



# CASTLE HALL ACADEMY MAGAZINE





## Vision

To achieve academic excellence, develop character,  
and raise aspirations for all at Castle Hall Academy



**Academic  
Excellence**



**Developing  
Character**



**Raising  
Aspiration**

## Curriculum

At Castle Hall Academy, we challenge social inequality by providing a broad, balanced and sequenced curriculum, which values knowledge retention and application building upon individual starting points that enables ambitious endpoints for all



Promotes a love of learning and provides an environment for all students to succeed in, whatever they aspire to do



Places high value on the breadth, acquisition, retention and application of knowledge



Enriches and bridges gaps in cultural knowledge

## Mission

To become an academy  
**‘where hearts and minds connect’**



Dear Parents and Carers,

This has been another semester filled with opportunities for our students to achieve academic excellence, develop character, raise aspirations and celebrate successes.

Our Y7 students have made a fantastic start to their secondary school journey, and many have successfully completed the Passport to Success programme. This initiative has helped them settle in, build confidence, and develop the skills they need to thrive at Castle Hall Academy and throughout their life.

Y8 students have delivered some outstanding performances in athletics, impressive leadership in the academy production, and fully engaged in some inspiring careers talks from external speaker and at the Careers Fair. All of this will empower them to thrive as they move into Y9, the final year of KS3 studies..

As Y9 students have made their option choices, they are now set to begin a more focused and personalised curriculum that will shape their future pathways. This is a time filled with opportunity and growth, and we encourage all students to approach their studies with enthusiasm and determination.

Y10 students have recently engaged in a range of post-16 opportunities and participated in mock interviews. As they prepare to enter Y11, a crucial stage in their academic journey, it is vital that they show full commitment to their studies and make the most of every opportunity.

Our Y11 Prom was a truly special evening, marking the end of an important chapter for our students in style. It was wonderful to see them celebrate together, looking forward to the exciting futures that await them.

Educational enrichment has been a key focus this semester, with a wide range of educational visits taking place across all year groups. These experiences have brought learning to life and provided valuable insights beyond the classroom.

To celebrate the hard work and positive behaviour of our students, we were delighted to run reward trips to Alton Towers for Y11 and Flamingo Land Y7-10. These trips were a huge success and a well-deserved treat for those who consistently demonstrate our school values.

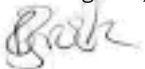
None of the above would be possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of our staff team. Their commitment to providing the best possible experiences for our students is truly inspiring, and we would like to thank each and every one of them for their hard work this semester.

As we look ahead to the summer break, we hope all our students and families enjoy a restful and safe holiday. We are sincerely grateful to parents/carers for your continued support in upholding our procedures and policies. Your partnership is truly appreciated and plays a vital role in creating a safe, respectful, and thriving environment for all our students.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year at Castle Hall Academy.

Please see below for first day back dates and all other key dates.

Warm regards,



Mr Brook, Headteacher



Miss Rankin, Head of School



### KEY DATES 2025-26

#### TRAINING/REVIEW DAYS

(staff only)

Monday 1 September 2025  
Friday 21 November 2025  
Thursday 29 January 2026  
Friday 30 January 2026  
Friday 13 March 2026  
Thursday 2 July 2026  
Friday 3 July 2026

#### FIRST DAY BACK DATES

Year 7 Tuesday 02 September 2025  
Year 11 Wednesday 03 September 2025  
Year 10 Thursday 04 September 2025  
Year 8 Friday 05 September 2025  
Year 9 Monday 08 September 2025

