
SOUTH CRAVEN

January 2026

02

News
Sports
Trips
Events
Culture
Entertainment
Interviews
Reviews
Competitions



*Winter
Ball*

WELCOME

Editor's note

Welcome to the second edition of our school paper! In the wind down to Christmas we look at what's been on over the final few weeks, including the school show, winter ball and food bank collection. We have also judged the December photography competition and chosen a winner - a very tough decision with so many brilliant entries. In the new year we will be welcoming some new team members to write for our paper, and looking for some guest writers from younger years. If you are interested in writing one-off or regular pieces we would love to hear from you (no commitment required!) Please contact Miss Bridge.

WELCOME

Contents

- 1-2 Welcome
- 3-4 Winter Ball
- 5-6 Photography competition
- 7-8 Food bank
- 9-10 School show
- 11-13 Creative careers
- 14 Young Carers
- 15-16 Progression
- 17 Staff Spotlight

Team

- Editor - Elia Green
- Sub-Editor - Iris Hargreaves
- Designer - Kitty Hutchinson
- Planner - Jessica Barnes
- Reporter - Daniel McGowan
- Reporter - Anaya Joby
- Reporter - Thomas Nutter



Sixth Form Winter Ball

By Daniel McGowan

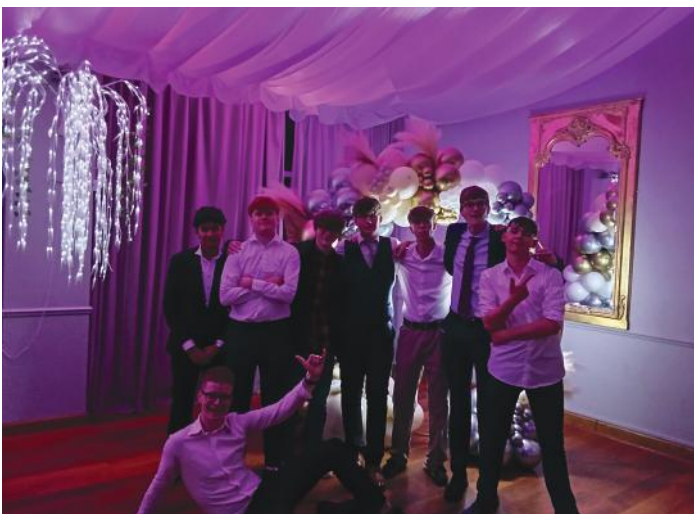
The Winter Ball was an unforgettable evening that brought students together for a night of celebration, elegance, and fun. Held in the beautifully decorated Skipton Hotel, the event space was decorated with black, gold and white balloons and decorations setting the mood for the night ahead.

Soon the Sixth Form population arrived dressed to impress, showcasing stunning gowns and sharp stylish suits; these outfits added to the excitement of the evening. The effort put into everyone's appearance reflected our excitement of the event and made the night feel truly special. From the moment the music started, we filled the floor with dance and laughter, making memories together.

The DJ played a mix of popular hits and classic favourites, ensuring there was something for all to enjoy. Whether we were dancing nonstop, or chatting with friends, the energy in the room remained high throughout the night. Drinks from the bar were available, giving us all a chance to take a break and rehydrate before heading back onto the dance floor.

One of the highlights of the Winter Ball was the sense of unity it created. Students from the different year groups came together, strengthening friendships and building new connections. Teachers and staff who attended also contributed to the positive atmosphere, sharing in the festivities.

Overall, the Winter Ball was a huge success and a night that we will all remember for years to come. It provided a well-deserved break from school routines and reminded everyone of the importance of coming together as a school community. We are looking forward to future events that bring the same joy and excitement.



“It was definitely a night to remember”

“I had the best time”

“I can't wait for the next Winter Ball”





Finlay



Ellis



Emanuel



Seth



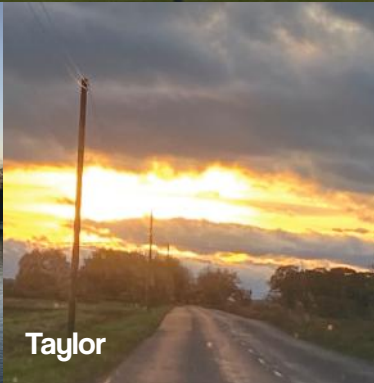
Freddie



Bentley



Molly



Taylor



Jennah



Emilia



Gracie



PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

Stan

WINNER

"My photo shows two seals playing with each other by the sea. They were rolling around by the water and smiling. I took this photo because I wanted to preserve and capture a moment of joy from the seals, as well as the unusual and photogenic opportunity to capture seals expressing human-like emotions."

