

APRIL 2019

Welcome to the second edition of our 2018/19 newsletter. It's been another great term at JSCHS where our pupils have continued to embrace all the opportunities that are made available for them. This newsletter gives you a flavour of what has been on offer.

It is now the critical point for our Year 11 pupils as they enter the final stages of preparation for their exams; it is always a daunting time, but we will all provide them with the support they need to succeed. We wish them the very best.

I hope that you enjoy reading about all that we've been up to over the past 15 weeks!

Jonathan Heath, Headteacher



## WANDERING THEIR WAY TO SUCCESS!

Over the last half term the Wanderers Sports Group have been busy competing in various sports against other schools in Tyne and Wear and the neighbouring counties. As always the aim was about participation, increasing their physical fitness and developing their communication skills. As a group they have participated competitively in a variety of events including basketball, tennis and football. Equipped in their new Wanderers sports strip, the pupils' behaviour and sportsmanship has been exceptional throughout every event. Some of our pupils have gone from never having competed to now competing regularly in front of large crowds.

There have been many success stories this term with the highlight being crowned as gold medallists in the tennis competition. However, this is not in isolation, with the pupils regularly returning to school with a raft of medals around their necks and huge smiles to match.

Competitors continue to go from strength to strength and have been commended by staff from other schools and also organisers for their hard work, endeavour and resilience. Congratulations to all those involved and well done for being great ambassadors for John Spence High School.



## FUTURES MONTH AT JSCHS!

January was Futures month here at John Spence, with pupils from each year group taking part in Career related activities. Futures Month allows pupils to explore career possibilities, take part in employer encounters and learn about life after school. Whether that is through an apprenticeship or University degree course, there is something for everyone.

All John Spence Teaching Staff displayed previous job roles on their classroom doors.



## Year 7

As part of the form time program, and fit for life lessons, Year 7 pupils have been exploring the skills and attributes they possess that will make them successful in life.

Pupils completed the **icould** buzz quiz to find out their personality type and analysed the skills required for a successful employee. Each form class was set the challenge of displaying what they might look like doing their dream job. The winner of this was Maisie Wells.

Each year group were involved in an enrichment day as part of this program. Year 7 spent the morning on a carousel system meeting different employees from the company Kier. Each employee gave a twenty minute workshop outlining their job role, what their day to day duties are, and what skills and attributes they require to do that job. The pupils then spent an hour working in teams to produce a scale model for an insect house. The winning team will now get the chance to build the full scale version at one of our local primary schools.



## Year 8

The Year 8 program explored the world of work, types of jobs and job locations. Pupils explored gender stereotypes, working hours and what it means to be self employed. Each form class worked in pairs to create a business idea which could make money. There were some excellent ideas and I am sure the next Alan Sugar is in there somewhere!

Year 8 also took part in an enterprise workshop with a similar theme, this time exploring product possibilities. Pupils had to create a product, work out the cost of making it, and how much profit they could make. Again, some brilliant ideas! Here are the winning team.



Year 9 focused on options which coincided with their GCSE option choices. They experienced lessons from each subject outlining the careers options they could pursue in relation to that subject, as well as reflecting on their skill set and which lessons they enjoyed.

The Year 9 enrichment day focused on further and higher education with two workshops provided to the year group on University life and University finance. The afternoon was spent at TyneMet College exploring A Level and Vocational routes.

## Year 9

## Year 10

Year 10 completed work around preparing them for their next steps. This included practice CV's and application forms. They discussed the importance of grammar, spelling and presentation, and created personalised CV's.

Their enrichment day consisted of a carousel of Kier employees discussing company structures, pay, promotions and applications. In the afternoon, pupils were set the challenge of creating an exciting way to encourage young people into the construction and engineering industry. Each form group identified a winning team, and each winning team presented their idea to the entire year group - very brave! The ideas were so impressive that two groups came out as winners.



## Year 11

The Year 11 program was targeted at next steps and whether their current performance would give them the opportunities they wanted.

To give the pupils a taste of what is to come in August of this year, we arranged a further education careers event.

Once pupils received their mock results, they were able to talk to a huge variety of local colleges and universities (including Northumbria University, Kirkley Hall and Newcastle Sixth Form) about post 16 options.

Post 16



## UPCOMING EVENTS

We have a huge variety of activities throughout the year at John Spence and here are a few that are coming next term:

### Medical Mavericks

A workshop showcasing jobs in the medical industry which includes an opportunity to take imitation blood, try out key hole surgery and scan retinas!

### University myth busting event

Dispelling some of the common misconceptions about University.