#### 2025-26 TERM 1

**Tuesday 2 September 2025 to Friday 24 October 2025**

Holiday: Saturday 25 October 2025 to Sunday 2 November 2025

#### 2025-26 TERM 2

**Monday 3 November 2025 to Friday 19 December 2025**

Holiday: Saturday 20 December 2025 to Sunday 4 January 2026

#### 2025-26 TERM 3

**Monday 5 January 2026 to Friday 13 February 2026**

Holiday: Saturday 14 February 2026 to Sunday 22 February 2026

#### 2025-26 TERM 4

**Monday 23 February 2026 to Friday 27 March 2026**

Holiday: Saturday 28 March 2026 to Sunday 12 April 2026

#### 2025-26 TERM 5

**Monday 13 April 2026 to Friday 22 May 2026**

Holiday: Saturday 23 May 2026 to Sunday 31 May 2026

#### 2025-26 TERM 6

**Monday 1 June 2026 to Friday 17 July 2026**

Holiday: Saturday 18 July 2026 onwards

#### BANK HOLIDAYS

Monday 04 May 2026

#### INFORMATION/PARENTS' EVENING DATES

Year 7 Thursday 18 September 2025  
Year 11 Thursday 27 November 2025  
Year 7 Thursday 5 February 2026  
Year 10 Thursday 12 February 2026  
Year 9 Thursday 26 February 2026  
Year 8 Thursday 12 March 2026  
Year 11 Thursday 26 March 2026  
Year 10 Thursday 9 July 2026



## SCHOOL TIMETABLE

### Exciting Changes to Our School Timetable

We are pleased to announce a new structure to the school day that will be introduced from the start of the upcoming academic year. To enhance learning and wellbeing, we are moving to a revised timetable with three extended lessons per day from Monday to Thursday, and two lessons on Fridays. This change is designed to reduce cognitive overload, allowing students to engage more deeply with their subjects and benefit from increased time for practical work and application of knowledge.

To support this new structure, students will now follow a two-week timetable.

### Why the Change?

**Reduced Cognitive Overload:** Fewer transitions between subjects each day mean students can focus more deeply and retain information more effectively.

**More Time for Application:** Longer lessons allow for richer learning experiences.

**Improved Wellbeing:** A calmer, more focused day with less movement time and transition supports mental health and reduces stress.

### Supporting All Learners

We understand that change can bring challenges, especially for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We want to reassure families that **adaptations and support will continue** to be in place. Our commitment to **Quality First Teaching** remains at the heart of every lesson, ensuring that all students can access the curriculum and thrive.

Teachers will continue to use strategies such as:

- Clear lesson objectives and structured routines
- Visual aids and scaffolding
- Regular checking for understanding
- Differentiated tasks and support where needed



We are working closely with our SEND team to ensure that all students feel confident and supported during this transition.



## Characteristics of Exceptional Learners



### Reasoning

I ask questions about my learning and independently work things out for myself.



### Resilience

When things get challenging, I never give up and learn from my mistakes.



### Responsibility

I choose to do the right thing even when nobody is watching.



### Respect

My behaviour is exceptional. I show respect for all in my community.



### Reflection

I take every opportunity to review and develop my learning and behaviour.

**Work hard, be kind and follow staff  
instructions - everybody, everyday**

## ATTENDANCE STRATEGY

### Striving for Excellence: 97% Attendance and Above

Consistent attendance is fundamental to academic success. At Castle Hall Academy, we set a clear expectation: every student should aim for at least 97% attendance to maximise their potential. To support this, we follow a structured, tiered approach aligned with national standards. At each stage, we provide personalised support to help students overcome barriers and maintain high attendance - because we know that excellence begins with being present.

## Incentivise

- Quality-First teaching
- Safe school environment
- Outcomes
- Educational visits
- Rewards trips
- Positive reward points
- Hatrick points



## ATTENDANCE



### Engage

- Phone calls home
- Half-termly attendance workshops
- Attendance letter
- Attendance support ladder
- Postcards home
- Open evening/Engage evening
- Parent meetings

### Support

- Early morning call or message
- Proactive intervention
- Transition early support
- External agency support
- Attendance contracts
- Careers support



### Enforce

Penalty notice  
Attendance legal action  
Attendance prosecution  
Holiday fines



## COMMUNICATION

It is important that we have up to date information for your child. Please inform the Academy of any changes to your contact details.

Your main point of contact is your child’s Head of Year. The Head of Year team spend the day with their year groups in lessons, at break and lunch, they also supervise after-school detentions and support extra-curricular.

