

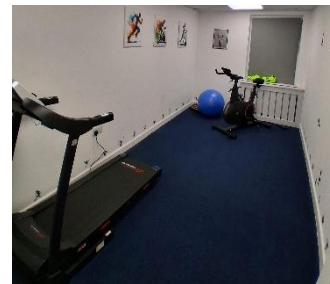
Barraclough Hall School Newsletter Autumn 2 - 2025

A message from Miss Cubley

As we have reached the end of the autumn term, I would like to thank everyone for their support in developing our community. This term has been quite a busy one with new students joining, school developments including off site educational trips and curriculum developments which we are very proud of. This term we also held our first parents evening. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers attending. The highlight was seeing how proud the students were to show their work since September and talking about their journey at Barraclough with parents/carers and staff. The feedback from everyone was outstanding and demonstrates our commitment to our young people to help them progress and succeed. Thank you for attending and being part of our journey. Your support is extremely important to us. The spring progress/parents' evening date is listed below at the end of the newsletter.

From everyone at Barraclough we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We are looking forward to continuing to grow and flourish in 2026!

WOW!! Another room development: From opening the media and studio room in October, we take fitness to another level. We now have a mini gym which has a brand-new treadmill, exercise bike, punch pads and other equipment. This supports our students during break times, golden time and activity times.



"The Lady doth protest too much me thinks." In English, students have been studying *Macbeth* as part of our focus on plays. They have enjoyed learning the story and exploring the characters and themes through a range of creative writing tasks written in character. All students have demonstrated creativity, focus, and clear progress in their understanding and writing skills.

As part of a mini project, Diamond Class completed *Macbeth*-themed, career-linked tasks. Students worked as graphic novelists, creating graphic adaptations of key scenes; news reporters, writing and performing news reports and interviews; and cartographers, drawing, labelling, and explaining maps linked to the narrative.



Crystal Class took a different creative approach by rewriting the opening of the film *Nativity!* as a play and then filming their own performance. They worked brilliantly as a group to write a funny and engaging script with each student contributing some fabulous ideas. Everyone has been extremely proud of what they have produced, and it has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm and creativity across both classes.

Tick Tock. Tick Tock!

In DT, students designed and made their own clocks. They worked through the research and design stages before constructing, painting, and assembling their clocks, finishing by adding the clock mechanism. We saw a fantastic range of creative designs, including grandfather clocks, flowers, and car wheels.



Throughout the project, students demonstrated perseverance and creativity, and have thoroughly enjoyed using our new cardboard toolkit to construct their ideas. It was a joy seeing them acquiring new skills and being proud of their creations. To conclude, all students reflected on their work by evaluating the outcome and considering how they adapted and improved their designs as they worked.



Personalised interventions: Students continue to engage well in their personalised interventions adding progress to their individual development and targets from, social skills, life skills, emotion coaching and literacy development.



Rebound – Let's Bounce Around in PE!



The pupils at Barraclough Hall School have been trampolining this half term, learning everything from tuck jumps and straddle jumps to front drops and forward somersaults. Our pupils have displayed fantastic resilience to persevere with new skills and have encouraged each other to greater heights along the way.

Every week saw new skills, smiles and laughter developing, challenging themselves and encouraging each other to create excellent routines.

Science – This term students have been focussing on Chemistry, from states of matter to exciting experiments. Crystal enjoyed creating their own crystals and carrying out distillation experiments learning outside using natural resources



It's all about shape: In Maths students have been focussing on numbers and shapes, from 2D to 3D, vertices, angles and creating some very interesting characters which they then wrote about.



Natural Forms in Clay. Students have explored a range of clay techniques in Art lessons this term, creating texture tiles by imprinting leaves into clay, inspired by the work of Andy Goldsworthy. They have formed pinch pots and sculptures inspired by the work of Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore and also carefully crafted spiral bowls, demonstrating patience and resilience. They also made clay poppies for Remembrance Day, which were carefully painted to create a lasting wreath. Throughout the unit, students demonstrated developing skills in moulding, joining, and sculpting clay, and all have made clear progress in their artistic confidence and outcomes.



