and actions to the many songs. It was a fantastic and ambitious performance. The positive comments from parents were lovely to hear, thank you, but the true stars of the show were, without a doubt, our fantastic children. Well done everyone.



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

Years 3 and 4 were superstars in the production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. The children worked incredibly hard to learn the complex lyrics, choreography and staging. Rehearsals have been going on since the start of term and the children have enjoyed learning new songs (Go Go Joseph was a clear favourite).

Their dedication, hard work and enthusiasm shone throughout the rehearsal process and the performance.

They showed real courage singing independently in front of an audience and putting on a fantastic show. Well done on your amazing production!



Nursery Sing along

Our Nursery pupils delighted their families with a performance recounting the story of 'Little Owl and the Star'. They have enjoyed learning poems, actions and festive songs to support their storytelling and even sang brilliantly in French.

Christmas 'Lets Bake' Morning

Pre-Prep have been getting into the festive spirit with a 'Christmas Let's Bake' morning this week. Reception made Christmas tree pizzas and decorated biscuits while Year 1 and 2 rotated around baking stations in each classroom and made marshmallow reindeer, chocolate Christmas trees, and chocolate snowballs. They enjoyed the demonstrations and followed the instructions well to create their Christmas treats.



Christmas Traditions

Our Year 9 food tech pupils explored food from around the world this term, learning about diverse ingredients, cooking techniques, and traditional Christmas recipes, creating gingerbread houses and Christmas cakes - perfectly timed for the festival season.

Library Concert

Our Informal concert this term in the library was a fantastic opportunity for the pupils involved to build performance confidence and share their musical talent in a supportive setting.



Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at Ripon Cathedral

Our Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was the culmination of months of work for our choirs, who performed a selection of classic and contemporary carols, along with the traditional congregational favourites. Nearly 80 singers and nine readers joined together to tell the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus Christ. A special mention must go to the soloists, Lowery, Bertie, Norine, Izzy, Poppy W, Poppy R and Millie. It was a beautiful service reminding us all of the true meaning of Christmas.

“This was a really special family occasion and a magical setting for Rebecca and I to meet the whole of Cundall Manor School. I am looking forward to joining in the New Year and helping the school further develop its reputation for providing an outstanding education for every child.” Mr Simon Weale, Headmaster



Class of 2024 return

The Thornton Class of 2024 gathered on Thursday evening to celebrate their achievements, receiving their GCSE certificates along with the Duke of Edinburgh Award certificates and badges. It was wonderful to hear how well they have settled into their destination schools and colleges. We look forward to them staying in touch as they join our Alumni community.

Festive Fun & House Competition on the Last Day of Term

For the last full day of term, pupils enjoyed a full Christmas lunch and a surprise visit from Father Christmas in the dining hall. They were delighted to spot him passing in front of the school before he gave out presents.

In the afternoon, the Houses battled it out with their annual singing competition in the gym, with spirited performances all around. Many thanks to the parent adjudicators who voted on choreography, cohesion, and singing.

And the winning House was... SAXONS! They sang Santa Claus is Coming to Town with fantastic actions, props and costumes including appearances from the Grinch and Father Christmas. Well done Saxons!



ISA Hockey Tournament

Our U11 Girls travelled to the Lee Valley Stadium at the London Olympic Park for the ISA Hockey Tournament, putting in an impressive performance. They had a strong morning, finishing at the top of their pool without conceding a single goal and advancing to the next rounds. In the afternoon, they narrowly missed out on a spot in the Cup finals on goal difference, despite a strong day with only one game lost. It was a fantastic experience, and the team showed great determination and enthusiasm throughout.

Our U13 Girls achieved Bronze Medals for their competition at the ISA Cup. They won all their pool games to advance to the Cup finals. In a nail-biting penalty shootout, they secured the Bronze coming 3rd out of 32 teams. A fantastic achievement, especially against some much larger schools.



Rugby Festival Success

Congratulations to our teams who had a great time at the Terrington Rugby Festival.

All the teams won all the games against Terrington, Brackenfield, Silcoates and Scarborough College. A brilliant afternoon of rugby.

