

A Newsletter featuring Pleckgate High School's achievements Dec 2022

END OF TERM - DECEMBER 2022

Remembrance Day

On Friday 11 November, the School Council organised an event to observe Remembrance Day. Staff and pupils came together to take part in a special Remembrance Service. Pupils were well informed about this sacrifice through assemblies held throughout the week.

Leading up to the event, Year 8 pupils visited each tutor group to provide the opportunity for pupils and staff to purchase poppies and show their support for the Royal British Legion's fundraising efforts.

The Design & Technology department designed and created 3 large crosses emblazoned with poppies (see alongside). Mr Finlay Radcliffe, Design and Technology Technician, manufactured and produced hundreds of poppies which were incorporated onto the three crosses.

REMEMBRANCE
DAY

Lest We Forget

11th NOVEMBER



This was followed by a live stream from our commemorative garden when our Senior Prefects read out poems. Finally, as the readings concluded, the senior prefect team, on behalf in the whole school, performed the laying of the Poppy crosses at the base of the 'remembrance

statues' as a tribute to those who had fallen.

The ceremony was followed by a minutes silence across school

The special day provided an opportunity to remember and reflect on the service and sacrifice of all those that defended our freedoms.

Later Hafsah, Lyba, Nabeel and Taha represented Pleckgate High School at the Remembrance Service at Blackburn Cathedral and laid a wreath in memory of fallen soldiers at Corporation Park.



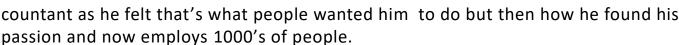


Annual Awards Evening

Blackburn entrepreneur Mo Isap was the guest speaker at Pleckgate High School's Annual Distribution of Awards and Certificates to the 2022 class of Year 11s.

Mo was a pupil at Pleckgate from 1990-95 and is now CEO of In4Group, an award-winning skills, innovation and start-up growth services provider, based in Media City in Salford.

He spoke to the pupils about his life at Pleckgate and how, when he left school, he became an ac-



"Accountancy wasn't my passion and passion is everything, it energises, it's the fuel that allows you to overcome challenges," said Mo.

He also talked about the importance of having strong, positive relationships and also courage to tackle obstacles and not to have a fear of failure.

"I never thought I would be where I am now when I left Pleckgate in 1990 but you have to be ready to take your opportunities and have a passion and follow it. You should celebrate every success, however small, be grateful and remember the possibilities are endless."

Director of Education at the Education Partnership Trust Mark Cocker, who was Head teacher at Pleckgate during the Class of 2021's five years there, praised them for overcoming all the challenges thrown at the

pupils during Covid.

"These pupils have shown resilience and perseverance in the most testing of times. They have shown courage and determination and celebrated fantastic results" he said.

The award for outstanding GCSE results went to Aysha Patel, Zeeshan Yousaf, Rayhaab Zabar, Zara Hanif and Samara Khan, all of whom achieved Grade 9s in five or more subjects.

The English Language Award for Achievement was

presented to Safa Hanif who achieved a Grade 9 in English and, after starting out as not a top performer in Year 10, worked hard to be one of the best in Year 11.

The English Literature Award went to Aisha Desai, who achieved a Grade 9, and showed dedication as well as acting on feedback.

The Mathematics Award went to Samara Khan who was an 'amazing pupil' and achieved a Grade 9 and the Further Mathematics Award was presented to Zeehan Yousaf, who was praised for his 'exceptional mathematics ability.'

The Science Award was won by Aysha Patel who achieved Grade 9s in chemistry and physics and a Grade 8 in biology.





Annual Awards Evening

The French Language Award was presented to Tanya Malik who showed 'enthusiasm and hard work' and the Urdu Language Award went to Iram Shahid, described as 'an outstanding pupil.'

The Technology Award went to the talented Bushra Begum who showed 'creativity and flair' while the Business Award was presented to Owais Adam, who achieved a Grade 9 and always gave 100 per cent effort.

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The Child Development Award was awarded to

Laraib Hameed for her high standard of work and the History Award went to Thomas Sieczkowski, praised for his consistency and natural curiosity.

The Geography Award was won by Maleeqa Hussain, who achieved a Grade 9, and the Art Award was won by Safa Hanif described as 'talented and innovative.'

