

JULY 2019

Yet again our students have excelled themselves in engaging with the opportunities available to them at school and it has been great to celebrate the many successes this year with you all. Our recent Celebration of Success recognised the achievements of those students who put in the effort and commitment every day showing their resilience and determination to be their very best. Our Sport College Presentation Evening was again incredibly well attended and recognised the achievements of not only those that excel in sport, but also those that actively participate. And finally, our Year 11 Prom at Percy Park was a hugely enjoyable occasion where the students threw themselves into Mrs Blair's party games!

As ever, our newsletter just gives a flavour of what we have got up to this term and I hope that you enjoy reading about it all. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as Head at John Spence and I feel truly privileged to work with such amazing staff and group of students.

Jonathan Heath
Headteacher



GRAFITTI WORKSHOPS

Eight students have had the exciting opportunity to work with North East graffiti artist John Craggs, to produce a large scale mural to brighten up the corridors of the new school building. The artwork was designed in conjunction with both the Maths and Art Departments, with students selected to take part based on their excellence in Maths and their talent in Art. Jessica Hornby and Gracie Lowden in Year 7, Anthony Greggs and Jessica Young in Year 8, Chloe Armstrong and Daniel Lamb in Year 9 and Caleb Johnson and Freddie Ornsby in Year 10 have taken part in several workshops over a period of weeks to develop their skills in spraying, painting and stencilling. Two afternoon sessions enabled the students to begin designing and painting before the final piece was created over a period of two full days. All of the students thoroughly enjoyed their time working with spray paint - a material that requires a steady hand, confidence and practise to master. As well as the artistic skills developed throughout the project, it is hoped that the mathematical content of the work will support and inspire all future mathematicians in school.

"We wanted the mural to match the school's brand in its colour scheme and for the design to focus on key mathematical formulae. We picked some of the world's most famous and useful formulae that are also pivotal and most commonly used by students during Key Stages 3 and 4. The hope is that, whether it be consciously or subconsciously, seeing the formulae daily in a fun and exciting format like graffiti will help students to memorise them."

Chris Malkin
(Maths Curriculum Leader)



Year 7

Year 7 have made such a good and positive impression since starting John Spence. Collectively the students have relished in the varying extra-curricular activities offered within school and embraced the 'Resilient, Considerate and Skilled' school ethos.

From the commitment to academy, drama performances and lunch time library, I really believe there is something for everyone to enjoy in school. Students have completed a multitude of events throughout the year but we even had time to fit in a LEPR workout where over £400 was raised for the charity. Massive well done to Alfie Slone for his amazing, independent fundraising for this cause. A huge success was the football team winning their cup final; well done to all players involved including Lewis Wenn who captained the team to victory. Both boys received nominations for the NTLT Star Awards.

Attendance is such an important and integral part of school and I am thrilled that Year 7 have continuously been one of the best attending year groups. A huge congratulations needs to be given to those students who have achieved 100% throughout the year. I hope you all enjoyed your prize afternoon!

I can't believe a year has passed by already and I am so proud of the accomplishments achieved. Transitioning from primary to secondary is not easy for everyone and there have inevitably been bumps along the way. I can't wait to see every individual flourish further into Year 8 and beyond.

I wish you all a well deserved and relaxing summer. See you in September!

Year 8

It has been quite a busy term for the Year 8's with lots of extra opportunities and visits. The whole year group recently spent the day in the local area on a geography field trip where students looked into the possibility of a 'Road Race' being held in the North Shields area and the impact this would have on the environment, local businesses and the public. Students worked in Cullercoats and Tynemouth and observed traffic patterns, the number of people using the public highways and footpaths, and asked pedestrians questions.

A number of Year 8 students have helped during the recent Year 6 transition days; guiding and supporting the younger students who will be joining us in September during the activities across all subjects. The students were a credit to their group and school, with Year 6 students thankful for their help during the days.

At the recent Sports College Presentation evening, Year 8 students received a number of awards and were an integral part of the evening's dance and cheer-leading performances. Students who received the top awards were:

- Male Sports Personality - Callum Marsh
- Female Sports Personality - Rhianna Chambers
- Male Most Improved in PE - Rhys Somerville
- Female Most Improved in PE - Emma Lilburn

Have a great summer holidays Year 8; be safe, be helpful and be considerate.

