

Inspire

THE SKIPTON ACADEMY

JULY 2025



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

As we come to the end of a fantastic year at TSA it is with great pride that we can look back on all the fantastic events and experiences that we have been able to provide for students. You will read about fantastic events such as the colour run, Challenge and Celebration week, the massive range of extra curricular activities students can experience, all of which are the embodiment of our ethos of Belong Challenge Inspire. They always have been, and remain, much more than words, they are our daily practice. My thanks and immense gratitude go to the staff, students and families of the whole community that make The Skipton Academy such a wonderful place to learn.

There are also some important updates regarding the leadership team at The Skipton Academy for the next academic year. As you may know, this year I have been working two days per week to support a Leeds school, Benton Park, and from 1st August, they will join Moorlands Learning Trust and become part of our family of schools. Being part of Moorlands Learning Trust has created a number of promotion and career development opportunities for many staff already this year at TSA, and has helped us to retain their expertise. To continue to support Benton Park I will become Executive Headteacher at Benton Park and Executive Principal at The Skipton Academy and I am delighted to inform you that Mark Cook will become Principal. This will enable him to have full focus on continuing to improve the school in every area. Mr Cook has been with me leading the school improvement journey since the very first day and we will continue to work tirelessly to take the school to the next level. I now very much look forward to working closely with him as Principal to ensure that the transition for September is a smooth one and that The Skipton Academy continues to go from strength to strength over the coming years – I have absolutely no doubt that this will be the case!

I will continue to work closely to improve TSA and will be based there three days a week to most effectively support Mr Cook and his Senior Team. I am sure you will all agree with me that we are fortunate to have somebody with such deep understanding of the school and its importance to the community who can step up and take it to new heights in the future.

RMcManus

Principal



Why Attendance Matters?

Attending school every day helps children develop not just academically but socially and emotionally. It ensures they benefit from direct teaching, class discussions, group work, and the structure of the school day. Even a single day's absence can mean missing out on key learning, which can be hard to fully catch up on.

According to the Department for Education, pupils with higher attendance levels generally achieve better GCSE results, while those who are persistently absent (missing 10% or more of school days) are less likely to succeed academically and are at greater risk of becoming disengaged.

The Impact of Missing School

Absences from school, whether due to illness or other reasons, can add up quickly. A child who misses just one day every two weeks misses the equivalent of a whole year of school by the time they leave secondary education. This not only affects their academic progress but can also disrupt friendships and reduce their confidence and motivation.

Term-Time Holidays: Why They Matter More Than You Think

Taking holidays during term time may seem harmless, especially if it's just a few days. However, these absences can have a serious impact. Schools in England are not permitted to authorise holidays during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Taking children out of school for holidays can lead to:

- Gaps in learning that are difficult to bridge.
- Missed assessments or key coursework.
- Disruption to class continuity and peer learning.

Local authorities may issue fines for unauthorised term-time absences, as part of efforts to reduce persistent absenteeism and encourage families to prioritise education.

How Parents and Carers Can Help

Families play a crucial role in ensuring children attend school regularly. Here are a few ways to help:

- Create a consistent routine: Bedtime and morning routines can make a big difference.
- Plan holidays and medical/dental appointments during school breaks: Use the published term dates to book time away.
- Stay informed: Communicate with school staff if your child is unwell or if there are issues affecting attendance.
- Promote the value of education: Talk positively about school and learning at home.

A Shared Commitment

Good attendance is not just a school expectation, it's a life skill. It teaches children responsibility, time management, and the importance of commitment. As a school community, we are here to support every pupil to thrive, and that starts with being present.

Let's work together to ensure that every child is in school, on time, every day ready to learn and achieve their full potential.

If you're facing challenges with attendance or need advice, please speak to your child's form tutor or Mrs Mitchell in the attendance office. We're here to support you and your child.

Annual C&C Week



During the last week of this term, we proudly hosted our annual Challenge and Celebration Week, an ambitious and diverse programme of enrichment designed to provide every student with memorable, meaningful and character-building experiences outside of the traditional classroom environment.