The Photography Award was presented to Amna Ali Ashiq for showing initiative and imagination while the Religious Studies Award was awarded to Ubaid Shaikh, who completed extra on-line courses to help him achieve a Grade 9.

The Physical Education Award was awarded to Ali Zaman, a superb role model, while The Sporting Award for Boys went to star performer Zayan Akhtar and Sporting Award for Girls was presented to Samara Khan, a dedicated and talented sports woman.

The Chair of Governors Award was given to Aliza Akhtar, who was described as perfect from day one and 'sunshine on a cloudy day.'

The Headteacher's Award went to Maleeqa Hussain, described as an 'exceptional pupil.' Last year's Head Boy Mohammed Armaan Hussain, Head Girl Zara Hanif and Deputies Alisha Lakhi and Zeeshan Yousaf were also presented with a special award for their services to the school.

Mrs McGinty, Headteacher was delighted to welcome former pupils and parents for this special celebration.

Mrs McGinty also thanked Head of Year, Miss Hartley who had been instrumental in guiding pupils through the challenges of returning to school and taking their GCSE's examinations following the disruption caused by Covid, Miss Hartley explained how she was very proud of her year group and their fantastic results



Anti-Bullying Week

During Anti-Bullying Week seven Education Partnership Trust (EPT) schools came together to produce an Anti-Bullying Trust Charter. Pleckgate High School;s Anti-Bullying Ambassadors were in charge of the event which included Coal Clough, The Heights Burnley, The Heights Blackburn, Eden School, Burnley High School and Atherton High School.

Anti-Bullying Ambassador Mohammed Nabeel said: "We are keen to promote what we have learnt as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to other schools. We can perhaps learn something from them and they can learn something from us and it will be exciting to produce a Trust charter. It's been good to mix with other schools."

Eden pupil Ben Mason said: "We discussed how much time we spent on-line and what we want to change about it. We all probably spend too much time on our computers, especially during

winter. "

Atherton pupil Maya Byron said: "We also talked about our phones and how we use them, different ways we use digital technology and about digital well-being."

Pleckgate Assistant Headteacher Mrs Robinson said, "the EPT schools came together, spoke about digital awareness and then worked on strategies to overcome issues with social-media."



National Secondary School Anti-Bullying Award

Pleckgate's Learning and Pastoral Support Officer, **Rebekah Spence** was invited to the House of Lords in London on Tuesday 15th November to receive the National Secondary School Anti-Bullying Award from the UK Anti-Bullying Alliance. Rebekah has been recognised for her outstanding work with Anti-Bullying Ambassadors at Pleckgate High School and for the

consistent support she has provided to pupils across all year groups in school.

https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/abaour-work/news-opinion/award-winnersengland-anti-bullying-week-school-staffaward-2022



Mrs Spence with her award and certificate at the Parliamentary Event

Unity, Tolerance & Understanding

Mike Haines gave an emotional speech to our pupils as he visits organisations to promote unity, tolerance and understanding.

Mike is the brother of aid worker David Haines who was working in war-torn Syria when he was captured by ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq) and beheaded in September 2014.

Mike started the charity Global Acts of Unity so, in his own words, "something positive could come out of this senseless and barbaric act."

Mike, who worked in the RAF and as a mental health nurse, talked to pupils about his brother, their life growing up and how he had to break the news to his mum and dad that his brother had been murdered.

He discussed how, at first, he felt anger and hatred but realised if he felt that, the terrorists had won and so he publicly forgave two of them in court – and felt better for doing so.

"The night my brother was murdered was truly the worst night of my life," said Mike. "David was a humanitarian worker who went into areas of danger to help fellow humans regardless of colour, religion or politics. At first, I was angry but then I knew, if I felt hatred, the terrorists had won and we cannot let hatred win." he said.

Mike said further, "I go to organisations in the UK and abroad to promote tolerance, understanding and unity and to fight the hate, the fear and any discord all kinds of extremists try to promote in our society. We are a multi-cultural and multi-faith society and we need to talk to each other, learn about different faiths and cultures and break down the walls that extremists try to build. In conclusion, he said "We need to fight against all kinds of terrorism, all kinds of extremism and all kinds of hate crime."

Year 8 pupil Umar said: "I found the talk interesting and inspiring. If he doesn't hate the people who killed his brother then, if anyone ever calls me a name, how can I hate them?"