### Apprenticeship workshops

Pupils will be given the opportunity to explore the apprenticeships website and will be taught how to navigate it and apply.



# REWARDS

After an extremely successful start at John Spence our new rewards system continues to go from strength to strength. More pupils than ever are going 'above and beyond' in lessons and are being rewarded with our considerate, skilled and / or resilient reward tickets. We conducted another prize draw just before February half-term and were amazed by the 852 individual tickets which had been entered. Also this number doesn't take into account the vast number of tickets pupils have been awarded and had chosen to use in our prize store with 42 individual prizes being handed out last half-term ranging from a stationary set to wireless earbud headphones.



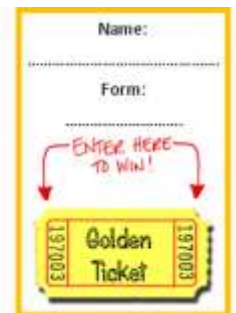
One student who benefitted from our rewards last half-term was Year 7 student Daniel Smee who won the top prize (£40 Amazon voucher, Google home mini or 2 NUFC tickets) in our Year 7 draw. Being a huge Newcastle United fan Daniel decided to go for the tickets and we hope Daniel and his Dad enjoy another Newcastle home win on 6th April against Crystal Palace!

As part of the rewards system the last week of each half-term is a special themed week building on our 'Fit for Life' school ethos. Coinciding with a very successful 'Futures Month' in school, throughout February our theme for the week was EMPLOYABILITY. During employability week all staff were provided with 1 special golden ticket per lesson which they could hand out to any student who they felt was the most employable and could demonstrate skills such as problem solving, teamwork, determination, commitment etc.



If a student earned an employability ticket and placed it in their year group reward box (next to reception) they had a chance to win our golden ticket draw. Our lucky winner for the week, drawn by our Head Teacher, who won an amazing prize of an £80 Amazon voucher, was Amelia Beare. Well done Amelia!

This half-term our main 'Considerate, Skilled and Resilient' prize draws will be carried out on Thursday 4th April for Year 11 and Friday 5th April for Years 7, 8, 9 & 10. It is therefore vital all pupils have placed their tickets in the boxes by those dates if they want to be rewarded for their efforts. We also have another special themed week starting on Monday 1st April called 'Courtesy Week'.



Once again all staff will provide 1 special golden ticket per lesson which they can hand out to any student who they feel has, for example, shown respect for others, demonstrated kindness, been honest etc. Pupils can also show courtesy around school and be rewarded out of lessons such as at break time, lunch time or after-school. Our special 'Courtesy Week' draw will take place on Friday 5th April with another amazing prize of an £80 Amazon Voucher. What a great way to end the half-term and for one lucky winner a fantastic start to their Easter break. Good luck to all pupils.

If you have any questions regarding our new rewards system please don't hesitate to get in contact with Mr Redpath (Assistant Headteacher) at school.

# WORKING WITH OUR PRIMARY PARTNERS

## JOHN SPENCE CHALLENGE DAY!



60 children from our 5 feeder primary schools have been selected to represent their school at the new John Spence Challenge Day.

Each school was asked to select 12 pupils with the aim of creating a team which is resilient and has strong communication, team work and problem solving skills. Each team will compete to be crowned the John Spence Challenge Day champions on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April!

The event will involve the children having to work together on a number of problem solving activities throughout the day, the event will be taking place at the new Spanish City in Whitley Bay.

In order to prepare the children for the event, Mr Patterson and Ms Howard have been attending each of the primary schools and presenting the children with a 'Challenge set' event. This pre-event challenge has been designed to give the children a glimpse into the kind of tasks they will have to perform on the day itself!



**John Spence**  
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

## SPORT

### CONGRATULATIONS GEORGINA!



Congratulations to Georgina Spraggon, who has been picked for the England Under 15 Schoolgirl squad for the 2018-19 season. Here are a few words from Georgina about her experience so far!

“A great experience going on a 5-day trip to Eindhoven, Holland with the England Schoolgirls. The first game against RVV JEKA U15 ended with a 5-0 win, probably the highlight of the trip was being among one of the five girls who scored. A recovery morning followed our great first game as a team, to then have a training session later that evening. As the week progressed we went on a tour of the Philips Stadium, home to PSV Eindhoven. In preparation for our second game, we watched the female PSV ladies train, also having the opportunity to train at the PSV Eindhoven academy. The second game against PSV Eindhoven girls left us winning 8-0, to finish a great week I managed to score my penalty against this side”.