The week, which brought together hundreds of students and staff across all year groups, was a resounding success. Packed with residentials, outdoor adventures, cultural visits, creative workshops, and in-school challenges.

Each year group followed a unique programme tailored to their stage of learning and development:

- Year 7 enjoyed **"The Big Mix"** a carousel of exciting activities including Clip 'n' Climb, Ilkley Cinema, Allerthorpe Park water sports, and a high-rope adventure at Go Ape Blackburn. The experience concluded with a team-based Problem Solving Day on site.
- Year 8 embarked on **"The Big Trip"** – a four-day residential visit to London, packed with culture and challenge. Highlights included the Science and Natural History Museums, the Tower of London, a Thames River cruise, a West End production of The Lion King, and a final-day visit to London Zoo.
- Year 9 headed into the Lakes for **"The Big Outdoors"** – a residential at Hawes End, Cumbria, where students embraced canoeing, ghyll scrambling, climbing, and mountain walking in the breathtaking surroundings of Derwent Water.
- Year 10 experienced **"The Big Work Experience"** joining a wide range of local and regional employers to gain valuable insight into the world of work, grow in independence, and explore future career possibilities.

- Key Stage 3 students also had opportunities to take part in themed activities including:
 - **The Big Ride:** a carousel of day trips including Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Bewerley Park outdoor centre, SpeedKix, Matrix Bowling, and Skipton Cinema.
 - **The Big Skipton Spectacular:** local enrichment activities such as tree-top climbing, cookery challenges, indoor mini-golf, and laser quest.
 - **The Big Task:** an engaging, in-school challenge rotation including STEM tasks, physical activities, problem-solving workshops and creative projects delivered by school staff and external facilitators.
- Key Stage 4 students were also able to broaden their horizons on international experiences:
 - **The Big Moroccan Adventure:** a 14-day expedition exploring cultural, geographical and humanitarian elements of Morocco, including a trek through the Atlas Mountains and community service in rural villages.
 - **The Big Cornish Canvas:** an arts-focused residential exploring Cornwall's vibrant creative landscape through photography, pottery, and design.
 - **The Big Parisian Adventure:** a culturally rich trip to Paris, including sightseeing at Versailles and the Eiffel Tower and a magical day at Disneyland Paris.

The purpose of Challenge and Celebration Week is rooted in The Skipton Academy's mission to provide a well-rounded education. These experiences help students develop vital personal skills such as leadership, teamwork, confidence, and resilience, qualities that will support them far beyond their time at school.

Assistant Principal, Mr. Khalil commented:

"We believe that learning happens everywhere, not just in the classroom. Challenge and Celebration Week is an opportunity for students to experience something new, develop character, and celebrate their successes. We are immensely proud of how all our students conducted themselves and embraced the week with enthusiasm and maturity."

The success of the week was only possible thanks to the tireless efforts of school staff, who supervised activities, coordinated logistics, and provided pastoral support, often during early starts and overnight stays. Special thanks also go to the support staff, trip leaders, and the external providers and venues who hosted our students.



French Exchange

On Wednesday 9th July, The Skipton Academy was delighted to welcome a group of students and staff from our twin town in France, Erquinghem-Lys. This exciting opportunity follows a successful visit two years ago, and we were thrilled to once again host our international guests as part of the ongoing partnership between our two towns.

The visiting group, which included 25 students from various year groups and 5 staff members, arrived at around 9.30am and were greeted warmly by our school community. Towards the end of Period 1, each French student was paired with a TSA student, giving them the chance to socialise during break time and experience British school life by attending lessons in Periods 2 and 3.

To further enhance the cultural exchange, our Head of Languages, Mrs Harrison, recently attended a civic event at Skipton Town Hall where she supported as a translator and played a key role in building strong relationships between the two towns. Her involvement was instrumental in helping to foster the warm and welcoming atmosphere that defined the visit.

Before departing, our French guests enjoyed a lunch generously provided by the Rotary Club – our sincere thanks go to them for supporting this important international partnership.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity for both Skipton Academy and Erquinghem-Lys students to connect, learn from each other, and share in a day of language, culture, and friendship. We look forward to continuing this valued exchange in the future.



