



Friday 30th January 2026 – **Edition four**

The Pleckgate Weekly

Reminder: Year 11 Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 3 February

Holocaust Memorial Day 2026 – Bridging Generations

Our Anne Frank Ambassadors proudly represented Pleckgate at the Holocaust Memorial Day Remembrance earlier this week in the Cathedral Crypt at Blackburn Cathedral, alongside the Mayor, members of the Interfaith Forum, the Deputy Youth MP and pupils from other local schools.

This year's theme, 'Bridging Generations', focused on the responsibility of younger generations to learn from survivors where possible, and through research and education about the Holocaust and other genocides when this is no longer possible.

Pupils' reflections were combined into a collective statement, delivered by the Youth MP on behalf of secondary schools across the town.

During their visit, pupils also explored The Longest Yarn II – Britain at War exhibition, further deepening their understanding of remembrance and shared responsibility.



Celebrating our Stars of the Week

Each week, we select exceptional pupils from every year group to be our Stars of the Week.

We are proud to celebrate the following pupils as our Stars of the Week:

Year 7: Haider, Haadiya

Year 8: Muhammad, Aamina

Year 9: Awais, Alisha

Year 10: Sofiya, Maryam

Year 11: Faizan, Arooj



Mobile phones in school



We would like to remind parents and carers that mobile phones should not be used during the school day. This expectation is in place to support a calm, focused and positive learning environment for all pupils.

When phones are not in use, pupils are better able to concentrate in lessons, engage fully with their learning and interact positively with their peers.

We ask for your continued support in reinforcing this message at home. Mobile phones are not permitted for use at any point during the school day, and we recommend that pupils do not bring mobile phones into school.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain high standards and a focused learning environment for all pupils.

Staff Spotlight: Ruksana Patel (Head of English)

This week, we shine a spotlight on Ruksana Patel, our Head of English, whose passion for literature continues to inspire pupils across Pleckgate.

Ruksana's love of English began at a young age, driven by how stories and language help us understand ourselves and the world around us. She particularly enjoys leading a talented team of teachers, working collaboratively to deliver an engaging and successful English curriculum.

Beyond exams, Ruksana hopes pupils leave with confidence, empathy and strong communication skills. Her advice to pupils is simple: don't worry about being perfect, have a go, ask questions and let your confidence grow.



Year 10 Careers Visit



Year 10 pupils visited Blackburn Youth Zone, exploring facilities including the gym, boxing area, music lab and art space, before taking part in a fun team-building challenge. The visit gave pupils a great insight into careers within youth and community services.

Key dates this term

Year 11 Parents Evening – 3rd Feb

Year 10 Raising Achievement – 5th Feb

Year 8 Parents Evening – 10th Feb

Coffee Morning – 11th Feb