### SEMI-FINAL SUCCESS FOR JSCHS



(Back Row L to R—Marc Burnip (coach), Ryan Steen, Louis Spraggon, Leon Kilbane, Olly Marshall, Michael Spellman, Kai Lane, Adam Watson, Liam Anderson and Geoffrey Hearn. Front Row L to R—Thomas Taylor, Thomas Walker, Ben Carr, Ryan Higginson, Connor Sherriff, Louis Watts and Ollie Emmerson)

John Spence CHS are through to the semi-final of the national ESFA cup following a 2-1 victory against Audenshaw, Tameside in the quarter-final. Two goals from Michael Spellman secured victory for John Spence and a place in the last 4, the first time a John Spence team has ever reached this far in the competition. The game was a feisty affair with both teams attempting to gain the upper hand on the other. John Spence took the lead following a slick piece of one touch football and accurate passing, which led to Spellman going through on goal and calmly slotting the ball into the bottom corner. Audenshaw equalised in the second half, but Spellman was on hand again to secure the victory with a fantastic curling effort around the keeper into the top corner of the goal.

## SPORT

### NORTH SHIELDS DANCE FESTIVAL 2019



We see the time of year again where two dedicated groups of pupils rehearse all year long for their performance at the North Shields Dance Festival. The Academy dancers and Monday dance troop rehearse week in week out with their dance teacher Sofi Condliffe. With the theme of the festival being 'Screen and Movies' they chose two very moving and emotional pieces. The first dance was choreographed based on the story of the 'The Railway Children' where three children living in London, from a caring family and comfortable home, see their lives turned upside down when their father is taken away. The pupils used the loss of a loved one and the tracks of the railway as a stimulus for this piece; it was exquisite and moving to watch.

The second of the dances, performed by the Academy group was a very unique and stunningly performed piece. The focus of this choreography was a fusion of ideas from 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' and the influence of social media in modern day. Pupils portrayed the idea of breaking the mould and expressed themselves to show that everyone is an individual in their own right. The pupils were a credit to the school and staff alike, the dances were absolutely outstanding!

### U12 NORTH TYNESIDE NETBALL WINNERS!

After a busy season of friendly Netball matches held here at John Spence on alternative Mondays, the girls went on and competed in the U12 North Tyneside Competition and came out as the winners!

They didn't have a clean sheet of matches, however after some guidance they entered the semi finals with a better frame of mind and beat their opponents 1-0, to then go on and win the final with a brilliant 3-0 win.

These girls practice every Monday lunch time and have shown excellent commitment to the team and consequently the school since they have started John Spence in September 2018. Player of the match included Paton Smith and then Gracie Lowden in the final.

(Top row L-R—Lucy Longstaff, Rebecca Leitch, Gracie Lowden, Paton Smith.  
Bottom Row L-R—Jessica Clements, Evie Foggarty, Kenzie Norton)





# SPORT

## TALENTED ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME (TASS)

During my time at John Spence I have been involved in many different sporting activities and clubs such as Netball, Badminton & Rounders. Prior to moving up to Year 10, I participated in the Badminton Academy and was awarded 'Sports Personality of the Year'.

Due to my school sporting achievements I have been fortunate to be involved with the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS). The North Tyneside Talented Athlete Academy has been developed to educate & support young talented sports people to achieve their full potential. The initiative is run by Hannah Marshall (Sports Development Officer from TyneMet College) & involves 25 pupils from schools across Tyne and Wear. So far we have attended out of school workshops based on Strength and Conditioning followed by Health and Nutrition, where we have learned the importance of exercise and diet when preparing for sport. The workshops have been interesting & exciting as they have expanded our knowledge around sport & also presented us with great opportunities. With more sessions to come in relation to Psychology & Fitness Screening. I'm looking forward to gaining more knowledge.

Megan Greef 10MMg



## TYNE & WEAR COACHING ACADEMY 2019



As the lead school for Leadership, Coaching and Volunteering, the YST asked Mr Pilkington to get 25 potential leaders from different schools around Tyne & Wear.

The academy was delivered as a residential trip to Dukeshouse Wood Activity Centre in Hexham. The trip allowed us to make new friends and grow in confidence. We had 4 lectures throughout the weekend about how we, as young leaders, could help the least active in our school.

We also had outdoor activities to complete. The activities were designed to develop teamwork & communication skills and most of all have fun. Some of the activities included Laser Battle & Jacobs Ladder.

After the brilliant weekend away we came back to school and got started immediately, we targeted around 25 girls from each year group that we all thought would benefit from the opportunities that we could arrange and got them together to hear their ideas about what they would like to do. We are currently running a club on Wednesday lunchtime where the activity changes each week and the girls come along and have fun whilst being active.