“ I was blown away with the quality of entries for our first photography competition, all of the entries were exceptional and it was an extremely difficult decision. However, Stan's picture stood out to me particularly, what an incredible moment to capture. I love the colours and framing. Make sure to keep an eye out for our next photography competition which will be announced soon! ”

- Kitty Hutchinson

Food Bank

Newspaper editor Elia interviewed school's food bank coordinator Dr Fish to find out more about the food bank and how they help.

By Elia Green

What's the first thing that comes to mind when I say the word 'Christmas'? Is it the presents, buried somewhere your parents know you won't find them (no matter how much you search)? The sparkling Christmas tree sat snugly in the corner, neatly (or messily, depending if you've got a younger sibling) decorated in pretty lights? Or the delicious, absolutely scrumptious, Christmas dinner—maybe not so much the Brussels sprouts though...

For some, however, that's not what comes to mind in the slightest. For many families, money it's scarce. It's a struggle to fight back against the winter cold while keeping a steady supply of food; let alone be able to afford a Christmas dinner. Some skip meals, some work in countless jobs, some sacrifice heat and warmth all to scrape enough money to make it through the week. And sometimes that doesn't even work.

It's the sad truth...but it doesn't always have to be.

Thanks to food banks across the country, they can make it a better Christmas for these families who desperately need it most. That's why South Craven school is donating food to Skipton food bank to help these families have the Christmas they deserve!

Here, I spoke to a key individual helping our school donate to Skipton Food Bank:

What is your title, your name and your connection to the food bank?

"My name is Dr Rhian Fish, I am a teacher at South Craven and I have organized the food bank collection here. I was trying to remember this earlier but I've forgotten how long I've been doing this! I think it was from before Covid, so, at least five maybe six years."

What can you tell me about the food bank project the school is helping with?

"So this one is for Skipton Food Bank and for the local community. My connection

with the food bank is with my friend and my mother-in-law who both work with the Trussel Trust, which is a national food bank association. I wanted to make sure that the people of South Craven were given to a local charity or food bank."

Do you remember how that might have begun?

"I saw that food poverty was increasing in general. I thought that we could do something. So, I decided that it would be a nice thing to do something at Christmas, especially because people will struggle more at Christmas. It's colder this time of year and it's time for giving. We've got an opportunity here to be able to make people's lives a little bit easier at Christmas."

What's your supporting role in the project?

"I just organise the collection at school, and it's no more than that. I then coordinate the Skipton Food Bank, who I've got a connection with, because I've been doing it so long now. I approached them and asked if they would like to have the donations from us. And then I organise the collection from them. They send a volunteer to bring, to collect the food. And then I just organise the people getting the information out on class charts."

Why do you think supporting a food bank is important for the school community, and what is it most important for you?

"Like I said before, I think food poverty is rising in this country, and a lot more people are struggling. And I think that it's a basic human need that everybody deserves to be able to feed themselves. It's really sad that people can't feed themselves. By doing this as a school community it helps raise awareness, and just to get students thinking about the fact that other people may not be as fortunate as themselves here and of course help people in this community as well. It's about a community supporting each other, really."

Everybody deserves a little treat for Christmas. You bring in mince pies, Christmas puddings, and as well as the other basics, like I brought in quite a lot of tinned vegetables, so people could have that for the Christmas dinner, etcetera."

What's most important for you?

"It is a time of giving, and it's important for me to know that I'm contributing to doing something, and also using my privileged po-

sition of working in this school to be able to help even further, really, because I've got quite a lot of people in this community that I can reach."



Some of the Christmas bags the food bank have prepared for families.

Donate to Skipton Food Bank



BROADWAY & beyond

By Thomas
Nutter

When is a school show not a school show? When it's a medley show, of course. This year, the performance team put the students to the test as they produced not one show but six (not the musical about Henry VIII's wives—that's something else entirely) musicals. Which were as follows: Oliver!, The Great Gatsby, Hairspray, Wicked, Mary Poppins, and Mamma Mia!.

These were not six full-on shows, as that would be a one-way ticket to have Ofsted round; instead, it was six abridged shows. For example, in *Wicked*, a good chunk of the plot was cut out to focus on the relationship between Elphaba, Glinda, and Fiyero (who become the Wicked Witch of the West, the Good Witch of the South, and the brainless Scarecrow respectively in *The Wizard of Oz*). The *Wicked* section, of course, ended with the show-stopping "Defying Gravity."



Fagin and his gang of ruffians.

Essentially after the parts have been announced the mains will receive their script before the summer holidays and are expected to be off book by the time September rolls around.

