

JULY 2022

We started the year optimistic that we would be able to get back to normal, and whilst that wasn't quite the case, I am happy to say that we have now moved on. Whilst Covid remains present, it no longer stops us from providing the wide range of opportunities that we know make a difference to our students. This newsletter provides a flavour of the types of activities students have been involved in, I think you will agree there has been a lot going on this term! None of this is possible without the commitment of our staff and it has been great to see them jumping at the chance to arrange trips and provide high quality experiences. I would like to express my thanks to them for their efforts.

Our students have shown great resilience and determination; we are very proud of their achievements. Next term will see our first John Spence Awards Ceremony, which will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate these successes.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Mr Heath



ROWAN IS A STAR!



On the 14th of July, Rowan in year 7 attended the NTLT star awards at St James Park. The awards celebrate students who have gone above and beyond or who have made an astounding contribution to their school and community. There were

more than 300 nominations which were narrowed down to 40. Rowan made finalist in her category for 'Inspiration Award' an award that recognises a young person who goes to extraordinary lengths to enhance the lives of others. The awards took place in one of the large conference rooms to accommodate the finalists and their families. The space was decorated with balloons and a stage area was raised. A professional host took everyone through the categories and rallied the audience in cheers and clapping.

Entertaining the guests were a balloon artist making balloon hats and an ice cream cart dishing out delicious pots of ice cream. Guests were served refreshments and an abundance of sweeties. During the interval, pizza and wedges were served.

It was an amazing event celebrating the 40 exceptional children and young people across the partnership of schools in the trust of North Tyneside for their remarkable achievements.

Rowan wasn't crowned winner, but all finalists walked away with a phenomenal hamper of goodies! She had a tremendous time and she was a credit to John Spence! Well done Rowan for being an inspirational young person!

YEAR GROUP UPDATES

Year 7

Just before the start of term, an average of about 90 students took the opportunity to attend our Summer School during the penultimate week of the summer holidays. This was a huge success and it provided an excellent way for the students to see something of the school and to start putting some names to faces in terms of key staff they were about to meet. A full day was spent composing a completely original piece of music and you might like to take the opportunity to remind yourself how brilliant that was by looking at this link: <https://youtu.be/NgDNljQAn0A>

I am pleased to say that the preparation work that was done by all concerned worked extremely well and so the start of term went very smoothly. The students did themselves credit and all of them rose to the challenges of grasping their new timetables; finding their way around and mixing with large numbers of new people remarkably well.

Of course, it has not been all plain sailing and, as with every new year group, we have had to work out how to smooth over the ups and downs of friendships changing and the ever-present pressures that all young people have to grow up with.

As we now look forward to this year's summer break, I am immensely proud of the contribution Year 7 has made to the school this year. In addition to their efforts in the classroom, Year 7 students have taken advantage of the huge range of extra-curricular opportunities that have been available. Students have organised fund-raising activities for causes that are close to their hearts; they have participated in competitions and tournaments across the year in a range of sports; they have welcomed our first young person to join the school who has fled the conflict in Ukraine and, just this week alone, have helped maintain a local community garden; have made up a significant part of this year's cast of 'Grease' and have shared their experience of moving up to John Spence by helping as guides to our new intake of students who will join us in September. Looking forward to more of the same next year.

Simon Crowe
Head of Year 7

Year 8

Year 8 have enjoyed a very positive final term.

The year group really seem to have settled into the demands of high school life.

Well done to year 8 for their hard work and preparation on the run up to the year 8 exams. Behaviour throughout the exams was exemplary and given that it has been quite some time since year 8 sat any form of examinations I have been incredibly Impressed.

We continue to enjoy announcing our year 8 students of the week. I want to say a massive well done to any student that has been nominated! Watch this space for the student of the term!

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our parents evening and finally meet so many of you face to face. I know that staff found the evening incredibly useful and I hope that you did too. Thank you for your ongoing support.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely summer and I shall look forward to welcoming you all back in September to year 9.

Mrs Wyllie
Head of Year 8

YEAR GROUP UPDATES

Year 9

Just like that, another year has passed! I honestly do not know where the time has gone but I am absolutely over the moon that we have been able to close Year 9 and indeed, KS3 with such a positive and enjoyable week. As you know, this week we have had Elite athletes, the challenge walk and zone day and I honestly could not be prouder of the way in which students have conducted themselves. Everyone has participated and their behaviour has been simply wonderful.