3 girls were selected to go to Loughborough together to a Girls Active Conference, taking place 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> of April. Through this we hope to enhance our knowledge of coaching & be able to get more girls involved in school sport.

Aimee Bull 10NBE



## TRIPS

### DYNAMIC EARTH



Dynamic Earth (Thursday 7th February 2019) - By Ed Robinson Year 9

We went to Dynamic Earth up in Edinburgh, Scotland. We arrived at school around 7.30am and left at 7.45am. The bus arrived at Dynamic Earth at 10 o'clock and we split off into two groups. The group I was in went into a lift with the premise of time travel and learnt about how the earth was created. As soon as we left the lift, we entered an earthquake room where we experienced a simulation of an earthquake. After a few minutes we went into an ice room. The room was cold and the ice was surprisingly realistic. Upon exit, we entered a room where there was an animated character that we could ask questions to. Then we had a 4D ride throughout the world's many biomes such as tundra's and deciduous woodlands. We then learnt about rainforests and the many animals that live there. We then stopped for lunch at the canteen. After, we went into a workshop room where we did an activity about super volcanoes. We arrived back at John Spence for 5pm. If I had to give any last words on the trip, I would say that it is a definite recommendation for anyone thinking about going to Dynamic Earth and it is a great visit.

### 'FRESH, FLEET, BLADE-SHARP!'



Last half term, Years 9, 10 and 11 were provided with a fantastic opportunity to experience the greatest love story ever told live on stage: the RSC's new production of 'Romeo and Juliet'. A modern take on events, the well-known tale of woe was brought to life with role reversals and a rock band – not your average portrayal of the Bard's lovesick teenagers! The production was a breath of fresh air and took the pupils on an emotional rollercoaster, allowing them to personally experience the humour, passion and grief of their GCSE studied text.

# ROMEO & Juliet

# TRIPS

## DELL TRANSFORMATION DAY



Durham University - Dell Transformation Day (Jackson Asiamah and Nathan Ray)

Earlier this month, Year 7 & 8 pupils had the chance to go to Durham University to the Powering Transformation project sponsored by Dell computers. These pupils were escorted to the university via bus and welcomed by Durham University students who had volunteered their time to help us get an insight into life at university. While in the convention, the pupils were put into mixed groups to design a new piece of technology that would make a difference to life or the world. After the lecture the whole group were given a tour of the university which is spread across Durham city. The pupils presented their work and were very thankful for the opportunity given by Dell and the University of Durham.

## THIS IS CREATIVE ENTERPRISE



Year 9 TICE pupils completed a one-day workshop in school and designed their own brand and logo.

The selected pupils who got through to the second stage had the fantastic opportunity to work with Apple. They did a 'behind the scenes' tour, and spoke with creative entrepreneurs and business professionals. They then looked into further and higher educational courses and looked at key skills the graphics industry is looking for.



## LOCAL COLLABORATIONS

### LEGO IN THE DOME



#### The Lego models make it into The Dome!

We were contacted by Spanish City, who asked if our pupils would be able to recreate rides from the original Spanish City in Lego. Spanish City provided the Lego and our pupils got the opportunity to let their creativity flow! The hard work of Nadine Harper and Joshua Bullock is finally on display in The Dome. Their work is located at the top of the stairs and is contained in specially made cases.



## SOUTHLANDS SCHOOL

#### Year 9 collaboration project

This month, a small group of Year 9 Pupils from both John Spence and Southlands have had an opportunity to visit each other's schools to get an experience of a different learning environment and have had the opportunity to make new friends!

Recently, Southlands pupils and their accompanying TA's were taken on a tour of our school by James Aisbitt, Abbie Rafferty, Andrew Cox and Ellie Snowdon. Our guests enjoyed a taster of our delicious school menu from the canteen and participated in a social collaboration task in the Student Support Centre.

The continued aim of this collaboration project, is to build links and forge a stronger partnership with both schools.



# ALTERNATIVE BOOK COVER COMPETITION



This half term saw the pupils of John Spence taking part in the second of our library competitions. Their task: to produce an alternative book cover for a previously published title or a story of their own creation. A challenge designed to test the pupils' abilities at visually expressing the ideas within a text.

Once again, the pupils responded with enthusiasm and a large number of high quality entries soon began pouring in, giving the judges a very hard time in picking out the best. By the end of the competition, a wide variety of interesting and creative ideas had been submitted, showcasing the excellent range of individuality of those studying here at John Spence.