Computing - Lets get Creative! Students have been developing their digital skills through a range of creative activities, including animation, filming and photo editing making excellent progress, from simple flip books to stop-motion animations with handmade puppets to creating digital animations using Pivot Animator. Students exploring photo editing have learnt how and why images are edited, enhancing individual photographs to creating composite images, while also discussing the ethics behind photo manipulation. Other students have been developing filmmaking skills, learning about camera use, filming techniques and video editing software. Our pupils achievements this half term have highlighted both their creativity and growing confidence with digital technology whilst remaining safe online.

PHSCE including JK Fidgets Enterprise project and life skills

Students in Crystal class have been working hard on their enterprise project and worked together to complete their fidget stall stand. This included planning their enterprise, designing their logo, creating advertisements, sourcing, costing and purchasing resources, packing their products attractively and working out prices for their finished products.

On Thursday of the last week of term, they came together to manage their stall and sold their fidget toys to staff and students. They worked really well together and impressed us all with their budding enterprise skills.



In Moonstone, as part of Independence Plus, students demonstrated their cooking and kitchen skills by planning, creating

ingredients lists, preparing, cooking and cleaning up. Great life skills demonstrated including using correct safe cutting skills.

There's something fishy going on here!

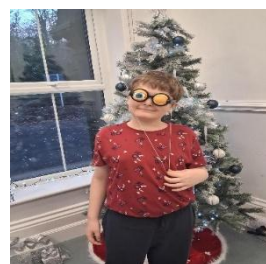
This term we have welcomed 2 new students and our first cohort of 6 Japanese fish. Students have given each fish a name and enjoy spending time watching and even talking to them. Students find them interesting, calming and therapeutic.



First Christmas at Barraclough:

Our first Christmas at Barraclough since opening has been such a positive experience for all students and staff. From Christmas trees, twinkly lights, individual classroom trees, a full Christmas dinner including all the trimmings, Santa cups, Santa plates, Santa serviettes and of course Christmas crackers. Everyone

really enjoyed being together, pulling crackers and taking it in turns to tell their jokes. Christmas jumper day brought lots of giggles and students enjoyed creating their Christmas classroom doors.



Reading



Our library continues to expand- this time with books specifically requested by our wonderful students. The Beast Quest series proved so popular, we had to get more series in, along with a 'Beast A-Z' book to inspire drawings! In Crystal, our collection of Minecraft guides have been popular, with students sharing game hints by reading passages to each other- fabulous for building reading confidence and social communication skills.

Feedback from parents/carers this term – Autumn 2. Thank you!

"My son is now thriving since being at Barraclough" – Parent – EHCP Review

"Wow. I cant believe how much work my daughter has done since being at Barraclough" – Parent

"He's learning to discuss his emotions and will also notice them in me now as well" – Parent

"Staff have got brilliant relationships with the children and are always approachable" – Parent

Kirklees publish **SEND monthly newsletters** which provide a great read. Please see the link:

<https://www.kirkleeslocaloffer.org.uk/kirklees-send-newsletters/>

Healthy foods/snacks

If your child would like to bring in a snack for during the day, in addition to our healthy snacks we provide, please can you ensure these are healthy. Fizzy drinks, sweets and chocolate are not permitted as we continue to promote healthy eating in school. Thank you for your co-operation.

Who do I need to contact?

All initial enquiries should go through the school office by emailing the school office on **schooloffice@Barracloughhallschool.co.uk** or by ringing **01484 244300**. Should you wish to inform us of an absence please speak with the school office. In the event of the school office not being available please leave a voicemail which will be picked up and relevant people informed.

Personal Information

Just another reminder, please can you let the school office know if there are any changes to information that you shared upon enrolment of your child, for example, if you have had a change of address, telephone number or anything else has changed that we need to be made aware of.

Spring term dates

5th and 6th January - INSET days

7th January - Students return

10th February - Parents forum in school. 3.45 - 5pm

16th – 20th February - Half-term Holiday

23rd February - Students return

March 24th – Progress/parents evening

March 27th – End of term

Consultations and placements are open for the academic year 2025 – 2026 places. Please contact the school for enquiries or to arrange a visit.