Please bear with them when making contact. Contact details from September 2025:

Head of Year	Email	Phone
Miss Clarkson, HOY 7	<a href="mailto:rclarkson@castlehall.com">rclarkson@castlehall.com</a>	07708 796626
Mr Pearson, HOY 8	<a href="mailto:jpearson@castlehall.com">jpearson@castlehall.com</a>	07895 746870
Mr Johnson, HOY 9	<a href="mailto:djohnson@castlehall.com">djohnson@castlehall.com</a>	07708 795466
Mrs Bonham, HOY 10	<a href="mailto:lbbonham@castlehall.com">lbbonham@castlehall.com</a>	07708 795385
Miss Ennis, HOY 11	<a href="mailto:cennis@castlehall.com">cennis@castlehall.com</a>	07565 399941

### Student Absence

Parent/carer must notify the Academy on the first day of absence, to explain the reason for the absence via:

Attendance Officer	Email	Phone
Miss Toth Mrs Dalby	<a href="mailto:studentabsence@castlehall.com">studentabsence@castlehall.com</a>	01924 523232

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP



A heartfelt congratulations to our newly appointed Head Students and Deputy Students. Your selection is a testament to your hard work, integrity, and the respect you've earned from both staff and peers.





## KS4 PREFECT TEAMS



Congratulations to our newly appointed Y10 and Y11 Prefect teams. As leaders, you have the exciting opportunity to shape our academy community.





### BRONZE DofE EXPEDITION



Over two days and one night, these students demonstrated resilience and teamwork that truly embodies the values of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and Castle Hall Academy.

Their success is a testament to weeks of preparation, training, and commitment. Supported by our dedicated staff and parents/carers.

Congratulations to everyone involved.



## BRONZE DofE EXPEDITION



## MY CHILD AT SCHOOL - MCAS

Thank you to parents/carers who have activated their accounts!

### New Accounts

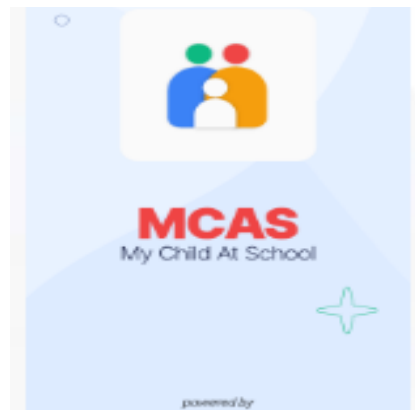
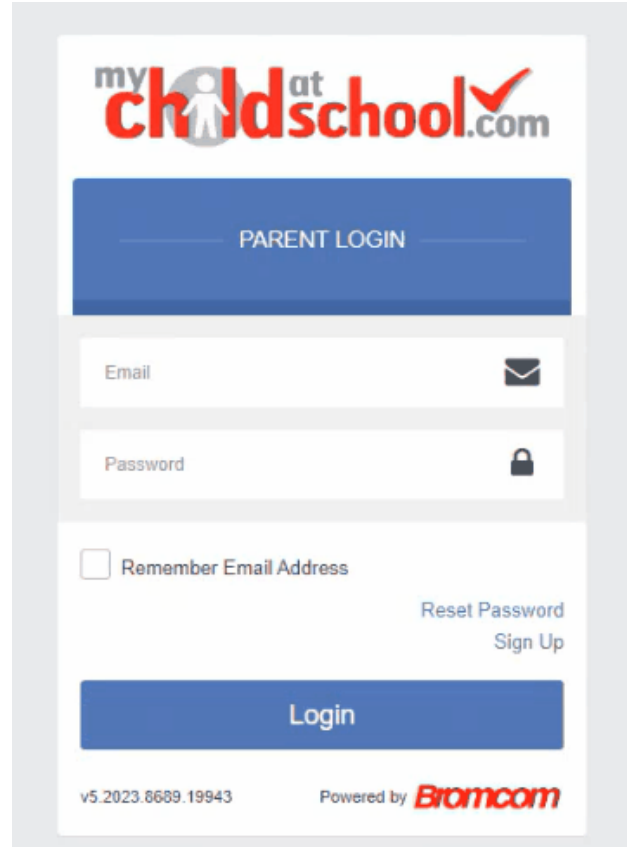
Parents were sent an email with a link to the Parent Login screen, then parents will click **Here** to open the Create Your Password screen. Parents then **enter password** and **confirm password** then click **create password**.