The decision making process for picking out the best entry was extremely difficult, but one that the judges thoroughly enjoyed as they worked their way through the wide variety of submissions. At last, however, the final decisions were made and it was decided that Caitlin Marsh had earned first place, with Morgan Aston claiming second and Fabio Moreira taking third. Lucie Spencer, Noah Myers and Alina Cottingham were all commended as runners up.

Overall there was an excellent effort all round and as the Easter term draws nearer to its close it has been a privilege and a pleasure to see our pupils express themselves in such creative ways. A big well done to all those who took part, you should all be very proud of your work. If you didn't win this time, stay tuned for the next library challenge, where there will be another chance to win some of the prizes on offer!



## CLUBS



In science we run a

STEM club after school on Thursdays. In this club we look at several different aspects of STEM, but mainly focus on science & technology. In sessions this year we have investigated ways of moving objects and the pupils built bridges out of paper and created marble runs spanning the whole classroom. It was quite an effort! In other sessions we looked deeper into animal anatomy and completed dissections of different animal parts. We have looked at water purification and how different methods work, as well as investigating the claims of food companies over the packaging weight and contents. There were some very interesting discoveries that day!

One of the most talked about session involved the pupils making rockets out of household chemicals and film canisters. They thoroughly enjoyed that session, although Mr Black was not so happy cleaning up the "rocket fuel" afterwards! The sessions will run to the end of this term, and the final sessions will include electric shocks, fruit batteries and some surprises too! Unfortunately STEM club will take a short break after Easter in order for staff to support our Y11 pupils through their GCSEs, but we look forward to starting sessions back up again from the end of the summer term, with a possible science related trip. Well done STEM club!



Monday 19th November saw the start of the 10 week after school cookery club. 10 pupils across years 7 - 9 took part in the planning, preparation and cooking of their choice of soup; leek and potato or carrot and coriander. 10 sessions later, pupils have successfully prepared, cooked and – the best bit - sampled an array of recipes including starters of samosas and spring rolls, mains of stew and curry, and desserts of Viennese fingers and muffins.

All pupils have showed great enthusiasm and have all been able to produce delicious meals to take home and share with family and friends. Mrs Mason, Mrs Johnson and Miss Hoe have been there in every session to assist in the club, alongside Georgina Hunter (year 10) who has kindly lent a helping hand. The pupils have worked excellently and showed resilience, skill and consideration for each other, demonstrating great promise of building friendships and valuable life skills. We now look forward to our final feast, where pupils will put their skills to the test and prepare 10 different dishes to share with staff and family in an invitation-only celebration in a few weeks' time. We cannot wait to showcase our journey with others, and maybe teach them a thing or two using our new-found skills.





This year for Red  
Nose Day we raised  
a fantastic...



£654.60!!

Thank you to all of the pupils and staff who took part in a  
non-uniform day and contributed their £1 to such a  
worthwhile cause!



# SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI

## SEAN LONGSTAFF



Sean Longstaff, an ex-pupil of John Spence has recently secured a place in Newcastle United's first team! Sean made his debut for Newcastle in December, coming on as a second-half substitute against Liverpool at Anfield. He is now being described as a rising star at



St James' Park; which is perhaps no surprise given that his talent for football was evident even as a youngster at John Spence. Mr Pilkington, Director of Sport at John Spence said, "I've known Sean since he was about six years old and you could tell he was something special then, he had the drive and determination to succeed. He stood out from a very early age, was streets ahead in terms of his manners and resilience, and had loads of technical ability. He could turn his hand to anything you threw at him - cricket, badminton, table tennis. He was a natural sportsman and an all-rounder." We can't wait to see what Sean will accomplish in the future and wish him every success!

## 34 DESIGN COMPANY

Congratulations to Jamie Gibson a former John Spence pupil who has just opened his own kitchen design company!

Jamie received a lot of support from the inclusion team throughout his 5 years at John Spence. After leaving John Spence, Jamie went into the kitchen fitting trade and after a few years has decided to attempt self-employment. His studio is very impressive; designed and fitted by himself.

Mr Grazer, who attended the opening of Jamie's studio said, "It was amazing to see Jamie, who was always quite reserved and lacked a great deal of confidence in his earlier years, dealing with potential clients".

Jamie's studio is based in Backworth and his company is called '34 Design'. Mr Grazer also said, "It was a pleasant afternoon and Jamie spoke very highly of his time at John Spence and in particular the support staff who guided him through his time at school".



## IN MEMORIAM

It is with great sadness that we share the news of John Atkinson's death.

John retired in 2017 following fourteen years service to John Spence.

John had a huge impact on both those he worked with and those he taught.

He will be greatly missed.