Colour Run Success

In July, the playing fields of The Skipton Academy were transformed into a vibrant celebration of colour, community, and challenge as the PTA and Friends of The Skipton Academy hosted their first ever colour run. The event exceeded all expectations, drawing in over 600 enthusiastic participants who took on a specially designed 5-kilometre route around the school grounds. The route was far from ordinary as runners were tasked with navigating a range of creative and energetic obstacles, including crawling under cargo nets, scrambling through sand pits, and squeezing through paint crawls, all while being doused in clouds of coloured powder paint at various stations along the course.

The event created a festival-like atmosphere that was felt far beyond the track. Families, friends, and local residents gathered to cheer on participants and explore the community village that had been set up on site. A diverse selection of independent stalls offered everything from homemade cakes and handcrafted goods to artisan pizzas and refreshing drinks, making the day as enjoyable for spectators as it was for those taking part in the run. Music, laughter, and encouragement filled the air, highlighting the strong sense of togetherness and shared purpose that underpinned the event.

Thanks to the overwhelming support of the school community and local businesses, the colour run raised over £5,500 for The Skipton Academy. Every penny of the funds raised will go directly toward supporting The Skipton Academy's mission to provide the best possible opportunities for all students. The money will be used to enhance learning environments, support extracurricular activities, and fund resources that allow students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Speaking after the event, a PTA spokesperson said:

"We are absolutely thrilled with the success of our first ever colour run. The turnout was phenomenal, the atmosphere was electric, and the generosity of our community has been truly heartwarming. This event has shown what we can achieve when we work together, and we are already looking forward to building on this success in the future."

The school wishes to thank the PTA and Friends for their vision and commitment, the volunteers who gave their time and energy, the local businesses who supported the event, and of course, every runner who took part and made the day such a memorable occasion.



Celebrating the end of an era

Skipton Town Hall was transformed into a sparkling celebration venue as Year 11 students marked the end of their secondary school journey with a glamorous prom evening and celebrate five years of hard work, growth, and unforgettable memories.

The historic venue played host to over 70 students, dressed to impress, as they arrived in style. Students chose to make an entrance in classic limousines, others in vintage cars and even on horseback.

The event, organised by Mr Cox, featured music, dancing, and a buffet-style dinner, and fairy-light decorations that lit up the Victorian hall. DJ sets kept the energy high throughout the evening, with students filling the dance floor in celebration of their achievements.

Head of Year 11, Mr Cox, said:

“This year group has shown incredible resilience, especially with the challenges they’ve faced during their time with us, most notably their transition from primary school to The Skipton Academy during the COVID-19 pandemic. The night was about giving them the send-off they deserve — full of joy, pride, and celebration.”

For many, the prom marked not just the end of exams and school days, but the beginning of new paths — whether that’s sixth form, college, apprenticeships, or other ventures. Students shared their hopes for the future while reflecting on the friendships and lessons that shaped their secondary education.

As the night drew to a close, hugs were exchanged and photos snapped — a fitting farewell to five formative years. The evening drew to a close as the final song played, a reminder that while time marches on, the memories of school will last a lifetime.



Our biggest ever Bronze DofE cohort



This summer marked a significant milestone for The Skipton Academy as the school proudly celebrated its largest ever cohort of Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) participants. Over 30 students committed to the nationally recognised award scheme, which promotes independence, resilience, teamwork, and personal growth among young people.

The Bronze DofE Award challenges students to complete four key sections: Volunteering, Physical, Skills, and a two-day expedition. Each element requires sustained effort and commitment, encouraging students to step outside their comfort zones and develop important life skills along the way. From volunteering in local charity shops and youth clubs, to learning new creative or practical skills and taking part in sports and fitness, students demonstrated dedication and perseverance throughout the programme.

The highlight of the award for many is the expedition, and this year's Bronze group completed a two-day route that began in Grassington and concluded in Bolton Bridge, walking through some of the most picturesque but physically demanding terrain the Yorkshire Dales National Park has to offer. The journey tested their ability to navigate using maps and compasses, set up camp independently, cook meals outdoors, and work effectively as a team — all while carrying heavy rucksacks and managing their own time and pace.