Abbie said: "It was such an emotional speech and so sad how he lost his brother and what it did to his family. It makes you think."

Deputy Headteacher Mr Hamilton said: "It was a powerful message that Mike shared. Our pupils were moved to hear his messages encouraging the promotion of tolerance, peace, understanding and respect of different views and opinions."



History Department are GOLD!!

Pleckgate's History Department are golden – they have received Gold in the Historical Association's Quality Mark, the highest accolade they could achieve.

The department was assessed on Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Curriculum, Achievement and Enrichment by the Historical Association, which is a leading authority on history education across the world. The Association recognised the high quality of history delivered at Pleckgate and, by awarding Gold in all the elements, gave national recognition to the work undertaken in the History Department.

Mr Bajkowski said: "We are absolutely delighted to be recognised as a Gold standard department by the Historical Association which is the highest honour we could achieve."



"This success has not come overnight and is a tribute to the hard work and dedication of my current team and of those who have gone on to become Heads of Departments in other schools. Ultimately it is because of the amazing pupils we have at Pleckgate. They are an absolute joy to teach and we look forward to continuing to develop and deliver an outstanding educational experience to our pupils for many years to come."

History: Great Debate

On a cold December evening pupils from Year 9 journeyed to Bolton School Girls Division to take part in the

regional Great Debate competition. This competition is run by the Historical Association, a charity whose mission is to develop historical understanding across the world.

Each pupil was given the title 'Why does history matter to me?' and had to produce a five-minute speech. Our pupils had competed in an internal competition and we took our two finalists, Noran and Hooriya, together with 7 of our other pupils who came along to support their colleagues.

Supported by staff members Miss Wetton, Mr Bajkowski, Mr Clegg and Mrs McGinty our pupils had to compete against 14 other candidates from 8 different schools across the North West including Bolton School Boys and Girls Division,

Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, Canon Slade and the Derby School.



Added to this was that most of the other competitors were of sixth form age and close to 18 whilst our two pupils have only just turned 14!

Despite this fierce competition, both Hooriya and Noran excelled. Their speeches rendered the audience speechless for 5 minutes as the oration of Hooriya and Noran compelled them to listen. This silence broken only by the thunderous applause both speeches received.

In the end, although we did not win the competition, Noran was commended alongside a sixth former from Altrincham Girls Grammar School for her speech.

Head of History Martyn Bajkowski said, "Whatever the outcome tonight we know that we have got a whole host of winners representing our school here tonight— from our contestants, to their supporting peers and Peter Adegbohun went around to every single competitor at the end, shook their hands and thanked them for their speech. "For me this reflects the type of pupils we have at Pleckgate.—polite, hard working, aspirational and resilient whatever the outcome. We are so proud of our pupils as they develop into both historians and young adults during their time with us".

Pleckgate ECO CLUB Awarded Green Flag Award

The Eco Club have successfully secured the Eco School Green Flag Award which is proudly flying outside the front of the school. The Eco Club's enthusiasm is unfathomable and the Green Flag Award acknowledges, rewards and celebrates the ecological achievements of our young people. It clearly demonstrates that their hard work is appreciated, and it provides them with the confidence and motivation needed to continue actively engaging with environmental issues throughout their lifetimes.

The Eco Club has begun to research the local wildlife and how best to support them over the upcoming



seasons—such as designing a bug hotel which will be constructed in the New Year. We have a team who are developing twitter content to share healthy living recipe cards as well as information around reducing waste and how to recycle and upcycle. The Eco Club are also developing 'trash fashion' where they will turn recyclable waste from our pupils into garments to show the scale of single use plastic in our daily lives. This be displayed at the North West Sustainability Conference in June 2023. Pleckgate's Eco Club can't wait to see the trees they have planted start to grow!

We received 30 saplings from the Woodland Trust and have planted them in their school grounds. Year 8 Ahmed said: "I enjoy the Eco Club as I like helping the environment, it is something I am interested in. I am looking forward to watching the trees grow although it will take some time!" The saplings are a collection of five different species which will all help the animals who visit Pleckgate in a different way meeting our biodiversity aim.

Pleckgate Food Parcels

Pleckgate families have generously donated to those in need of a boost this Christmas.