Attendance has continued to be a big focus in Year 9 with a number of pupils receiving rewards for improved attendance. I think it is safe to say Mr Gibson, 9DGI will not be happy that they have lost their reign, coming in a close second, as the best attending form class to Mrs Wilkinson, 9FWL! As we move into Year 10 I cannot stress how important good attendance is as children start their GCSE's. Good attendance goes hand in hand with great achievement and I know the year group can achieve both!

Once again, I have to commend those pupils who get involved in all aspects of school life. I would like to give particular mention to Thomas 9DPE who won the pride "stay true to yourself poetry" competition and I would also like to recognise the efforts of the Healthy Habits group . Ayla, Luke, Kadie, Arjun and Amelie met frequently through the year, making short Instagram video's offering advice and support to staff and students on the topic of developing Healthy Habits. Mrs Law has really enjoyed working with the group ,often saying how well students have worked together on their project and she thinks they are an absolutely fantastic group of kids!

I look back on Y9 and indeed KS3 with great fondness, remembering how keen and eager students were to start high school when they joined as tiny little year 7's. It has filled me with much happiness to see this return as the year group prepare to embark on their GCSE courses. I simply cannot wait to see what they have to bring as we move together, into Year 10 and beyond as I expect it will be great!

I hope you all have a lovely break and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in September. As ever, I thank you for your continued support, it is very much appreciated! Thank you , Mrs Brown, Head of Year 9

Year 10

There has been a lot of change over the past few years but you have each shown resilience in coming back into the 'normality' of school. I genuinely cannot believe how quickly your time at John Spence has gone and that in September, you will be the oldest in the school, ready to sit your GCSEs and explore the outside world. This is a scary thought and I know a few of you are daunted by this prospect - remember, it is okay to be unsure what you want to do at this point!

Connexions appointments have started and guidance will be given to every student including visits to local further education providers. Recently, six students even sampled higher education at Cambridge University during a residential trip! This was such an invaluable opportunity and aspirational trip to sample life as an undergraduate.

Year 10 have sat their first round of GCSE mock exams, giving them experience of how the exams work and the demands of their different subjects before Year 11 begins. Staff commented on the maturity of students and compliance to following exam rules - a strict guidance set by both the government and exam boards. I urge every student within the year group to understand the value and importance of revision and formulate a technique that best suits their learning style. Remember the motto - 'fail to prepare, prepare to fail'.

Roll on September for Year 11! I'm so proud to see how you are all flourishing into young adults. Enjoy the summer - your last at school age!

Mrs Knight, Head of Year 10

YEAR GROUP UPDATES

Year 11

The Year 11 cohort said their farewells this term after 5 fantastic years at school.

The group had attended intervention

and revision sessions throughout the year and the staff had prepared the pupils the best they could in preparation for their exams.

The final exam took place on the 23rd June and that night we all descended on Percy Park rugby club to celebrate the previous 5 years at school with the annual John Spence 'Prarty' (prom and party).

The pupils arrived looking extremely smart and in the mood for a good night; which was certainly the case.

The night was a great success and many awards were handed out to pupils and staff following a pupil voting system. I would like to wish everyone in the year group the very best of wishes for their futures and would like to thank them for their kind words of thanks.

Mr Burnip
Head of Year 11

GOODBYE!

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION



Moving into next year, the History Department will have the privilege of working with University College London on an exciting new project to build on our existing Holocaust education provision.



This will give us the opportunity to provide all Year 9 students with the highest quality research informed teaching, about perhaps the most important subject in our entire curriculum.

Though this is a very serious subject that challenges students in many ways, we believe that it encourages students to think critically and ethically, leading them to become more skilled, resilient and considerate.

We will be working with UCL's centre for education across the next academic year on a number of projects and this will identify John Spence as a 'Beacon School' - a focal point of Holocaust educational expertise in the region, focused on building partnerships with other schools in North Tyneside.

RECIPROCAL READING IN YEAR 7



We have enjoyed participating in the Reciprocal Reading programme over the course of this academic year and we look forward to embedding it further in our 'Communication' (whole school literacy) programme as we move forward. Contact between the organisational team both in Belfast and around the UK has been very good and I know that those of us that have been involved in the training and visits have found them very beneficial.

Our students have also enjoyed the programme a great deal. This has been evident from their willingness to contribute and the quality of the work that has taken place in the sessions that have been led by Mrs Martin.

We have been very fortunate at John Spence in that Mrs Martin has been timetabled to deliver Reciprocal Reading sessions and they have been set at an hour each. We haven't had to spirit children out of lessons as we've had the capacity to organise and direct with confidence. The wider school community has supported this as they can see the value.