Our U8s and U9s have had a great season. Demonstrating their growing mastery of the game with outstanding invasive play. Both teams consistently find gaps to exploit and run with purpose to score several tries.



County Champions!

Congratulations to our U11 team who became North Yorkshire County Hockey Champions this term. They were undefeated, scoring 14 goals in 5 games. 4-0 Ashville, 3-0 Queen Marys, 4-0 Scarborough College, 2-0 St Peters and 1-0 against Terrington Hall. It is a fantastic achievement and we are so proud of these girls and how hard they have worked all season. They will be competing in the New Year at the Regional Finals.

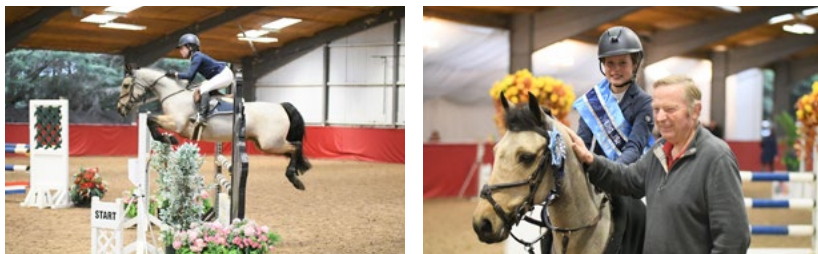
Regional Finals

Our U16s were also crowned County Champions in November and the girls progressed to the Regional Finals in December. They worked hard for each other and never gave up coming away in 4th place. A fantastic season. Well played!

Pupil Successes

British Show Jumping

Well done to Fenella and her pony, Dunbarover, who competed at the British Show Jumping Home Pony International Show at Southview. They won the 128 Grand Prix Championship Class and have also qualified for the London International Horse Show at Christmas. What a fantastic achievement. Congratulations!



Young Musicians of the Year

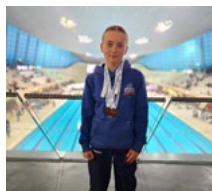
Congratulations to Izzy W, Lowery A and Poppy R coming away with "Highly Commended" verdicts from the adjudicator at this years Ripon Young Musician of the Year competition at Sharow Church. In the evening finalists' concert, a group of singers from Cundall entertained the audience before the interval. Very many thanks to our musicians who represented Cundall music so wonderfully.



England Squad

We are thrilled to announce that Alistair has earned a place in the England U16 Hockey squad!

Following a series of camps and training sessions in September, October, and November, he was ecstatic to receive the news. He will join just 27 other players for monthly training at the Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Shropshire. Your hard work and passion for the sport continue to inspire us all—congratulations, Alistair!



Gala Success

Georgina and Layla made the journey down to London to represent the ISA North swim team having qualified earlier in the term for the National Finals. It was a fantastic event for both girls.

Congratulations to Georgina P who came away with three bronze medals, 50m backstroke, 50m freestyle and the 200m freestyle relay. The girls were also part of the winning team!! The ISA North squad won the entire event. Well done girls for representing yourselves and the school fantastically well.



County Players

Yolanda, Imogen, and Molly have been playing County hockey this season representing North Yorkshire.

Dates for your Diary

- 07** LENT TERM STARTS
JAN
- 17** PARENTS' COFFEE MORNING
LIBRARY
JAN
- 20** FANCY DRESS CHARITY RUN
NURSERY - SWALE
JAN
- 23** BACK IN TIME DAY
PRE-PREP
JAN
- 27** 'STEPPING UP TO ARAM DAY'
YEAR 6
JAN
- 30** WINTER CONCERT
JAN
- 07** OPEN MORNING
WHOLE SCHOOL
FEB
- 14** LENT HALF TERM
BEGINS
FEB
- 24** TERM RESUMES
HALF TERM ENDS
FEB
- 06** WORLD BOOK DAY
MARCH
- 18** PERFORMING ARTS EVENING
YEAR 5
MARCH
- 21** NON UNIFORM DAY FOR
COMIC RELIEF
MARCH
- 03** CHOCOLATE CAKE RACE
APRIL
- 04** END OF TERM
12 NOON
APRIL

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