### Logging in to MCAS New and Existing accounts

- From within the web browser type **www.mychildatschool.com** or access the MCAS mobile phone app, this will open the Parent Login screen.
- Enter your Email Address and Password. Use the Email Address registered to the MCAS account and the Password to Login.
- Click on the Login button.
- Login to the MCAS account and see all Students linked to that Email Address.

### Re-send Email and Link

If you require a link to your user account re-sending please contact [office@castlehall.com](mailto:office@castlehall.com)







PROM 2025







## PROM 2025





## CHA CHICKS



Hatched chickens have gone from strength to strength in their happy new home.

Thank you to their new caretakers for looking after them so well.





## SEMESTER 2 SUCCESS

As we wrap up another exciting term at Castle Hall Academy, we are thrilled to celebrate the exceptional achievements of our students across a wide range of academic, athletic, and personal development pursuits. Semester 2 has been a shining example of what dedication, teamwork, and ambition can achieve. Here's a look at some of the highlights:












## SEMESTER 2 SUCCESS





## SEMESTER 2 EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Yorkshire offers a treasure trove of educational experiences, blending culture, nature, history, and sport. In Semester 2 our students had the benefit of visiting:

-  **Spen Valley Athletic Track** – racing into fitness and fun
-  **Yorkshire Sculpture Park** – where creativity came to life
-  **Yorkshire Wildlife Park** – up close with incredible animals
-  **Hornsea** – exploring the coast and learning about the environment
-  **Hull & East Riding Museum** – stepping back in time through history





## LITERACY SUCCESS

This semester, students were rewarded for their incredible reading achievements with a vibrant, carnival-themed celebration! The event was filled with fun, games, and well-deserved recognition for those who reached impressive milestones.

Students who read 20 books or surpassed half a million words were invited to join the festivities, celebrating their dedication and love for reading in true carnival style.