In the sessions, the participants have grown in confidence as the year has progressed. As we have the time, often a session will develop from the reading into a discussion of pertinent social issues that have been inspired by the text. I know that a lot of value was gained from exploring issues relevant to Polar Exploration following the work that was done using the resources sent to us at the start of the year. Lots of very valuable reflection on changing times and relationships at school as well as outside of school has occurred after reading short stories in 'The Fib'. They all know what a balaclava is now.

The children enjoyed working in small groups. They have had more freedom to lead in discussion and more responsibility for ensuring that progression takes place.

In terms of the structure of the sessions, we think that this has helped them to be more accessible for all ability levels; after all, we deliberately looked to select a range of students to take part. We provided bookmarks with the stages clearly demarcated and reference, obviously, has been consistent. Progression has been clear and we hope this is reflected in the end of year testing that has taken place.

Looking ahead to next year, Mrs Martin will still lead from the front but we also hope to train up other colleagues so that the programme can be widened. We think this will be really strong facet of our reading programme and can only benefit the young people. There might be scope to develop the programme from Year 7 as well.



YEAR 8 MATHS CHALLENGE



Year 8 Maths Challenge

8X1 and 8Y1 Maths classes have recently received their results for the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge.

The students completed a 60 minute, multiple choice online challenge which encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to

solve difficult problems. A big congratulations to Hartlei, Charlie, Joseph, Logan, Lily, Charlie, Adam, Joseph, Aram, Niamh, Ethan and Daniel who were awarded a Bronze Certificate. A special congratulations to Lucas who managed to achieve a Silver Certificate.

Well done to all of those who took part as it took a lot of resilience to even attempt the challenge!

The UKMT challenges will return next year.

WALKING WITH



On Wednesday 29th June, we welcomed Clare and her 6 clients; Rabia (who is from Pakistan and was previously a primary school teacher and is an amazing cook), Redeer (who is Kurdish and was a secondary PE teacher), Mina (who is from Iran), Halima (who is from Syria and is an excellent cook), Hussein (who is from Iraq and was an engineer in the air force) and

Farida (who is from Syria). They are all from a charity called 'Walking With' which is based in the North East and is Year 8's adopted charity. Mr Pilkington started the day with an assembly, then the community leaders went to collect the clients from 'Walking With'. When they got to school, they went and played an English game with Miss Hoe, which was Bingo to get to know everyone a bit better. After that, they went and tried to solve a puzzle with Mrs Farlow as a maths challenge.

Then, they went down to do some cooking for their lunch (which was an English afternoon tea) with Miss Anderson. They made cheese straws, pizza wheels, scones, biscuits and some sandwiches with the help of the community leaders. After they had eaten, the clients went on a tour around the sports facilities. After we had finished we had a zoom call to a refugee called Osama who was from Syria but now lives in Lebanon, he told them about his life and how he is an actor. The clients were dropped off back to 'Walking With' in Wallsend, which concluded the day.

The day was really fun and interesting and the students learned a lot about what life is like to be a refugee.



SPORT

BARCLAYS GAME CHANGER



With the growth of Girls Football nationally, it is exciting to introduce our very own Barclays Game Changer, Ruby from 8JWI.

Ruby, nominated by Mr Pilkington, is already heavily involved in Girls Football, but hopes to use her own experiences to inspire and promote the game for other girls to enjoy. Ruby is a keen footballer who is part of the Girls Football Academy at school, North Shields Juniors and also is a key volunteer at the Friday night Wildcats Football sessions for girls aged 5-11.

She is one of twelve Game Changers from the North East Region, spreading from Stockton up to Berwick. She will work closely with the Youth Sport Trust and our local Strategic Lead for Girls Football in North Tyneside.

To qualify as a Game Changer after her initial nomination, she had to attend four Sunday night Zoom calls with an Athlete Mentor (Rachel McKenzie World Champion Thai Boxer). The sessions focussed on skills such as persuasion, communication, presenting and resilience to enable the Game Changers to have the skills to spread their message. The final session was a LIVE session at the brand new and impressive NUCastle Facility, supported by Newcastle Foundation. The finale, was free tickets to the first ever Woman's Football game at St James Park, joining over 35,000 other fans in an unforgeable occasion.

Ruby has since delivered a whole school assembly to her ex Primary School, Spring Gardens. She has been part of the #LetGirlsPlay national campaign with over 90,000 girls actively taking part in Football related activities in a single day. Her officiating skills got put to the test in the recent North Tyneside Under 11 Girls League played over four Wednesday night sessions. She has also been involved in a marketing campaign creating her own FIFA cards and also providing a voice over for a promotional video for the North East.