The Year 10 Anne Frank Ambassadors have been collecting nonperishable food items as part of a reverse advent calendar for Blackburn Foodbank and Nightsafe as well as gifts for the residents at Springfield Care Home.

Pupil Maryam said: "Everyone has been so generous. We held assemblies where we spoke about what we needed, we made a list and have been collecting items from form groups every morning."

"We have been inundated and it's so lovely to see so many things which will help families."

Head of Religion and Worldviews ,Mrs Savage said: "Every year a lady called Amina Imam gets in touch and asks if we can help with her collection for Springfield Care Home.

"We agreed to help again this year but we thought we would also try and help Blackburn Food Bank and Nightsafe knowing this year has been tough for so many.



"The Anne Frank Ambassadors have done a fantastic job collecting all the food and presents and, once again, our pupils and staff have been so generous with their donations.

"Items will be dropped off over the next few days although we are continuing to take in items until the end of term."

Staff Encouraging Budding Mathematicians

The Mathematics Department at Pleckgate has been very busy enriching the lives of the budding mathematicians during this academic half term. Pupils willingly give up their own time to attend the various clubs organised by the Mathematics Department. Mr Mirza who coordinates the lunch time chess club has been quoted as saying he is "overwhelmed by the response of the pupils attending the various clubs and by the level of aptitude shown by the Pleckgate pupils during their fiercely competitive matches". Balaj Hussain from year 8 believes after a few more sessions he can be



the Grandmaster of chess at Pleckgate High School as he already has checkmated a formidable number of year 11 pupils. Miss Chauhan is engaging with year 7 and 8 pupils to prepare them for the upcoming UKMT mathematics individual and team challenges. Pleckgate High School pupils have a rich history of success in this competition often walking away with the highest Gold and Silver accolades.

If you are interested in attending either of the clubs please speak to Miss Chauhan or Mr Mirza.

PE: Cross Country Running

We had a fantastic turnout at the cross country event this year with over 30 runners competing. All of the pupils were a credit to the school and contributed to Pleckgate finishing 4th overall from schools in the borough. Uzair of year 10 deserves a special mention. Competing







against runners from year 11 and sixth form, Uzair put on a performance of star quality to finish 1st in the race. Well done to all the runners who took part.







PE: Girls Football



Building on success from recent years, girls football at Pleckgate has never been more popular with many girls not only experiencing playing the beautiful game in PE lessons but also attending extra curricular practice which is held every Friday after school and open to all.

The year 7 futsal team (pictured) represented the school at the most recent BwD tournament, winning two of their 4 matches and have more games still to play. With more fixtures and tournaments entered in 2023, the PE staff are encouraging all girls to come and get involved. Let's make the coming season our best ever.







PE: Year 8 Boys Football



It's been a great term for the year 8 boys football teams and the afterschool club which has had an average attendance of 40 boys each Wednesday and with 14 boys representing the B team in a multi-school tournament in October. The A team have also had a number of exciting and competitive league matches which have resulted in a 3rd place finish in the league. In both competitions the boys represented the school and themselves in an excellent manner. We are really looking forward to seeing the club continue to grow and see both teams compete in future fixtures as we prepare for the cup competitions next term.







PE: Year 9 Boys Football



Well done to the year 9 football team who have had a really strong season in the league with notable performances coming against Westholme away and BCHS at home this year.

The commitment of all year 9 footballers has really impressed team managers Mr Haworth and Mr Clegg with outstanding numbers attending practice every Monday after school throughout the year. Alongside football practice has been a year group inter tutor football event for all pupils and entry to the BwD 'B' team tournaments. Pleckgate pupils performed brilliantly and were a credit to the school.







Design & Technology - Year 8 Faraday Challenge

The IET Faraday Challenge is an annual competition that introduces pupils to engineering, inspiring them to consider engineering as a career and helps to develop their practical and employability skills - including team working, problem solving and creative thinking.

A team of year 8 pupils went to Darwen Aldridge Academy where they had to create an aviation device for the future.



Design & Technology - Bake Off!!

In October, the Technology Department ran a baking competition for all our budding KS3

bakers. We had some amazing entries!

