www.barracloughhallschool.co.uk
schooloffice@barracloughhallschool.co.uk
1 Bryan Road, Huddersfield, HD2 2AL

Barraclough Hall School Newsletter Autumn 1 - 2026

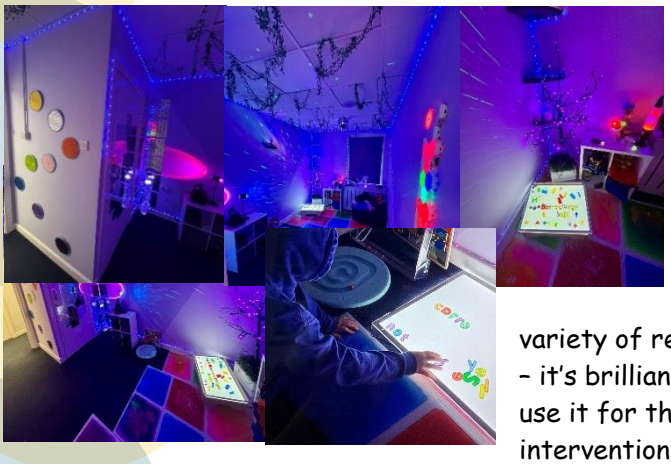
A message from Miss Cubley

As we moved into the new academic year, our school has been buzzing with energy, fresh ideas, and a shared commitment to making this year our best yet. We have welcomed new faces to our community this term as the school continues to grow with new pupils and staff. This term our new Amethyst class opened for pupils and we welcomed Ms Miller (teacher), Ms Gayler (TA), Mrs Swainson (TA) and Adrian Clipson (caretaker) to our wonderful staff team. We are excited to continue our journey of learning, growth, and memorable experiences together. Our focus this year remains firmly on ensuring that every pupil feels happy, safe, valued and able to achieve their very best. We will continue to provide a rich range of opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, while encouraging our pupils to be curious, resilient and proud of their achievements.

We are also delighted to announce that we have successfully passed the **JCQ registration inspection** to deliver GCSE Maths, English, Boilogy on our **GCSE Pathway**, alongside our Functional Skills pathway for year 10 and 11 pupils. In addition, we have developed our year 10 and 11 curriculum for pupils to gain qualifications in NCFE Occupational Studies and Food and Cookery up to Level 2. These are in addition to our Arts Award and ASDAN short courses.



Macmillan Coffee Morning: In September we hosted our Macmillan coffee morning for parents/carers/grandparents and the local community to gather for a coffee, cake and an informal chat with our staff with an amazing array of cakes to share. It was wonderful seeing how the young people joined in as well. We raised an amazing £81.25. Thank you.

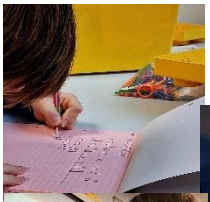
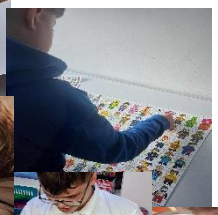
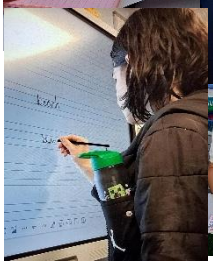


Wonderland: Sensory room: Staff have worked exceptionally hard together to create a welcoming and relaxing sensory room. Pupils chose the paint colours, choosing 2 shades of lilac/purple. Great choice. They discussed items and how they would like to use it. It is also used for glow up phonics for spelling/reading, a glo table for glow in the dark writing, tactile objects including gel floor tiles, as well as a variety of relaxing objects. Feedback quotes from pupils include "Miss – it's brilliant", "there's some wonderful things in there". "Please can I use it for the last 5 minutes of my intervention time each day?"