We are so proud of Ruby and she is excited by the role and the challenges ahead. We have a number of important meetings lined up which Ruby will hopefully be part of and continue to inspire others to promote Girls Football. If you are interested in Girls Football, please start by supporting and watching the Lionesses in this Summers Euro 2022 Championships!



SPORT

ESPORTS FIFA COMPETITION



Earlier in the year the school applied to be one of 32 schools to try a new ESports Project supported by the English Schools Football Association, PlayStation 5 and FIFA 2022. We were ecstatic when we found out we had been selected and that a PS5, Sony TV and player set ups would be arriving.

The idea was that John Spence would put on a competition within school, find a winner and then they would go on to represent us at the National Finals later in the year.

The interest was huge! Mr Pilkington posted the invites via Google Classroom for 24 players and 50 spectators to take part in a trial before Christmas. The post was made on a Sunday evening at 5pm and by 8pm all the allocated slots had gone! The trial consisted of three games over a lunch time with the added pressure of pupils cheering on their fellow year group player in a random draw of fixtures.

Due to the success of this, it was decided that in

January, we would run the PS5 FIFA 2022 competition as a knockout with games being played before, during and after school. 32 players from all years joined the competition and the fun began!

By the end of January we had 8 players remaining so we decided to host the quarter finals, semi finals and final in front of a live audience with interviews, pictures and a whole load of banter along the way.

In the final, Jack (Yr10) came up against Adam (Yr9) after beating some tough opposition along the way. The final was a one sided affair with Jack coming out on top.

The journey for Jack was just beginning though. As the winner of John Spence he would now travel to the Nationals which were held at West Boms, Hawthorns Ground. He travelled down the night before with his dad wearing an NUFC sponsored training top with the schools and FIFAs logos embroidered on.

He was joined by 32 other winners from around the country in an impressive, purpose built ESports stadium. The format was slightly different to John Spence with qualification involving six teams in the morning and then the knockout in the afternoon. After qualifying in the morning and averaging over 6 goals in the knockouts, he found himself in the finals. He breezed past the quarter final with a 6-1 victory. The semi final was also relatively straight forward at 4-0 and so the final awaited.

Before the final Jack became a FIFA celeb. Mixing it with YouTube and Gaming stars as well as doing numerous interviews and getting lots of pictures. When the final was finally played, some bad rebounds from the goal keeper and some unlucky play found Jack failing behind early. He couldn't claw back and eventually lost to the first ever champion. Jack was presented with a PS5 headset and lots of memories and experience!

Esports are a new and exciting opportunity to engage pupils in and out of school and this is hopefully the beginning of something very special!

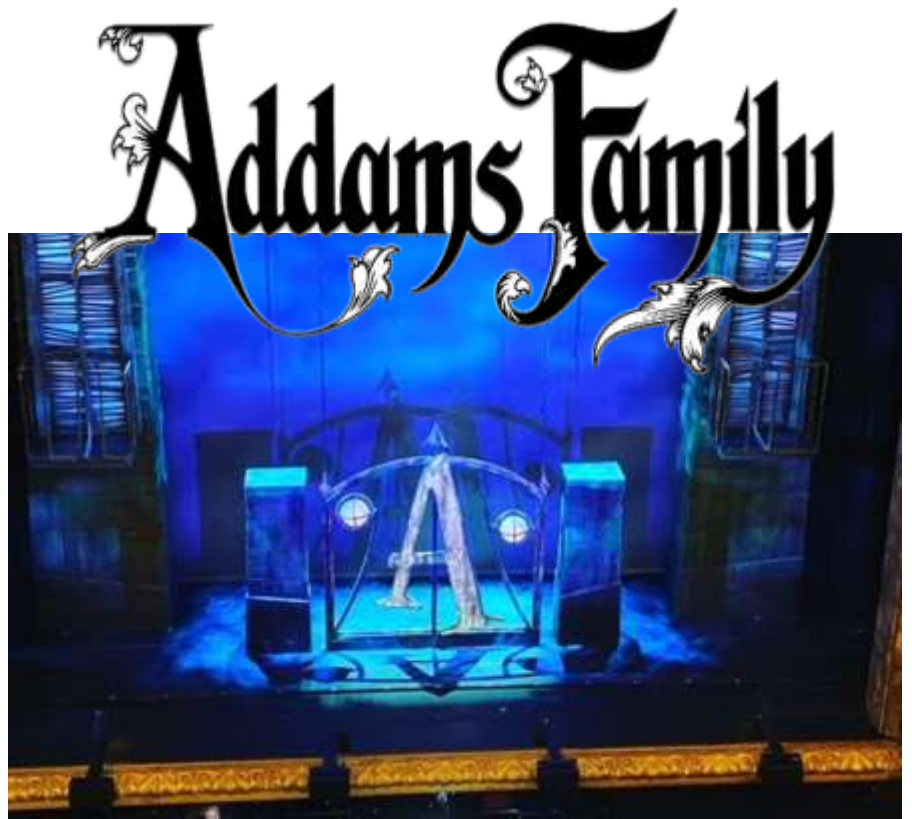
Well done Jack and thank you to his parents for taking him down.