What made this year's expedition particularly remarkable was the extreme weather conditions. The students undertook their walk during a July heatwave, with temperatures soaring well above seasonal averages. Despite the intensity of the heat, all participants showed outstanding determination, resilience, and a positive attitude throughout the two-day challenge. Their ability to remain focused, support one another, and persevere under such conditions is a true credit to their character.

The success of this year's programme would not have been possible without the commitment of staff volunteers, who gave up their time to support the students in their preparation and throughout the expedition. Their guidance, encouragement, and safeguarding support ensured that the experience was not only successful, but also safe and enjoyable.

We look forward to continuing to grow our DofE programme in the years ahead, providing more students with the opportunity to achieve this prestigious award and develop skills that will benefit them for life.

Curriculum Focus: Art

Both KS3 and KS4 Art students have soared this year, especially within the last few months. In this time frame alone Y10 students have completed two 'sustained' (ten hour) pieces, demonstrating a breath of skills and progress gained from their disciplined approach to the GCSE course.



Y9 students are in the midst of making full use of the kiln and clay materials to create their 'clay monsters', inspired by the work of James De Rosso and our 'Sea Creatures' project. Lots of our students have chosen the Art GCSE as one of their pathways for the next two years. This project has set them up with greater sculptural knowledge, ahead of the demanding course. Other students will go into Challenge and Celebration week having just had their 'last ever Art lesson', and what a fun final piece to go out on.



The Dales Cup – A Year of Growth and Achievement

The Dales Cup has been a tremendous success for TSA this year. Now in its second year, our students have gone from strength to strength, winning twice as many competitions as in the previous year. This is a clear indication that sporting performance across the school is on an upward trajectory, reflecting the dedication of both students and staff.

Looking ahead, The Dales Cup will continue into the next academic year, offering students the opportunity to compete across a wide range of sports. This platform will further support the development of their skills, competitive spirit, and teamwork.

Dales Cup Cricket

A new addition to the Dales Cup this year was cricket. Our year 7/8 team enjoyed their day in the sun at Upper Wharfedale Cricket Club. With some strong opposition, our team performed well, coming in third place.

Sports Leadership

We had an exciting opportunity for some of our sports leaders in a series of primary school cricket festivals. The leaders were able to benefit from training delivered by Yorkshire County Cricket Club, which involved incorporating the use of technology in leadership.

Other leaders were able to assist with a multi-discipline cycling event and during two primary school sports days that were all held on our school field.



Sports Weeks – Inclusive, Competitive, and Engaging

Our recent Sports Weeks have been a resounding success. Designed to maximise participation across all year groups, these events have seen every student actively involved, regardless of ability. This inclusive approach ensured that all students could enjoy the benefits of physical activity and sport, while developing confidence and a sense of achievement.

The impact of these competitions has been significant. As a result, the PE department is now developing a structured intra-school competitive sports system that will be inclusive, sustainable, and motivational.

By embedding regular, purposeful competition, we aim to nurture a positive sporting culture. This will encourage students to enjoy PE while understanding the value of setting goals. This approach helps develop not just performance, but also a stronger intrinsic motivation and a lifelong appreciation for sport and physical activity.



Breaking School Records!

Harrogate and Craven Athletics

The Skipton Academy attended the Harrogate and Craven Athletics Championships with a total of 40 students. We were overwhelmed that 32 students qualified for the finals. All students were excellent advocates for the school and represented our school community excellently.

During the competition, we had some outstanding performances, some of which are highlighted below:

- Milly Charlton broke our school Year 10 girls 100m record as she became Harrogate and Craven champion!
- Maisie Battle breaking two school records, the hurdles record and Year 10 Girls' 200m record
- Connie Hudson coming 2nd in the girls shot put
- Ollie Wright coming 2nd in the Year 8 Boys' Javelin
- Jessica Battle coming in 3rd place in the year 8 girls 200m



Swimming Success Continues

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the achievements of one of our dedicated student swimmers, who recently competed at the Swim England North East Regional Long Course Championships. The event, held across two weekends in April and May at the John Charles Centre for Sport in Leeds, saw some of the best swimmers from across the region come together to compete at a high level.