Attendance trip: Cannon Hall Farm. Our 95% and above attendance trip enabled pupils to have a wonderful day at Cannon Hall Farm where they interacted together, spent time with the animals on the farm and enjoyed pumpkin picking and decorating them.

www.barracloughhallschool.co.uk
schooloffice@barracloughhallschool.co.uk
1 Bryan Road, Huddersfield, HD2 2AL







Inclusion: This term we have introduced an extra intervention which has been welcomed by pupils. Fine motor skills supports a wide range of developments including cutlery skills, shoe laces, clips, fastenings, tri-pod pen grip and supports handwriting stamina. All pupils take part in this once a week using various objects which are fun and engaging.

Whole school emotion coaching continues every Tuesday and handwriting interventions on a Thursday. We really enjoy seeing the impact of the personalised interventions we embed. Pupils enjoy taking part and see them as fun and engaging whilst supporting their personal and academic development.



On October 6th we had our **first open evening** and the response was overwhelming. We are already planning our next open evening due to popular demand from further families.. Below are just a few of the amazing feedback comments we received from the visitors. Thank you.for the amazing feedback!

Selection of feedback from prospective parents/carers – 6th October 2026 Open Evening

- "The confidence of all members of the team. Very clear and supportive and so knowledgeable on anything we asked."
- "An amazing school to look round and with an incredible feel. Very impressed. Feels like an amazing place to learn and work."
- "This is the best school we've been to, and we've been round a lot."
- "Absolutely amazing all round."
- "Wonderful team and conducive environment."
- "Very impressed with the school."

What stood out positively during your visit?

- "The individual personalisation to meeting each child's needs."
- "Relationships between child and teacher."
- "How each child is considered individually."
- "How proud everyone is of the school."
- "How all-encompassing the curriculum is."
- "Positive staff, welcome and staff happy."

www.barracloughhallschool.co.uk
schooloffice@barracloughhallschool.co.uk
1 Bryan Road, Huddersfield, HD2 2AL

Barraclough Hall school

STEAM Drop down day: Space!! 3, 2, 1… Blast Off! A Stellar STEM Adventure into Space!

Everybody took part in an exciting and engaging STEM morning focused on space, combining science, technology, engineering and creativity. Some explored the Solar System by creating models of the planets, designed and launched straw rockets to investigate forces and motion, while others learned about the important role satellites play in communication, navigation and space exploration, testing their knowledge of space and encouraged teamwork.

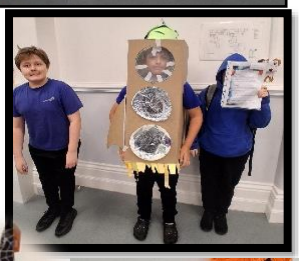






The morning concluded with an exciting form challenge in which pupils worked collaboratively to design and build the best rocket, applying their problem-solving, creativity and engineering skills. The activities encouraged curiosity, collaboration and practical scientific thinking, making the event a successful and enjoyable learning experience. Pupils demonstrated enthusiasm, teamwork and a willingness to test their ideas, showing how STEM can bring classroom learning to life.





Overall, the morning was a great success, inspiring pupils to explore the wonders of space and the winners of the team building competition went to Crystal. Well done to everybody.

Barraclough Hall Spooktacular!!!!! Halloween drop down!





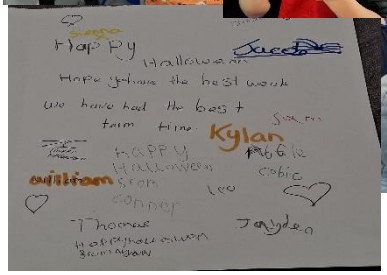










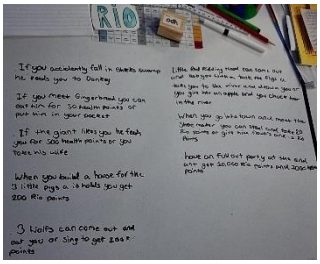
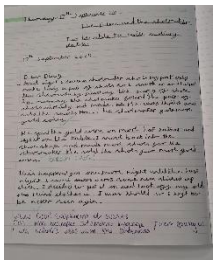


In true Barraclough Hall style, we celebrated the end of the half-term with a spooktacular day!!