Year 9

The major effort this year has been to prepare and guide the Year 9 students through the Options process. Much of the autumn term was used to prepare students for these important choices and this work meant that the whole process was able to run smoothly.

As well as the hard work going on in lessons, Year 9 students have contributed to a wide range of activities outside of the classroom. Sporting achievements feature heavily in the wider successes of the year group with students taking part in activities ranging from North Tyneside & Northumberland athletics; the 'Future Me' scheme ran by the Newcastle Foundation; Sport's Leaders opportunities; 'Bikeability' road safety awards; School Games (golf); rounders and cricket tournaments; 'The Wanderers' inter-school events and, more recently, the 'GOALS' initiative that has seen students build up links with our local residential care homes where they have had the chance to socialise with the elderly residents – a fantastic experience for both groups!

Away from the sports field Year 9 students have been heavily involved in two TICE competitions. One focusing on Graphic design tasks and one focusing on music. Skills developed here have helped the drama and music department put on 2 hugely successful shows with Year 9 students taking leading roles both on the stage and behind the scenes.

Two Year 9 girls won the North Tyneside Anti Bullying writing competition and were able to read their powerful stories to a packed audience at the awards ceremony and all of the year group have just had the opportunity to begin uploading their successes to the new 'Global Bridge' online careers platform.

Year 10

Year 10 have hit the ground running this year, starting their GCSEs in September and now being half way through their two year courses: where has the time gone?

The students have engaged well with their core and chosen options subjects, with some completing and meeting coursework deadlines, whilst others have actually sat some of their real GCSE exams already. A huge amount of hard work and dedication has been seen by all.

Recently, the whole of Year 10 have sat their first round of GCSE mock exams, giving them invaluable experience of how the exams work and the demands of their different subjects before Year 11 begins. Again, staff have commented on the commitment by the students to these mock exams and the effort that many made.

Year 10 have also had many opportunities this year to partake in various careers events, preparing the students now for leaving John Spence next year. Students have had multiple opportunities including taster sessions and days at colleges and universities, as well as in house events. All of the year group attended a taster day at either Queen Alexandra 6th Form College or Tynemet, to promote further education routes and the opportunities available to students in the local area once they leave John Spence next year. Some of our students were given the opportunity to attend a residential experience at Cambridge University, an invaluable opportunity, inspiring high aspirations for the future.

To end the year on a high, Year 10 now have their final round of summer celebrations: the Challenge Walk, Zone Day, Celebration of Success and Sports College Presentation Evening, amongst many other things. A brilliant end to another fantastic year to celebrate the achievement of Year 10, well done!

After five years, Year 11 have finally flown the nest. It has been an incredibly hard and challenging year; however, the students have shown a great deal of resilience and determination to succeed and leave John Spence feeling accomplished and proud of all of their achievements.

The year has been a rollercoaster ride with deadlines and exams galore. The students started the year by sitting various rounds of mock exams, preparing them for their real exams in the summer that crept up very quickly. Before we knew it, the students were well into their real GCSE exams and staff were blown away by the students mature and conscientious attitudes towards their studies. Many students left feeling they couldn't have done anymore.

During these exams, Year 11 had their final day at John Spence. This saw many students and staff holding back the tears as five glorious years finally came to an end. The leaver's assembly was a real tear jerker and the students celebrated their achievements from Year 7 to Year 11, leaving John Spence on a real high. One of the success' that was mentioned was of course the incredible achievements of the Year 11 boy's football team, winning the Premier League U16 Cup.

This wasn't the last time we saw the year group though, as the glitz and glam of North Shields gathered on Thursday 27th June to celebrate at the Year 11 prom. The theme of night was Old Hollywood and we even held our own Oscars ceremony! Our Prom King and Queen award went deservedly to Darwin Kidd and Abbie Wenn.

We will of course see Year 11 once more on results day, where we are expecting great things from what has been another incredible year group. Well done Year 11!

Please don't forget to join our alumni programme—<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/signup/johnspence>

MOUTH OF THE TYNE FESTIVAL

PRESS ACCESS FOR ALFIE!

I have been interested in pursuing a career in photography for some time and recently photographed the school prom and the sports presentation evening. I wanted to build my portfolio and was looking at other opportunities.