## COMMUNITY SUPPORT







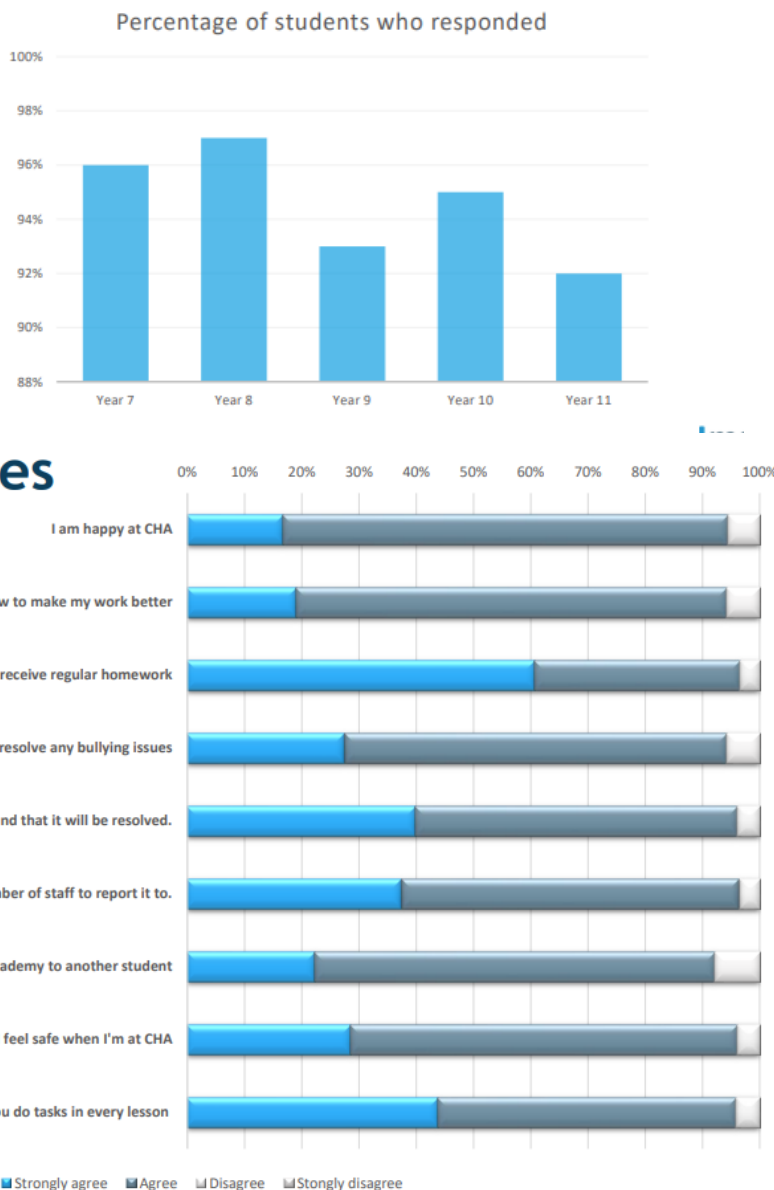
### STUDENT SURVEY

We would like to thank all students for taking the time to give us feedback.

# Over 750 responses

(Mar2025)

### Summary of responses



## THINK BEFORE YOU PARK!

Dear Parents / Carers,

Unfortunately, we are having to write to you about some dangerous and inconsiderate parking around school. Cars are being parked across local residents' driveways, on pavements, junctions, double yellow lines and on the zigzag lines. This is obviously both very dangerous and illegal.

We know pick up and drop off times are difficult and very busy due to large amounts of children, but safety must take priority.

Dangerous and illegal parking can pose a safety risk to our students and others. Please consider:

- ✓ parking further away from school, advising your child where you will be
- ✓ park further away and walk up to meet your child
- ✓ encourage children to walk home where possible
- ✓ use public transport

Help us to keep everybody safe.

Castle Hall Academy



**SCHOOL SAFETY REMINDER**  
**KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE**  
*"Please show you care - think before you park/manoeuvre."*





OPEN EVENING FOR Y5 FAMILIES



OPEN EVENING DATE

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2025 - 4:00pm to 8:00pm  
Headteacher's talk 5:00pm and 6:00pm

at Castle Hall Academy, Richard Thorpe Avenue, Mirfield, WF14 9PH.



*'Pupils are happy and safe here.'*  
*'This is an ambitious, welcoming and inclusive school.'*  
*'Leaders have high expectations for pupils behaviour and attendance.'*

*This is a 'Good' school- Ofsted 2023*



Academic  
Excellence



Developing  
Character



Raising  
Aspiration



Part of Impact Education Multi Academy Trust  
Where Hearts & Minds Connect



## UNIFORM EXCHANGE

Uniform Exchange offers free uniform to families in Kirklees. You can support them and the environment, by donating uniform you no longer need, or you can contact them if you need support via <https://www.uniform-exchange.org/>



# UNIFORM EXCHANGE





SCHOOLS OUT

For young people with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities



**WACKY**

Wild. Activities. Challenging. Kirklees. Young People at Little Deer Wood Activity Centre  
Shepley Bridge Marina, Mirfield, WF14 9HR

Week 1: Mon 21<sup>st</sup> July – Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> July  
Week 2: Wed 30<sup>th</sup> July – Fri 1<sup>st</sup> August  
Week 3: Tue 5<sup>th</sup> August – Fri 8<sup>th</sup> August  
Week 4: Mon 11<sup>th</sup> August – Tue 12<sup>th</sup> August  
Week 5: Mon 18<sup>th</sup> August – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> August

10.30am – 3.30pm  
£15 per person per session

**ACTIVITIES:**

- Cooking
- Gardening
- Arts & Crafts
- Bush craft
- Bouldering
- Sports
- Archery
- and more...

**REGISTER FOR YOUR PLACE.**  
FOR AGES 10-24

**FOR MORE INFO:** Call: 01484 225952 or Email: [littledeerwood@kirklees.gov.uk](mailto:littledeerwood@kirklees.gov.uk)

Kirklees COUNCIL

Little Deer Wood

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK



**CyclingUK**  
**The Big Bike Revival**

**FREE support to help you cycle locally**  
For adults who are beginners, improving, or returning to cycling  
One child can attend with each participating adult

- Learn to ride and build confidence
- Join short rides and explore local routes
- Get bike checks and safety advice

Improve your wellbeing and save money  
Come along, meet new people, bring a friend!