Our student qualified for all three breaststroke distances – 50m, 100m, and 200m – and delivered outstanding performances across the board, reaching the finals in each event. In a particularly exciting race, he claimed gold in the 50m breaststroke, finishing with an impressive time of 37.66 seconds.

His commitment to training continues as he now sets his sights on the next stage of competition. He is currently preparing for the Yorkshire Short Course Championships in October, where he has already qualified for seven events, and the North East Regional Short Course Championships in November, where he has secured qualification for six events so far.

We wish him the best of luck as he continues to train and compete! William is a fantastic role model of perseverance and sporting excellence to other students at The Skipton Academy.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

As the term ended, The Skipton Academy celebrated students' achievements in End-of-Term Celebration Assemblies, recognising their hard work, resilience, and growth across all year groups.

Subject Awards

Students were honoured in each subject for:

- Achievement – outstanding performance and results.
- Progress – significant improvement and growth.
- Resilience – perseverance in overcoming challenges.
- Additionally, a most improved award highlighted remarkable progress in attitude, effort, and determination.

Tutor Awards

Tutor groups celebrated students for:

- Demonstrating school values – embodying TSA's ethos of respect, responsibility, and community.
- Tutor most improved – exceptional growth in attitude, effort, and personal development.

Head of Year Awards

The assemblies concluded with Head of Year Awards for:

- **Demonstrating School Values** – Upholding TSA's positive principles.
- **Head of Year Award** – Outstanding contributions and a positive attitude.
- **Most Improved** – Exceptional progress and determination during the term.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS - SUBJECT AWARDS

| Subjects | Year 7 Achievement, Progress & Resilience | Year 7 Most improved |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
| English | Oliver Wain | Amelia Riley |
| Maths | Quinn Crossman-Smith | Megan Davies |
| Science | Xander Procter | Layla-Rose Lee |
| History | Felix Hearn | Scarlett Belcher |
| Geography | Thomas Walker | Maddie Jameson |
| PE | Oliver Gill | Evie Thornton |
| Music | Jessica Tyler | Alice Barber |
| Performance | Felix Hearn | Amelia Riley |
| Food and Nutrition | Emeli Robinson | Megan Wilsher |
| Textiles | Ava Wearing | Declan Ralph |
| Art | Ruby Firth | Isaac Bardgett |
| Computing | Greta Harvey | Alexander Krastanov |
| Spanish | Luke Steadman | Chloe Ellison |
| French | Naomi Cheater | Archie Gedling |

| Subjects | Year 8 Achievement, Progress & Resilience | Year 8 Most improved |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------|
| English | Edwin Knapp | Ethan Hunter |
| Maths | Arlo Simpson | |
| Science | Edwin Knapp | Emily Percival |
| History | Ellie Teal | Romi Lomax |
| Geography | Pippa Claxton | Isabella Skinner |
| PE | Jessica Battle | John Djavanroodi |
| Music | Bernard-Miguel Lapuz | Pippa Claxton |
| Performance | Arlo Simpson | Ned Hartley |
| Food and Nutrition | Hamza Hussain | Teagan Reedy |
| Textiles | Conner Wallace | Milie Hodge |
| Art | Elliot Thornton | Charlie Hall |
| Computing | Lucas Repton | Harry Thompson |
| Spanish | Heidi Rees | Tia Bullock |
| French | Maja Ostrowska | Lola Childs |

CELEBRATING SUCCESS - SUBJECT AWARDS

| Subjects | Year 9 Achievement, Progress & Resilience | Year 9 Most improved |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------|
| English | Oliver Parker | Lily Holtom |
| Maths | Alfie Brayshay | Areeba Faisal |
| Biology | Sam Till | Amaani Choudary |
| Chemistry | Beth Cockell | Daniel Abramson |
| Physics | Kali Walker | Riley Miller |
| History | Thomas Spurgeon | Sam Till |
| Geography | Thomas Riddler | Timothy Balaga |
| PE | Malaika Kamal | Darcie-Rae Ottewell |
| Music | George Johnstone | Callum Bunnnett-Harris |
| Performance | Collin Boukemach | Logan Bradley |
| Food and Nutrition | Eva Cross | Pippa Eames |
| Textiles | Scarlett Hylands | Evie Lee |
| Art | Zlata Shelepun | Will Clements-Newman |
| Computing | Nicholas Walker | Amelia Livesley |
| French | Ryoki Uchimura | Beth Cockell |