Originally, I wondered if I would be able to go to the Sam Fender concert at the Mouth of the Tyne festival to take some photos, but all tickets were sold out. I approached my form teacher, Mrs Mableson, to see if there was any way I could take photos in a professional manner. We contacted the organisers and they quickly said I could take

photos from the press box alongside the professional photographers as long as I used them for my portfolio and in school.

I had to collect my press pass from the box office and was allowed through security into the press area just before Sam Fender came on stage.

I was allowed to photograph his first three songs and took about 400 photos during this time. I was able to shadow the other photographers and pick up tips from them. The organisers said I could stay and enjoy the rest of the show.

I am really happy that I got the chance to do this, now I can use the photographs I took to get more photography work experience opportunities in the future. I would like to thank the Mouth of the Tyne organisers for giving me this opportunity, and to school for being so supportive.



Alfie Orton 10JMA

CAREERS

MEDICAL MAVERICKS



The Medical mavericks came into school to showcase different careers in healthcare. Several groups of student across both Key Stages attended the event, which ran in 5 sessions throughout the day. The 2 ambassadors from the Medical Mavericks were highly knowledgeable and engaged all the students throughout with their use of humour and the activities the students had to complete were fantastic.

In the sessions the students could learn how to take blood from a realistic looking arm; measure their growth plates in their arms to see how much growing they still had to do; perform keyhole surgery in two different challenges; measure all their vital signs; see what their skin looked like in super

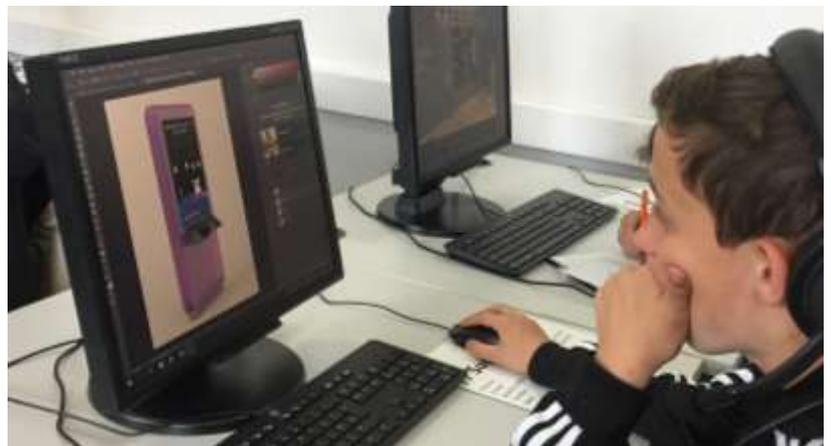
high resolution on a state of the art microscope; and also see how different diseases affected eyesight.

The students really enjoyed their time with the Mavericks and more students asked about an opportunity to join in next year! The sessions opened the eyes of some to the possibilities and varieties of jobs available in medicine.



THIS IS CREATIVE ENTERPRISE

'TICE Create Stage is well underway! Year 9 students have spent three days at Northumbria University working on the 'Create' stage of This is Creative Enterprise. The students have been given live briefs from large digital and packaging design firms to work on, and with the help of Mark Patterson, Senior Graphic Designer for Tommy Tippee, have produced some outstanding creative responses. The work will be on display at the final show next week which is held at Newcastle University and includes an industry hour, where employers from the creative and digital sector will discuss the student's work with them. The work produced will then be on display at John Spence until Christmas.



SPORT

YEAR 7 FOOTBALL

The Year 7 football team at John Spence rounded off a fantastic first season by winning the TSSSA cup final 3-1 against St Roberts of Washington. It was decided that the same team who conquered VGMS in the semi final would be selected.

The deadlock was broken after ten minutes with some neat play down the right involving Jack Greggs and Jake Quinn: the latter netting a beautiful shot high into the opposing net. The game then swung in terms of momentum with St Roberts coming back into the game and piling on pressure with some intricate passing and tidy movement. John Spence managed to get to the break with a 1-0 lead; the lads were enjoying positive encouragement from the crowd.