Next event:  
@ Crossley Fields Junior School WF14 0BE

**Fix & Learn to Ride**  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 09.45-11.45 & 12:00 – 14:00  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025 09.45-11.45 & 12:00 – 14:00

**Fix & Local Ride**  
Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 09.45-11.45 & 12:00 – 14:00  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2025 09.45-11.45 & 12:00 – 14:00

Delivered locally by:



[BigBikeRevival.org.uk](http://BigBikeRevival.org.uk)  
#BigBikeRevival

Funded by UK Government

**MIRFIELD ARLFC**

**U13 GIRLS**

**CURRENT SCHOOL YEARS 7&8**

FOR ANYMORE INFORMATION  
CONTACT HEAD COACH AMY RATCLIFFE VIA MIRFIELD FACEBOOK PAGE

TRAINING NIGHT  
WEDNESDAYS - FRANK MIDDLETON PARK  
6:30PM- 7:30PM



Funded by UK Government

**FREE FAMILY CYCLING LESSONS**

**SUMMER HOLIDAYS**

**MORNINGS 9.15-11.15AM** 21<sup>ST</sup>, 22<sup>ND</sup>, 23<sup>RD</sup>, 28<sup>TH</sup>  
**AFTERNOONS 12.00-2.00PM** 29<sup>TH</sup> & 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY

**CROSSLEY FIELDS JUNIOR SCHOOL PLAYGROUND,  
ENTRANCE VIA GATE ON WELLHOUSE LANE- WF14 0BE**

LEARN TO RIDE AND PLAY FUN GAMES THAT IMPROVE YOUR CYCLING, GROWN UPS CAN JOIN IN TOO!  
DR BIKE IS ON HAND TO HELP WITH MAINTENANCE OF BIKES- FREE OF CHARGE!

**TO BOOK VISIT EVENTBRITE AND SEARCH  
SUMMER HOLIDAY FAMILY CYCLING LESSONS  
IN MIRFIELD**

**DBS CHECKED QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS**



# SCHOOLS OUT

### FRESH FUTURES

Improving lives, inspiring change

## SCHOOLS OUT SUMMER CLUB!

Free for pupils on free school dinners

**MONDAY - THURSDAY**  
1000 - 1400

**11 - 13 YEAR OLDS**

**BRIAN JACKSON  
HOUSE,  
HUDDERSFIELD**

**AUGUST**

**Sports Tournaments**  
Intro to Cooking  
Arts & Crafts  
Chill Zone  
Cinema Instalment

**Turn over for more info!**

**LIMITED PLACES  
AVAILABLE!**

**Register  
Today:**

Scan me

### FRESH FUTURES

Improving lives, inspiring change

## SCHOOLS OUT

**SAMPLE WEEK  
BREAKDOWN**

**MONDAY** →

**TUESDAY** →

**WEDNESDAY** →

**THURSDAY** →

**MAIN ACTIVITY FOCUS:**

**SPORTS TOURNAMENTS**  
INDOOR & OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

**INTRO TO COOKING**  
BUY, MEAL PREP + EAT

**SPORTS TOURNAMENTS**  
INDOOR & OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

**BAKE OFF DAY**  
CUPCAKES, COOKIES, BISCUITS

**ADDITIONAL:**

**ARTS + CRAFTS + CHILL  
ZONE IN PM.**

**ACCESS TO ONSITE  
CINEMA IN PM**

**ARTS + CRAFTS + CHILL  
ZONE IN PM.**

**BAKE + DECORATE + EAT!**

**Register  
Today:**

Scan me

### TOLSON MUSEUM

Ravensknowle Park | Wakefield Road |  
Huddersfield | HD5 8DJ

**Art Film:**  
**A Natural  
History of Nest  
Building**  
During opening  
hours | FREE

**Workshop:**  
**SCRAPTastic**  
23 & 30 Jul  
20 & 27 Aug  
£4 per crafter. Pay  
cash to ScrapTastic

**Roman themed  
crafts activities  
and Trail**  
19 Jul - 7 Aug  
Drop-in | Pay as  
You Feel

**Bird Crazy craft  
activities and Trail**  
9 - 31 Aug  
Drop-in | Pay As You  
Feel

**Opening Hours**

Monday  
11am - 3pm  
(Well-being day)