Congratulations to the winners:

1st - Nafeesah - LPA **2nd** - Sumaya - CHW







Design & Technology - Remembrance Cross

A big thank you to Mr Radcliffe, Design and Technology technician who put his skills to great use creating an amazing remembrance cross, complete with poppies, for our Pleckgate Remembrance service held on 11th November this year.



We will remember them.

Design & Technology - STEM Club

This term has seen the beginning of our new STEM club, where pupils take part in CREST Award to gain a nationally recognised award in Technology.

Our current STEM club members have been working on projects such as making a living room cabinet, building a mini roller coaster, making their own bath bombs and much more!

If you are interested in signing up, we meet every Thursday, 3-4pm, in G67, come and join the fun!



Design & Technology - World Cup Bake Off

Year 7 got the opportunity to compete in their own World Cup to bake a football themed treat!

Congratulations to Aaminah A (7MCR) who baked off the competition.



READING at PLECKGATE - Bolton Book Awards

Several pupils from 7P1 and 7P2 are taking part in The Bolton Book Awards this year. These awards are run by Bolton School and involve each student reading at least three of the six shortlisted books.

Each of the authors will take part in a Question and Answer session with Bolton School. This will be recorded and sent to all the participating schools for an opportunity to hear from the author, which will provide further insight into their book.

In May, pupils will be asked to vote for their favourite book. Pleckgate will attend the awards ceremony at Bolton School in July, where we will meet the winning author.

The shortlisted books are:

'The Ship of Doom' by M.A Bennett

'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold

'How I Saved the World in a Week' by Polly Ho Yen

'Dreadwood' by Jennifer Killick

'Carnival of the Lost' by Kieran Larwood

'The Last Firefox' by Lee Newbery

Aaminah said "The Bolton Book Awards is a great way to get to read some amazing books. This also gives you an opportunity to be able to interact with your peers about your opinion on a range of new books."



WRITING at PLECKGATE - Dystopian Writing Competition

To support and enhance Year 9's study of dystopian fiction, the English department held a 'Dystopia 101' writing competition. Pupils were encouraged to write a dystopian story in 101 words inspired by 'Room 101' from George Orwell's novel '1984'.

The competition winners:

1st - Emily Kenyon 9SRO 9P2 - £10 Amazon voucher plus a book of choice

Runner up - Hanna Akil 9SRO 9P3 - a book of choice

Runner up - Muhammed Leli 9SMU 9P5 - a book of choice

It was a fun yet tough decision with a great range of creative dystopian ideas.

Emily's story:

Don't think. They can hear our thoughts. They know what

you're planning. A perfect world to the naked eye; a living hell to its inhabitants. The stench of gaso-line prowls the streets. They threatened to annihilate us if we didn't conform to their orders of getting their microchip. If they suspect treason, they imprison you for life.

I can hear them at the door. They're trying to open it.

I need to start running. Anywhere. Away.

I grabbed a bag and got out in the nick of time. Bullets rattle in the air. Could these be my final moments of freedom?



Musical Performances

As part of their GCSE Music qualification, Year 11 pupils are rehearsing for their solo and ensemble performances. These pupils have shown great commitment and talent during their Music studies and are excited to showcase their work in a performance to be held in the Spring Term. Parents are invited to watch these performances after school on 26th January 2023. The performance will include songs from Hamilton, Chess,



Year 11 College Day

Les Misérables and a collection of pop music.

Pleckgate's Year 11 pupils were thinking about their future with a morning of talks from colleges and other service providers.

Pleckgate welcomed 14 colleges into school where they spent the morning with pupils talking about their courses and what their college had to offer.

Training 2000 and **Get SET Academy** were also in school making pupils aware of apprenticeships and other after-school options.

Organiser Janine Blears said: "It was great to have so many colleges and service providers in school to talk to our Year 11 pupils so they can make well-informed decisions about their future.

"Some pupils have already decided where they are going next but this may give them more options."





Games Club

NEW Games Club

- Meet new friends
- Play games you might have never tried before
- Proving to be very popular

If your interested go to G16 at lunch times 1.30 to 1.55 for more details.