The second half kicked off and a free kick was given just outside of the JSWS box and an equaliser was blasted in off the post by the St Roberts number 9. It was 1-1. A change was introduced as Ethan Hornby entered the arena to try and initiate resurgence from the men in white. The wingers for John Spence also switched flanks; this brought some joy down the right from great direct play by Ethan Dodd's. Dodd's was rewarded for his efforts ten minutes from time when he stabbed a nice shot from inside the box home to put JSWS back ahead again.

With minimal time left, two further substitutions were made as the game was very tight. Ethan Dodd's was presented with a glorious opportunity following the move of the match. Danny Heslop laid Dodd's off for the energetic winger to smash the ball home and ease the pressure, making the score 3-1.

As the final whistle was blown, the fans, the manager and, of course, the players were equally proud. It was a great achievement and the silverware rounded off a brilliant first season together.

COUNTY ATHLETICS SUCCESS



This summer term has seen over 30 students represent North Tyneside at the Northumberland County Athletics Competition- a brilliant achievement and the most students we have had representing North Tyneside for athletics in 5 years.

The year 9 & 10 competition took place on 8th June at Wentworth Track, Hexham. The weather conditions were abysmal but this didn't faze the 16 qualifiers. All students performed brilliantly and were an absolute credit to the school. Special mentions go to Joanna Irving who won the junior Girls 200 metres & finished 2nd in the 100 metres. Katelyn Turnbull finished 2nd in the junior girls shot put with Katelyn Pinkney in 3rd place. Jack Robertshaw finished in 2nd place in the inter boys high jump and Henry Fieldson finished 3rd in the junior boys triple jump.

Saturday 20th June, saw the turn for year 7 & 8 students competing at the Gateshead International Athletics Stadium. Again so many successful students qualifying from the North Tyneside District round with 17 students competing on the day. The weather was much more pleasing and the students performed brilliantly again. The North Tyneside Team were also crowned DUNROSIAN CUP Champions beating fierce competitors Newcastle, Tynedale, East and North Northumberland.

There was some truly amazing performances by all athletes but special mentions go to: Chanelle Burwood who finished 1st in the year 8 girls 100m and 200m, she was also part of the North Tyneside relay team that finished 1st. An unbelievable achievement- County champion in three events! Casper Skrzecz won 1st in the year 7 boys shot, Paige Lockey finished 2nd in the year 7 girls shot, Callum Marsh finished 2nd in the year 8 boys shot, missing out on 1st place by 2 centimetres and finally Lewis Wenn finished 3rd in the year 7 boys 300m.

TRIPS

YEAR 9 THEATRE TRIP

On June 6th, almost 30 years to the day since the event actually happened in Stanley, County Durham, a group of Year 9 students went to the Playhouse, Whitley Bay, to watch the play 'Carrying David'.



We were given the opportunity to attend a reduced cost performance in gratitude for displaying an advertising banner on the school fence (and also because Mrs Rutter has contacts in the production team!). After a very warm welcome from the writer himself, Ed Waugh, we were shown to the best seats in the house and thoroughly enjoyed the two-part show performed by a one-man cast.

Micky Cochrane played the character of Glenn McCrory, masterfully telling the story of the local lad's rise to success as the very first world boxing champion from the North East. On June 3rd, 1989, he beat Patrick Lumumba and became the Cruiserweight Champion of the world in the glamorous surroundings of The Louisa Centre, Stanley.

Glenn was inspired by the love of his adopted brother, David McCrory. David suffered from a terminal illness called Friedreich Ataxia, but steadfastly encouraged Glenn until he died, seven years after the fight, at the age of 30.



After the performance, we were treated to a conversation with Micky Cochrane in person, together with the writer, Ed Waugh, where students were able to pose questions about their personal roles in creating such a captivating show.

It is hoped that Year 10 Drama students will be able to benefit from this connection in the future as we build a relationship with this talented team.

Everyone, students and staff, thoroughly enjoyed the theatre visit and we look forward to working together in the future.

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY VISIT



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Six students in Year 10 were chosen to take part in an

overnight residential to Cambridge University. The residential was a perfect opportunity for the six students to experience University life at one of the best Universities in the world.

The students gained knowledge through lecture style workshops of what University was actually like; what the students needed to do to get to university as well as meeting the admissions tutor for Jesus College, Cambridge University. Students also attended a sample English lecture. After the students had attended their sessions, it was time for their evening meal and some activities. It was then back to the college's accommodation where students stayed in their own en-suite bedrooms. The next morning, the day began with breakfast and then the students took part in a guided tour of Cambridge ran by the student ambassadors. The tour was absolutely amazing and the students visited several other colleges including St John's College, Queen's College, Sidney Sussex and even Kings College.