This allows the scenes to be set as smoothly as possible as actors tend to be more confident when they know their lines.

Auditions took place in the summer of last year and rehearsals properly began in late September before culminating in three shows across a single November weekend.

Fells Theatre was jam-packed ready for the event with the audience patiently waiting as the *Oliver* classic *Food Glorious Food* began to play.

Two and a half hours later the show was over for night one and the cast quickly went home bearing in mind it was a Thursday night and there still would be school the following day. But how much time and effort actually goes into making the show work and is it worth it in the end?

ENRICHMENT

Speaking of show week Miss Johnson, a drama teacher at school and head of lower school years saw the show and said the following review “Attending this year’s musical showcase with students from Year 7 through Year 13 was an absolute joy and a moment of immense pride... The talent on display was extraordinary. From the confident voices of our older students to the enthusiasm and bravery of our younger performers, every student demonstrated such impressive skill, dedication, and creativity. Their teamwork was clear: they supported one another, listened to one another, and performed with a unity that lifted every piece to a higher level. It was, without doubt, an amazing showcase—one that celebrated not only musical theatre, but the growth, talent, and spirit of our wonderful students.”

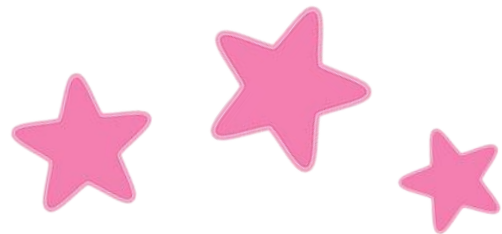


The full cast after the Wednesday dress rehearsal.

“Getting to share the experience with my friends was amazing!”



“I always have the best time being part of the cast”



“Being a part of the band was so much fun”



Creative Careers

Film

By Kitty Hutchinson

Newspaper designer Kitty sheds light on the reality of life on set, sharing behind-the-scenes secrets and essential industry tips.

In July, I had the amazing opportunity to work on the short film *He Needs To Cry Now* in Leeds, directed by Metfilm masters student Dhruv Dave. I was approached after posting some of my work in a local film WhatsApp group and was asked to work as 1st AC (First Assistant Camera) on the film. As a lifelong enthusiast, I jumped at the opportunity.

As 1st AC, my roles on set included setting up and moving the camera, changing lenses and camera accessories, pulling focus during shooting, and generally overseeing the camera and its operation. Stepping off the train in Leeds on the first day of the shoot, I was very nervous. I had made short films of my own in a low-pressure environment before but never worked on a busy set with a tight schedule. The film was to be shot over one week, spanning multiple locations including the centre of Leeds, Manchester and Kirkstall Abbey. Surprisingly, when I arrived on set the mood was very relaxed and everyone was pleased to meet me.



The camera rig I built, a Sony FX6 with a DZOFILM Lens.

After being introduced to the team, I wasted no time in setting up and getting ready to shoot. We drove to collect the camera and equipment from the rental house before I put together the rig. As 1st AC, I answered to the DOP (Director of Photography), Ellia Rhodes, who told me the lenses, angles and focus she needed for each scene.

The first day took place in a kitchen, where an elaborate spread of food was laid out on a table. The food was part of the set although we made sure to shoot the scenes with it in first so we could eat it! I was impressed by the standard of acting, some of the actors were only Uni students but nevertheless put on an amazing performance. The second day was much the same, filming in the house and garden and getting the large group scenes out of the way so the last 3 days could focus on the main characters.

CULTURE

On the third day of shooting I awoke at 5am for a 9am call time in Manchester. Working in film often requires 12+ hour days, and today was no exception. I boarded the train from Steeton to Leeds, from Leeds to Manchester and then from Manchester to Grasscroft. All this travelling was definitely tiring but the view when we arrived made it all worth it. Whilst shooting we were even approached by a group of children - who seemingly thought we were shooting a huge blockbuster for Netflix - that all asked for our autographs! Lunch was provided by Ellia's mum who had made us all a delicious summery salad to help cool us down in the 30° heat.



The view from the hill we were shooting on.

After watching the sun set over the Manchester skyline I finally started the commute back home. I got back to Steeton at 11.20 pm, having been out of the house for over 17 hours. Long days like this are not uncommon but I had the next day off, allowing me to recover from the commute. When watching the final film, I noticed that the scenes we shot on this day only made up about ten seconds of the film! It really put into perspective the amount of time put into each shot that might not even end up in the final cut.