The Bebras Computing Challenge



The Bebras Computing Challenge introduces computational thinking to pupils. It is organized in over 50 countries and designed to get pupils all over the world excited about computing. Each participant answers questions that focus on computational and logical thinking. The competition was completed online as part of the pupils' Computer Science lessons this year. Over 700 pupils took part in this National competition and out of these 12 of our pupils earned a high enough

score to move ahead to the next competition which is the Oxford University Computing Challenge which will take place in January (16th-20th). The Computer Science department congratulates everyone for taking part but especially Ayaan, Zaina, Umar, Halima, Anisa, Joe, Rabia,, Sumaiya, Aamna, Muhammad, Sohail, Hooriya, Aayan and Aisha who all achieved the top Gold award. In addition, an extra big well done to Zaina and Rabia who were awarded the Best in School Certificates in their age groups.



Pupils Shown Careers in CYBER SECURITY & TECH



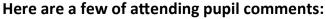
We were invited to CyberFirst Empower North West, an event which aims to encourage Year 8 girls to pursue a career in technology. The Empower event is a part of CyberFirst

Schools & Colleges – an initiative from the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC), which is a part of GCHQ, aims to encourage a diverse range of young people to pursue careers in the cyber sector. We had the opportunity to meet those

working at the forefront of cyber security and technology including IBM, KPMG UK, GCHQ, Phoenix, Microsoft, Northrop Grumman and BT. Pupils met Jasmine Taylor, cyber defence manager at KPMG UK, and Nicola Meek, education lead at Microsoft.

The interactive activities were based on real life examples of roles in a range of tech careers, leaving them enthused about the next stage of their education.

It's time to show Pleckgate girls what this industry's all about, make it feel relevant to them and help them see it as a path they can follow.



Today's trip was amazing. I was extremely fortunate to experience this and would totally recommend it to anyone who is interested in computing. Not only was this a funny and entertaining experience, there were so many great learning opportunities to try something new. Also there were plenty of sweets and sugar to motivate us and reward us, I loved it and would go again if I had the chance.





Afeefa

I enjoyed all of it but if I had to choose one thing it would be the arctic polar bear Minecraft activity. This is because of the high-tech laptops and how the Minecraft system is very easy to follow and anyone could play it.

I really enjoyed my time there so thank you for this opportunity.

Firdaus

Community Football Coaching at Pleckgate

Pleckgate High School is proving the ideal venue for a recently formed football coaching business as they open their facilities out-of-school hours for the community.

Pleckgate boasts an indoor sports hall, a 2G full-size all-weather pitch, an activity studio and a drama studio - all of which are available for hire.

Soccer HQ, started recently by Kevin Maclaren and Joe Milligan, began using the Pleckgate facilities for their Tuesday coaching sessions as well as for their school holiday camps and it's proving a big hit.

The duo, who work within the Blackburn Academy, have played football all their lives—Kevin at semi-professional level winning the FA Vase with Chertsey Town at Wembley in 2019.

"Myself and Kev have been coaching children within the local area for the past four years and have built up a good reputation within the local community," said Joe.

"We decided to setup Soccer HQ as we both have a passion for coaching children and believe we can provide them with a football experience like no other.

"Our emphasis is on having fun but we also want to make sure the boys and girls we teach improve and progress as much as possible in the time they are with us. We meticulously plan fun and engaging sessions which help us achieve that.

"Our Soccer School during the October half-term was a real success with 65 children attending. It isn't about baby-sitting, it's about strong sessions where children learn something. We had over 10 coaches which meant we could give the children the attention they need.

"For the last month we have been running our Soccer HQ Tuesday sessions at Pleckgate where, from 5-6pm it's small group sessions for Under 6s-Under 7s; from 6-7pm it's small group sessions for Under 7s-Under 10s and then 7-8pm it's elite sessions for Under 8s and 9s.

"Having only six children to one coach means every child gets that extra coaching detail and maximises their progress in that session.

"Pleckgate is the perfect venue as there is an all-weather pitch which we can use all-year round as well as the sports hall, the studio room and the canteen area. It's a safe environment and ideal for us."

For more information on Soccer HQ go to:

soccer_hq@outlook.com or Instagram @soccer_hq_

To hire Pleckgate's facilities go to pleckgatehigh.schoolhire.co.uk.





Christmas Holiday Clubs available this Winter Break!



Our Holiday Club Booking line and Booking site will be LIVE for bookings from December 1st 2022

www.getstuckin.org.uk 07879 774978

If you have any questions before then; Email us at: getstuckin@springnorth.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you soon!

The Get Stuck In Team