Fun activities, lots of laughter and a community lunch. We even had Halloween crackers!!!

fostering therapeutically · fca · fosteringpeople · Orange Grove Fostercare · fosterplus
fca scotland · polaris children's services · adopters for adoption · ACS · LCS · ISP school
polaris

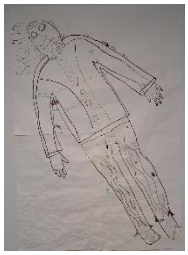
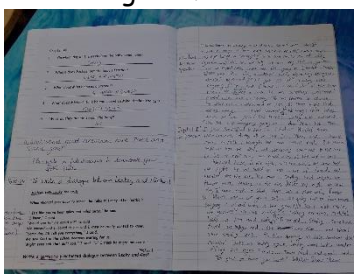
www.barracloughhallschool.co.uk
schooloffice@barracloughhallschool.co.uk
1 Bryan Road, Huddersfield, HD2 2AL

English: This term, pupils across the department have enjoyed a range of exciting learning opportunities linked to reading, writing, speaking and listening.

Amethyst explored the world of fairy tales, reading a variety of classic stories and identifying key features. Pupils have investigated typical fairy tale characters, settings and story structures, developing their understanding of this much-loved genre.

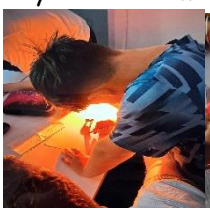
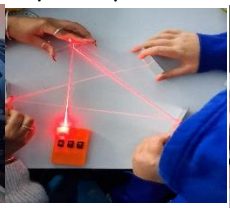
In **Crystal** and **Diamond**, pupils have been studying David Almond's novel *Skellig*. Through class discussions and creative activities, they have explored characters and settings in depth, developing both their speaking and writing skills. Inspired by the novel, pupils have also created and described their own imaginative characters and settings.

Meanwhile, **Moonstone** pupils have been developing their Functional English skills through an engaging theme park project. They have researched existing theme parks, designed their own attractions, created detailed maps and promotional posters, and written scripts for exciting advertisements. This project has provided excellent opportunities to practise communication, creativity and persuasive writing.

Science: Let there be light: Crystal and Amethyst explored the topic of light, developing their understanding

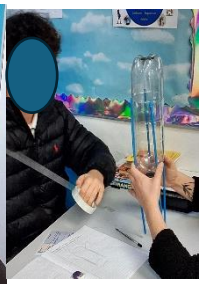





of how light travels and how we see objects. They have studied reflection, including how light behaves when it strikes a mirror, and refraction, investigating how light changes direction as it passes between different materials. They have also learned that white light is made up of a spectrum of colours and how dispersion can produce a rainbow. Practical investigations have helped develop their scientific observation, enquiry and explanation skills.



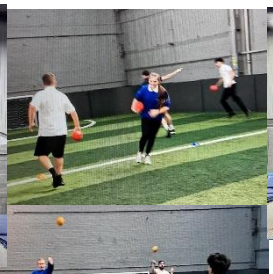

Forces in Motion: Exploring Forces, Speed and Staying Warm: Diamond and Moonstone have explored how forces affect the motion of objects, the role of friction in everyday situations, and how speed can be calculated using distance and time. Pupils have also investigated thermal insulation, learning how different materials reduce heat transfer and improve energy efficiency. Throughout the term, pupils have developed their scientific knowledge, practical investigation skills and ability to apply scientific principles to real-life contexts.