For the final two days, we shot between the house set and Kirkstall Abbey. There was an issue with the parking at the Abbey, which unfortunately meant we had to lug countless cases of heavy kit from the car up a hill in the roasting sun. As well as my usual responsibilities I was also tasked with shooting behind-the-scenes photos and some cinematic shots for the poster. We were filming a wedding scene, which required lots of close-up shots - meaning I had to concentrate especially hard to keep the shots in focus. I had also left my wireless video transmitter at home on this day, therefore I had to put a monitor on the side of the camera and focus using this - not an easy task when the camera is being lugged around on someone's shoulder! Aside from these setbacks, the shoot went very well. The sunny weather made for quite a beautiful scene; sunlight filtered through the grand spires of the abbey, casting detailed shadows onto the actor's smart outfits. Like the previous day, these shots only made up a few seconds of the final cut, but added much needed atmosphere and most importantly were a great joy to shoot. Saying goodbye after wrapping the final scene was difficult, but came with a great sense of accomplishment - as we drove back to the station I reflected on the wonderful time I had, working on this film was not only an incredibly fun time, but also gave me invaluable experience on the way a real film set operates.

CULTURE

The strangest part of working amongst a larger team as opposed to producing everything yourself was undoubtedly the post-production process. In most cases the 1st AC and DOP will not have any input in this process; I only saw the final film a number of months after the shoot, which came as a nice surprise after almost forgetting it ever happened!

I learned so much from this project, and now feel confident enough to undertake film projects of my own. Using my experience from this film, I have booked wedding shoots, celebrity music video shoots and have been able to undertake many of my own short films.

My advice to anyone wanting to enter the creative industry is just to get your name out there! Send that email, join that group and soon enough you will find opportunities coming your way.



The end credits featuring my name at the bottom.



Some of my own film work.



Young Carers' Tree

By Kitty Hutchinson



The tree in reception is a familiar sight this time of year, but look closer and you'll find it's carrying something much more important than ornaments. This Christmas, Mrs. Jackson helped to organise the Young Carers' tree; where each label on the tree holds a wish from a young carer in our community. These students often face a Christmas defined by duty and care; this initiative allows our school community to ensure they feel cared for in return.

Staff were invited to "adopt" a label, buy the gift, and return it to the tree before the December 19th collection date. Special thanks to Mrs. Jackson for coordinating this effort.

What is a young carer?

A young carer is someone under 18 who provides regular care, practical help, or emotional support for a family member or friend with a disability, long-term illness, mental health condition, or drug/alcohol problem, taking on responsibilities like cooking, cleaning, managing medicines, or personal care.

What support is available for young carers?

A young carer's support group ran by Mrs Jackson is available for young carers in school. Your head of year or the pastoral team can also offer support. Locally, the charity carers resource can help young people, offering mentoring, trips and youth clubs.

Where are they now?

In a regular feature, former South Craven Students spill the beans on life after school.

Our Sub-Editor Iris interviews South Craven alumni Megan Mayor to find out more about apprenticeships.

Where are you now and what do you do?

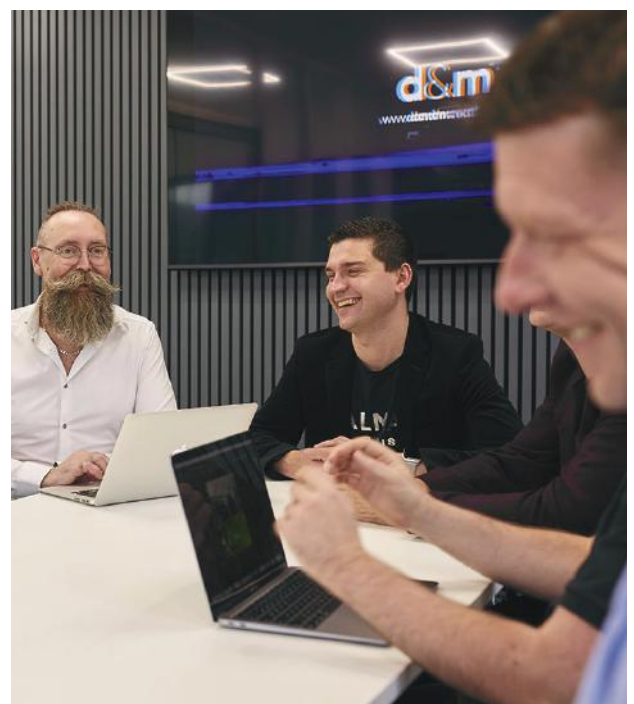
“I am currently working at D&M Creative, a marketing agency in Barrowford, while completing my degree apprenticeship in digital marketing. I go to university once a week and spend the rest of the week as part of the social team within the agency.”