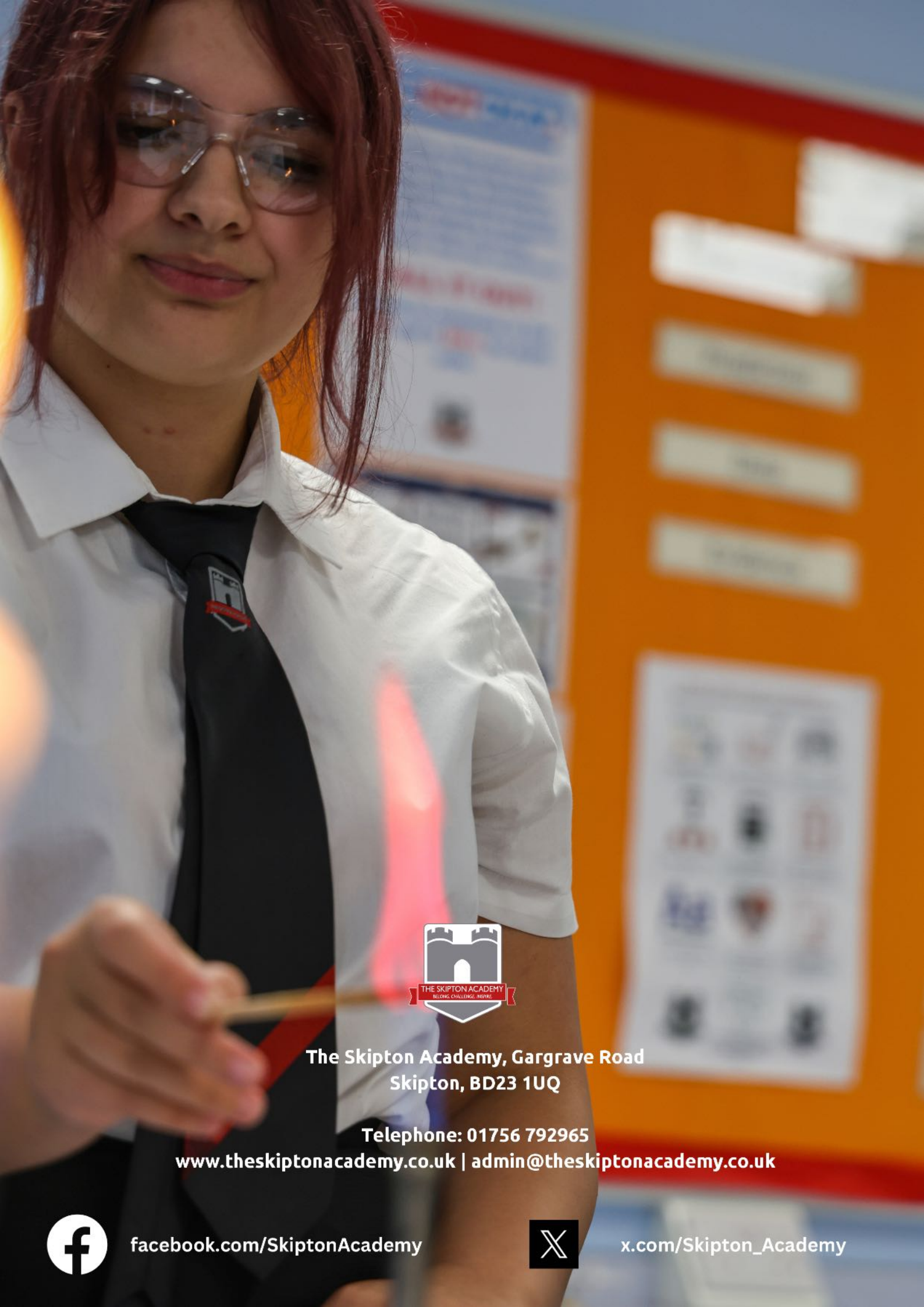
| Subjects | Year 10 Achievement, Progress & Resilience | Year 10 Most improved |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| English | Kelsi Earnshaw | Poppy Earnshaw-Wright |
| Maths | Harry Jones | Ben Sunter |
| Biology | Chae Tyrer | George Leakey |
| Chemistry | Maciej Briszka | Jacob Smith |
| Physics | Louie Day | Amelia Bibbin |
| Biology (Single) | Gil Townsley | |
| Chemistry (Single) | Harry Jones | Isabelle Ettenfield |
| Physics (Single) | Isabelle Ettenfield | Arabella Nesbitt-Hancock |
| History | Jack Tate | Lydia Loughran |
| Geography | Olivia Shaw | Lucy McIntrye |
| Business | Otis Gay | Arthur Dalby |
| Performance | Amy Butterfield | Joshua Pattinson |
| Art | Bethany Brewster | Lexi Dunn |
| Product Design | Ben Holme | Luke Brooks |
| Textiles | Samuel McIlwaine | Ruby Brewin |
| ICT | Arthur Dalby | Tyler Nutter-Moon |
| Computer Science | Chae Tyrer | Ben Sunter |
| Music | Harry Jones | Bradley Hainsworth |
| Sport BTEC | Aniq Tabassum | Christabel Broadley |
| Health and Social Care | Olivia Shaw | Amelia Bibin |
| French | Douglas Claxton | Lexi Greensmith |
| Food and Nutrition | Hayden Hunn | Chloe Hirst |