The students had a brilliant time and were truly inspired by the prospect of going to University!

TRIPS

Over the last two years, our school has been involved in an 'Erasmus' programme of shared work and experiences with several other schools in different European countries. The focus for this two year programme has been 'Immigration' and the tag-line has been 'There's no going back.' We have visited Denmark, Germany, Spain and, finally, Iceland. We have taken four different students on each of these trips; on each occasion have stayed in the homes of children attending our partnership schools. All of the work that we have completed in these schools reflected the overall theme of the 'Erasmus' programme.



At the end of March, we travelled to Iceland. There were six of us: two teachers and four students from Year 10.

Our host school was Ingunnarskoli, situated a few miles outside of Reykjavik. We spent a wonderful week there and enjoyed time in lessons and around the school, time in Reykjavik itself and also time exploring the stunning landscape and natural features of Iceland. The snow was deep and cold but the company was warm and welcoming. We had a fantastic time.

Some of the highlights of our trip included a tour around the *Golden Circle* in the southern uplands of the country. We visited a roaring waterfall, in sub-zero temperatures, and saw several geysers from close quarters as they belched boiling water into the freezing air. Some of the scenery was very recognisable from 'Game of Thrones'; we looked nervously for *White Walkers*.

We were also lucky enough to be invited to meet the President of Iceland, Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson. He was extremely sociable and took time to shake hands and have a few words with every member of our party. He was very keen to learn more about the 'Erasmus' programme; he is a lovely man and we really appreciated him taking the time to speak with us. We were shown around his official residence at Bessastaðir and it was so interesting to see some of the official gifts that the country of Iceland has received from other countries around the world.

As part of the programme, we have met a variety of different people who have been affected by immigration. In Iceland, we met a lady from Gaza who shared her powerful and emotive story about her journey. One of the main things that we have got out of every experience like this is a strong awareness of how fortunate we are to live in a country that is stable and safe. This lady had to leave her young family behind in order to work and learn enough to support them in the future and provide a life that is more secure. We all thought she was inspirational.

Our week in Iceland was a real life-experience. The students made lots of new friends and the leaving party that we had on the last night was a lot of fun. Team England more than held our own in the international arm wrestling and strength contests and demonstrated some dancing prowess on the floor later on. We arrived home on the Saturday night, very tired but very happy.



MATHS CHALLENGE

YEAR 8 & 9 TEAM CHALLENGE

On 26th March, a team consisting of Georgina Spraggon, Henry Fieldson (both Y9), Jackson Asiamah and Jessica Young (both Y8) represented John Spence at the North East heat of the Team Maths Challenge at Durham Johnston School. The day consisted of 4 challenging rounds designed to test the mathematical reasoning, problem solving and teamwork skills of the students. We held our own in a competition of more than 30 teams, coming a very respectable 23rd place and beating some of our North Tyneside neighbours quite comfortably! All 4 students were an absolute credit to the school, showing great resilience, manners and a sense of fun throughout the day.



UKMT JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE 2019



30 Year 8 students took part in the UK Mathematics Trust Maths Challenge. Over 270,000 students across the UK sat the challenge, with roughly 6% achieving gold, the next 13% achieving silver and the next 21% achieving bronze certificates.

Anthony Greggs took the award of 'Best in School' and a silver certificate with a score of 65 – an outstanding achievement. Amy Ramsay narrowly missed out on 'Best in School', but her score of 61 still guaranteed her a silver certificate. The following students achieved bronze:

Jackson Asiamah, Cassie Binks, Josie Carey, Rebecca Green and Harrison Porterfield.

Huge congratulations to everyone who took part. The challenge was difficult and designed to really stretch the most able mathematicians in the country.



A sample question from this year's paper to test yourself:

On Aoife's 16th birthday, Buster was three times her age. On Aoife's 21st birthday, how old was Buster?

A) 32 B) 48 C) 53 D) 63 E) 64

Coming in September 2019...