Computing and Digital Skills: Key stage 2 and 3 pupils are exploring computer networks, understanding how devices connect and communicate with one another across local and wide area networks. They are learning about network hardware, the role of servers and clients, internet connectivity, cybersecurity, and the importance of keeping information secure when using digital technologies. Through a range of activities, pupils are developing their confidence in using and understanding the technology that underpins modern workplaces and everyday life.

For key stage 4 Digital Skills, pupils are learning about a variety of file types and formats, including documents, spreadsheets, presentations, images, audio, and video files. They are exploring the purpose of different file extensions, understanding how to choose the most appropriate format for different tasks, and learning how to

save, organise, share, and manage files effectively. This knowledge helps pupils develop essential digital literacy skills, preparing them for further study, employment, and the increasing demands of a technology-driven world.

PE: Invasion games in action: Pupils have been developing their skills and understanding through a range of invasion games, focusing on handball and ultimate frisbee. They have explored attacking and defending strategies, learning how to create space, work effectively as a team and make quick decisions during gameplay. Pupils have practised accurate passing, movement and communication, while developing their tactical awareness and understanding of fair play. Amethyst Class have also enjoyed rebound therapy, where they have been building confidence, balance and coordination, learning how to perform a range of jumps safely and with control. Progress has been fantastic with pupils showing excellent collaborative skills throughout the half-term.




DT: Pupils have been preparing for our exciting upcoming **Trashion Show** by designing and creating wearable items using recycled materials. Throughout the project, pupils have researched sustainable fashion, explored different design ideas, and carefully planned their creations before bringing them to life. Pupils have produced a range of imaginative masks, hats and other wearable accessories, demonstrating creativity, problem-solving and practical making skills. The project has provided valuable opportunities to develop design and development skills while encouraging pupils to think creatively about how everyday materials can be reused and repurposed. Our key stage 4 pupils are also developing their own trashion garments for their enrichment sessions. We don't want to spoil the surprise showing you the final photos of their creations, as they will be modelling them at our Trashion Show in December!!



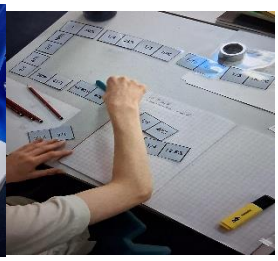
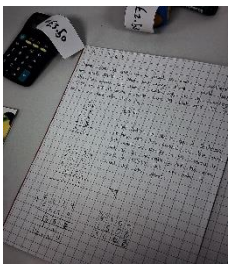





Maths: Developing number confidence: We have been focusing on number this half term, building mathematical knowledge and problem-solving skills across a range of topics. Pupils have worked on the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, applying these skills to increasingly challenging calculations and real-life contexts. Others have explored BIDMAS, developing their understanding of the correct order of operations when solving calculations. Some pupils have investigated powers and roots, while others have deepened their knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages, learning how these concepts are connected and can be applied in different situations. Through practical activities, reasoning tasks and problem-solving challenges, pupils have strengthened their





mathematical fluency, confidence and resilience. Amethyst class have also explored time; using analogue and digital clocks and trying to estimate time as accurately as possible.

Art: Crystal and **Amethyst** classes have been developing their artistic skills through a range of painting projects. Pupils began by learning about colour theory, creating colour wheels and experimenting with colour mixing to discover how new shades and tones can be made. They also explored how artists use colour to convey different moods and emotions within their work. Pupils then experimented with different types of paint, including







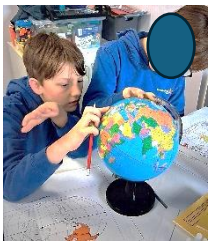
watercolours and acrylics, and explored how a variety of brushes and techniques can be used to create texture and visual effects. They studied the work of famous artists including **Jackson Pollock**, **Marc Chagall** and **Vincent van Gogh**, using these artists as inspiration for their own creative pieces. Through these activities, pupils have developed their understanding of colour, texture and composition while building confidence in expressing their own ideas.