CELEBRATING SUCCESS - TUTOR AWARDS

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 7VA | Ava Wareing | Eva Brewster |
| 7BYC | Scarlet Belcher | Alfie Wildman |
| 7SFF | Ewan Roberts | Xander Procter |
| 7VJH | Evie Thornton | Alister Plummer |
| 7EEM | Emilia Hampson | Jack Campbell |
| 7JAM | Archie Gedling | Ruby Firth |
| 8CC | Lola Childs | Eleanor Pearce |
| 8ORC | Millie Hodge | Dalton Briscoe |
| 8DH | William Scotland | Amy Catton |
| 8JJ | Oliver Wilson-Jones | Forest Peverley |
| 8AYL | Deen Iqbal | Isabelle Parry |
| 8BL | Amelia Beckers | Poppy Shaw |
| 9SJB | Timothy Balaga | Kaiden Hall |
| 9JC | Paisley Rouse | Beth Cockell |
| 9RE | Rita Wright | Afsaan Aktar |
| 9WO | Grace Metcalfe | Gracie Jenkinson |
| 9AW | Evie Lee | Callum Bunnett-Harris |
| 10GB | Louie Day | Anika Shiaz |
| 10GS | Beth Brewster | Harry Jones |
| 10JV | Mia Taylor | Holly Davidson |
| 10PW | Samuel McIlwaine | Amelia Szkutnik |
| 10DW | Jack Tate | Lola Martin |
| TMP | Summer Cox | Will Clements-Nauman |

CELEBRATING SUCCESS - HEAD OF YEAR AWARDS

| Year Group | School Values | Outstanding Contribution | Most Improved |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Year 7 | Arla Dzieciol | William Barnes | Rosie Bogle |
| Year 8 | Arlo Simpson | Seth Cardus | Zaynah Choudary |
| Year 9 | Afsaan Akhtar | Thomas Ridler | Chayce Telford |
| Year 10 | Izzy Atkinson | Millie Charlton | Peyton Irving |



**The Skipton Academy, Gargrave Road
Skipton, BD23 1UQ**

**Telephone: 01756 792965
www.theskiptonacademy.co.uk | admin@theskiptonacademy.co.uk**



facebook.com/SkiptonAcademy



x.com/Skipton_Academy