Tuesday - Thursday  
11am - 5pm

Weekends  
12pm - 5pm

### BAGSHAW MUSEUM

Wilton Park | Woodlands Road | Batley |  
WF17 0AS

**Prize Trails**  
During opening  
hours  
Drop-in | £1

**Explore the world  
at Bagshaw**  
Craft Activities  
During opening  
hours  
Drop-in | Pay As  
You Feel

**Explore Trees  
Through Print**  
During the Summer  
A series of lino  
printing workshops  
led by artist Aidan  
Liggins, focusing on  
different trees in the  
parkland around  
Bagshaw  
£10 | Booking on  
Eventbrite

**Opening Hours**

Tuesday - Thursday  
11am - 5pm

Weekends  
12pm - 5pm

### KIRKLEES MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

## WHAT'S ON SUMMER HOLIDAYS

**MORE INFO** →

SCAN ME

creativekirklees.com

### OAKWELL HALL

Nova Lane | Birstall | WF17 9LG

**Yorkshire Day**  
Sun 3 August  
Join us this summer  
for a fun-filled, family-  
friendly day out  
11am - 4pm

**Community  
Gardening Days**  
5 & 22 Aug 10am-  
12pm and 1pm-  
3pm. Find us in the  
Walled Garden  
FREE

**Wild Wednesdays**  
Get stuck into  
nature with our  
fun-filled Activity  
Days! Each week  
brings a brand-  
new adventure

**Friendship  
Programme - Artist  
in Residence**  
Join our Artists in  
Residence during July  
and August for a series  
of hands on workshops  
More info on our  
website

**Opening Hours  
Visitor Centre (VIC)**  
10am-5pm daily

**The Hall**  
Tuesday - Thursday  
12pm - 4pm

Weekends  
12pm - 4pm



#### MIRFIELD LIBRARY

### Young People's Art Club

*Starting again*

10th September 4.30pm to 6.00pm  
then every Wednesday  
in the Reference Room upstairs

Age 10 to 18 years

Learn techniques including

*Watercolour*

*Sketching & Drawing with ink & pen*

*Portraits*

*Landscapes*

*Advice given on own projects by professional tutors*

**To register:**

Email [Cynthia.collinson2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Cynthia.collinson2@hotmail.co.uk) or  
phone 07989614167

Supported by Mirfield Educational Charity and  
Friends of Mirfield Library

BEAT THE QUEUES Search 'Mirfield Show Eventbrite' for advanced tickets

**SUNDAY 17TH  
AUGUST 2025**



The Showground, WF14 9NE  
Children under 16 go FREE, Adults £12.50  
Advance Tickets £7.50 (until midnight 16/08)



**LITTLE NIPPERS PLUS FALCONRY DISPLAY ATC  
MARCHING BAND KATIE PHILPOTT SCHOOL OF DANCE  
& SUTTON SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS MIRFIELD  
MAKERS STALLS 'END OF SHOW SHOW' ABBA TRIBUTE  
INFLATABLES PINXTON PUPPETS THRESHING MACHINE  
SHOUFUKAN BRIANS BALLOONS FIRE ENGINE  
COUNTRYSIDE POLICE HOLME VALLEY MOUNTAIN  
RESCUE MUSIC STAGE & BARS PARACHUTE REGIMENT  
GRANGE MOOR BRASS BAND MIRFIELD MARTIAL ARTS  
DONKEY RIDES MEET & GREET ELSA COOKERY SCHOOL  
DANCE ARENA BLOOM BABY & SOFTPLAY FOOTBALL  
SHOOTOUT EARLY YEARS HUB MADE IN YORKSHIRE  
CRAFT TENT NJ CERAMICS MINDFUL MAKER  
EGGUCATION FERRETS WALK ON THE WILDSIDE  
(REPTILES, INVERTEBRATES, MAMMALS) CREATURE  
CREATIONS (BUGS) JOE'S MOBILE FARM WENSLEYDALE  
GUERNSEYS & GOAT MILK PRODUCTS NCM PIT PONIES  
NEW COMPERE KAREN CLEGG**

**SURPRISE HEADLINE MUSIC PERFORMANCE TO BE  
ANNOUNCED AS PART OF OUR 80 YEAR CELEBRATIONS**