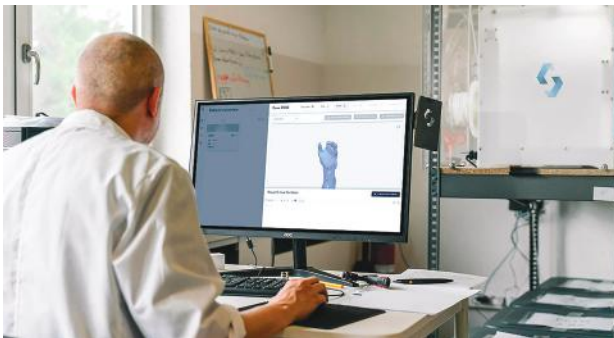
What initially interested you enough to apply for the apprenticeship?

“In Year 12, I completed work experience in the marketing team at Pendleside Hospice and immediately loved it. I then came to D&M for a meeting to get some advice about the industry, and from that first meeting I was extremely lucky to be offered a position with them. I did look into university options, however when speaking with industry professionals they advised that the apprenticeship route would allow me to learn on the job and gain real-life skills.”

What are your favourite and least favourite things about an apprenticeship?

“My favourite thing about the apprenticeship is the people I work with, as they are so supportive and I learn so much from their experience and the conversations I have with them. I also love the vast





What is an apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a real job that combines on-the-job training with formal study, allowing you to earn a wage while gaining skills and a recognized qualification for a specific career, blending practical work (around 80%) with off-the-job learning (around 20%).

array of knowledge and skills available for me to learn. However, one area I sometimes struggle with is the workload from my university assignments. As it is an apprenticeship, you are expected to complete all assignments in your spare time, so it is important to stay ahead as the work can pile up.”

What advice would you give to students considering the apprenticeship route?

“I would absolutely encourage students who are thinking about an apprenticeship to go for it. It is a great opportunity to develop your education as well as fully immerse yourself in the industry. You learn so much through day-to-day activities that you may not experience in school. I would also say that it is important to try to get as much experience as possible within the industry you are interested in, as it opens the door to many more opportunities.”

LOCAL APPRENTICESHIPS

CALVERT CONSTRUCTION LTD

Site Supervisor Apprentice

Location: Skipton

Salary: £15,704-£25,396

WATSONS BUILDING SERVICES LTD

Business Admin Apprenticeship

Location: Keighley

Salary: £15,300

WISE ORIGIN

IT Technician Apprentice

Location: Shipley

Salary: £15,000

Madame Rai

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



England when I was in my early 20s, with my Master's in English Literature and a job as a language assistant at the University of Sheffield I had secured through my University in France. After my contract was finished, I had to build a career for myself in a new country, a new system I didn't really know and understand and no support around me. I put myself through a teacher training course and taught in a grammar school in Kent, but I knew I wanted to come back to Yorkshire. There was a temporary position opened at South Craven, I applied and got the job and the rest is history. South Craven has allowed me to build the stability and the life I have here in the UK."

What do you do outside of school?

"As a little girl, I did gymnastics (I am blaming my stunted growth for that) but I always wanted to try ice skating. My parents thought it was too dangerous so I put it to one side, until one day in my 30s I drove into Bradford and saw the big sign ICE SKATING on the top of a massive building. I asked my friends if they wanted to come with me but they all made excuses. So I took my little legs and got myself there in December 2021. The moment I stepped on the ice, I knew it was for me, so I enquired about lessons. I started group lessons in January 2022, progressed quite fast through the levels and was asked to join the Bradford Ice Skating Synchronised skating team a year later. I competed a season with them, even taking part in the British Championship. It was an incredible experience."

What is the best thing about your job?

"I love the learning environment here at South Craven. The students and the staff are all amazing. It is so different from the school I went to in France, but I love it and this is why my son is here. As a French citizen, teaching French is more than a job. It is almost a mission and I am absolutely passionate about sharing not only my language but also my culture and experiences; to make my subject alive and tangible."

What is the most challenging thing about your job?

"The most challenging thing is the amount of work and dedication the job requires. All the behind the scenes that students don't always see."

What is your greatest achievement outside of school?

"My greatest achievement is everything about the life I have built for myself and my children really. I arrived in

Do you still do it now?

"I have stopped synchronised skating to focus on Ice Dance now. I am currently training for the British Adult Championship as a solo ice dancer and I have just started shadow training (a bit like Pairs) with one of the lovely friends I made at the rink. I train on Wednesdays, on average for 5 hours, Sunday mornings for 1 hour and sometimes Saturday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday evenings if I have the time. The rink is my happy place. The moment my blades touch the ice, my mind quiets and nothing else than the ice seems to exist. This is what I love about it."