Music: Key Stage 2 and 3 classes have studied a range of music such as tone and purpose and composition and improvisation. They have studied key composers such as Beethoven, and they were able to compose their own pieces of modern-day music as well as had the opportunity to play real instruments. Amethyst pupils enjoyed making their own musical instruments in lessons and Crystal learned the layout of an orchestra and how you can play any instrument in the world by using the MIDI software program.



Geography: **Around the World**:



Amethyst have studied the seven continents of the world and were able to locate these on world maps and a physical globe. They were able to recall what the equator is and why countries are hotter along the equator, pupils were able to locate the Southeren and Northern Hemispheres and explain the purpose of dividing maps into such categories. Pupils can explain the differences in environments between different places of the world and have explored the differences between 2D and 3D maps.

Crystal have been able to locate countries in the UK and key countries in Europe including key features of main cities in Europe. They have gained understanding of the location of UK counties on maps and have been studying map skills including ordnance symbols and 4 figure grid reference maps, including creating their own maps.

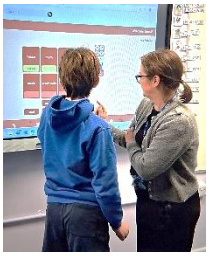
History: How did we get here? Amethyst learned about key features of the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages and were able to explain how life changed between the different time periods. Through creating timelines, studying artefacts, case studies and job roles such as archaeologists, pupils learned how people during these ages lived and how new tools and materials led to the development of the first settlers in the UK. They have enjoyed presenting to one another and taking turns effectively through the interactive whiteboard.



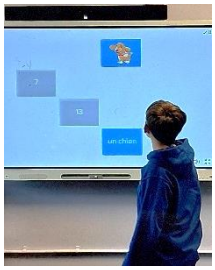

Crystal learned about the Norman Invasion and the Battle of Hastings and they studied reasons for the Norman victory and were able to reach a judgement on the most important reason why the English army were defeated. Pupils went on to study how William kept control of England and studied how the features of castle helped him to achieve this.

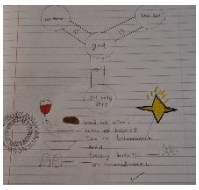
Moonstone and Diamond classes have been studying the accredited **ASDAN** short course in **History** with the topic this half term being **'History From Below'**. Pupils have been studying protests over time and exploring

topics such as children's rights in the factories during the Industrial Revolution, the Suffragettes and the Pilgrimage of Grace. Pupils have enjoyed researching and using evidence to understand why people have protested over time and how successful the protests were.



Languages: Ohh la la!! Pupils have been learning how to introduce themselves in French and greet people. They have studied French terms for different foods and key places such as supermarkets and train stations with some being able to ask where these places are in French. They have learned the names of pets in French and are able to say the names of their relatives in French. They enjoyed playing games on the interactive whiteboard to secure their knowledge of French terminology and fully participated in having short communications with one another in French.





World Beliefs: Crystal and Amethyst have studied Christianity and completed their own version of the Christian creation story. Pupils have explored the key features of a church, Christian traditions such as baptisms and weddings and the key people and events of the crucifixion of Jesus.

Moonstone and Diamond classes have been studying the accredited **ASDAN** short course **'Beliefs and Values'** and this half term have enjoyed studying the topic of **'Crime and Punishment'.** Pupils have explored topics such as the reasons why people commit crimes, medieval crime and punishment, alternative punishments to prison and have recently started to design their own prisons for different types of prisoners aimed at rehabilitation.

Our wonderful Moonstone students enjoyed a trip to the cinema as part of their **Arts Award Bronze** qualification. They had researched different trailers and are now starting to create their final film review on different art forms before choosing their art form for Part C.