Maths Drop In

All Year Groups

Monday and Thursday Lunch

U10

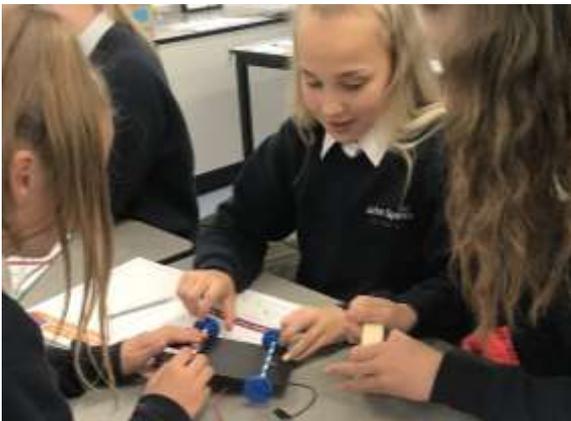
For help with all Maths work and Hegarty Maths homework

STEM WORKSHOP



Year 7 STEM Workshop

Year 7 students took part in a STEM workshop called Energy Quest. The event offered students an insight into the exciting world of science, technology, engineering and maths. The students had to work as a team to build a model car that would travel in a straight line for 10 metres. They then had the challenge to try and stop their car at 5 metres by adjusting the amount of power they gave their car. The event was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by the students involved.



SOUTHLANDS COLLABORATION

On Friday the 14th of June, Miss Buckles' year 9 collaboration project with Southlands visited the school to view an art exhibition of students work at Southlands. When we arrived we were greeted by our student hosts (with complimentary fruit juice and biscuits offered!) and shown lots of student artwork, including an experience with using some digital technology to DJ. Our students then worked alongside Southlands students on some social group activities and as always, much amusement was had!



BIG BREAKFAST BOOST FOR STUDENTS



This year has seen the successful introduction of a breakfast club to John Spence. The club runs from 8.00-8.45 although, more often than not, students are banging at the SSC door at 7.30 ready to fuel themselves for the academic day ahead.

Initially funding was sourced through the Healthy Schools grant but due to the success of the Breakfast Club further grants were required and successfully granted through Kellogg's (special thanks to Mrs Tunney!) To begin with the club was trialled with only a small number of identified students but the club has gone from strength to strength with numbers swelling considerably by word of mouth. We have developed a consistent bunch of around 20-25 students and are now regularly serving close to 90 -100 breakfasts every week.

Regular servings of toast and with various toppings and cereals have proved most popular although when news circulates on special occasions of pancakes being present, the clamour for a seat is amplified. Tea, coffee and hot chocolates were all in high demand throughout the winter; however, as we have moved into the 'warmer' months the fruit juice option has certainly become the drink of choice.

In addition to the nutritional value of eating breakfast and the effect it has on concentration and performance throughout the day, the breakfast club has also provided a stimulating environment for developing social interaction, communication, motivation and self-confidence. Students have taken a keen interest in impromptu quizzes, card games, chess and even the chance to access support in completing homework whilst others prefer to ease into the day with a chat and a spot of background music.

We hope to continue the breakfast club into the next academic year and continue to see it grow, providing morning sustenance for those who need it.

SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPALIDOCIOUS!!



Winds in the east, mist coming in, like something is brewing, about to begin!

The drama and music department have been working extremely hard over the last few months in preparation for the end of school production.

A huge well done to all those involved in musical production of Mary Poppins. It was a fantastic night!

MARY POPPINS

NTLT START AWARDS

CONGRATULATIONS AIMEE!!



On Tuesday 2nd July, I had the honour of supporting Aimee Bull and her family at the annual NTLT Star Awards. Aimee, nominated by Miss Benson had already fought off a number of nominations to secure her place in the final. Aimee was in the Volunteering category due to her involvement in multiple activities at school; including our Girls Active Programme, Trampolining and Tuesday Club.

Held at the Assembly Rooms in Newcastle, it was a big deal. It certainly heightened my interest in the Star Awards and I would

certainly be looking to push this next year so that John Spence have more nominations. The team of staff that conducted the awards really made it special for the finalists and their families.

Aimee was up against four other nominees and I'm happy to report that she won! A hugely proud moment for all involved and a few tears were shed.

Mr Pilkington

YOUTH SPORT TRUST
GIRLS ACTIVE