PHSCE and Careers:

Growing Today, Thriving Tomorrow: Diamond has focused on personal development and growth, exploring the importance of self-awareness, confidence, resilience and setting personal goals. They have considered their individual strengths, areas for improvement and how developing positive attitudes and effective communication skills can support their future education, career choices and personal lives. Through discussions and reflective activities, they have been encouraged to recognise their potential, build confidence and understand the importance of perseverance when facing challenges.







Follow Your Passion, Shape Your Future: Moonstone pupils have explored different courses and qualifications linked to their individual interests, strengths and future career aspirations. They have researched potential study pathways and considered how different courses can help them develop the knowledge, skills and qualifications needed for their chosen careers. Our year 10 and 11 pupils have started their NCFE Occupational Studies qualification. As part of this, they have visited Kirklees Leisure Centre for an organised tour and spoke to employees at the centre. They were able to ask questions and learn about different careers and roles within the leisure industry.

www.barracloughhallschool.co.uk
schooloffice@barracloughhallschool.co.uk
1 Bryan Road, Huddersfield, HD2 2AL



Reading: Our pupils continue to develop their reading skills both in lessons and through daily reading time, where they enjoy engaging with a text of their own choosing. It has been fantastic to see the enthusiasm many pupils show for reading, as well as the progress they are making in their literacy skills. This term, pupils have achieved positive results in both reading and spelling assessments, with many showing increases in their reading and spelling ages. Their hard work and commitment to improving these skills is evident, and we are delighted with the progress they continue to make.

Our school library also continues to grow and evolve in response to student interests. Following student voice activities this term, we have expanded our collection to include manga titles, adventure stories, books about the First and Second World Wars, texts exploring different careers, and an even greater selection of spooky and horror-themed books for our keen horror fans. It has been wonderful to see pupils helping to shape our library and discovering new books that inspire a love of reading.

Writing: All our pupils continue to work hard on developing their writing skills, and it has been wonderful to see the progress they have made this term. Through targeted intervention sessions, in-class support and regular opportunities for reflection, pupils have continued to improve the clarity and presentation of their written work. For some, this has involved practising accurate letter formation, while others have been developing their cursive handwriting to increase fluency and writing speed. In English lessons, pupils have shown impressive resilience by writing at length and challenging themselves to communicate their ideas in greater detail. It has been particularly pleasing to see the pride pupils are taking in their work, as well as the growing confidence they have in their writing abilities. We are very proud of the effort they continue to put into improving this important skill.

Feedback from parents/carers this term – Autumn 1. Thank you

"I can't believe how well my son has settled into his new school" – Parent EHCP Review

"There is no other school like this. Thank you for everything you've done" – Parent EHCP Review

"Finally, a school where staff understand my child." – Parent feedback

"I honestly can't thank you enough. You're all amazing. This school has been a life changer" – Parent feedback

" I can't believe I'm in a school. I haven't been to one for so long. I love it here!" – Student voice

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, crips, sweets and chocolate are **not** permitted as we continue to promote healthy eating in school. **Please can we request that all pupils bring their own water bottle each day which can be refilled in school.**

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 by 9.30am each morning. In the event of the school office not being available please send an email which will be picked up and relevant people informed.

Autumn 2 term dates

23rd October – End of term
2nd November – Pupils return
17th November – Parents forum. 3.45 – 4.15pm
20th November – Children in Need
10th December – Christmas Jumper Day
11th December – Trashion Show and Christmas Fair
w/c December 14th – Christmas dinner (date to be confirmed)
15th December – Parents progress evening 3.45pm – 4.30pm
16th December – Pantomime Trip to see Aladdin at Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield
17th December – End of term rewards
18th December – End of term

www.barracloughhallschool.co.uk
schooloffice@barracloughhallschool.co.uk
1 Bryan Road, Huddersfield, HD2 2AL

Please note the dates for next academic year (2026-2027) are published on the website.

Consultations and placements are open for the current academic year. We also have a number of enquiries for September 2027 and 2028.

Please contact the school for enquiries or to arrange a visit.