TRIPS

ADDAMS FAMILY THE MUSICAL

On the 10th February Key Stage 3 students went to the Theatre Royal, Newcastle to watch the spectacular performance of 'The Addams Family.'

The musical told the story of Wednesday Addams, the ultimate princess of darkness, who had fallen in love with a sweet young boy from a very respectable family. A shocking secret that only Gomez knew! With his cherished Morticia in the dark, Gomez managed to keep his daughter's secret until the two families met for a fateful dinner with hilarious consequences.



THE INVISIBLE MAN

Year 10 drama students had the opportunity to watch the latest adaption of 'An Invisible Man' at the Northern Stage.

The play told the story of Griffin, a frustrated young man from the North East, with a troubled past. He claimed he had discovered the power of invisibility; but Griffin's 'powers' led to him being placed into Government care. After all, a normal, ill-educated kid can't just invent invisibility. Griffin is thrown into a downward spiral of anger and eventually into a fatal 'reign of terror'.

The Northern Stage presented an electrifying new production adapted from H.G. Wells' science fiction classic, featuring a new take on one of the most iconic characters in horror fiction.



Exploring themes of exploitation, establishment, truth, conflict between power and morality. The Invisible Man questioned who is really invisible in Great Britain 2022?

TRIPS

POETRY LIVE! YEAR 10 TRIP



On Friday 6th May, 19 year 10 students had the exciting opportunity to visit Newcastle University to enjoy a live poetry reading event.

Students were treated to an array of poetry read live by 6 talented, renowned poets, including John Agard, Grace Nicholls and the current Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage.

They had the opportunity to ask the poets questions about their work and life, providing them with a rare and intriguing insight into what inspires such talented artists. As well as being enjoyable, it was also highly informative and useful for their upcoming GCSE exams, and students also took part in a mini workshop on how to answer the poetry questions by a chief AQA examiner.

Overall, it was an insightful, enjoyable and thought-provoking day, which has provided much food for thought when it comes to studying the poems at GCSE level next year.

WANDERERS' SCHOOL ATHLETICS



On Wednesday 29th June, 11 students from Years 7, 8 and 9 competed against 12 different schools in the region in 37 events and won 5 gold, 12 silver and 5 bronze medals between them!

All competitors were outstanding, against some tough competition, in a wide range of events, often trying a new activity for the first time.

Special mention must be given to Sophie (year 7) for coming first in the Under 16 shot section; to Leon for coming first in the Under 14 boys cricket throw; to Cadey for a well-deserved first in the Under 14 girls

800m by showing great technique; and to both Under 14 girls' and boys' 100m relay teams for an amazing team effort.

The tired, but happy faces on the way back in the minibus said it all; each student proudly decorated with multiple medals after a great day out representing John Spence! You did us proud!

TRIPS

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY RESIDENTIAL TRIP



Six students in year 10 were chosen to take part in an overnight residential to Cambridge University along with other students from North Tyneside, Gateshead and Newcastle. The residential was a perfect opportunity for the six students to experience University life at one of the best Universities not just in the UK but in the world.

The students gained knowledge through lecture styled workshops of what University was actually like. The different types of Universities available such as City universities, Collegiate Universities and also campus universities, what the students needed to do to get to university as well as meeting the admissions tutor for the Jesus College, Cambridge University. Students also attended a sample lecture delivered by one of the English lecturers. After the students had attended

their sessions, it was time for their evening meal and some evening 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, Trinity College and even Kings College.

The students had a brilliant time and were truly inspired by the prospect of going to university; here is what one of the students had to say about the trip:

We had a fantastic opportunity to attend Jesus College at Cambridge University. The trip allowed us to see the typical "uni life" and we were told about the misconceptions people have about a University as prestigious as Cambridge. On the trip we were guided by current and previous student ambassadors from Jesus college. The ambassadors showed us around Cambridge, took us to different colleges within the 31 that make up the University and explained what we needed to do to prepare for University in the future.

As a group we also went to mini taster sessions in Law and Psychology to give us an insight of these certain courses. We also attended numerous workshops which showed us the variety of courses that are available to study and also the A levels needed to study certain subjects at University.

Finally we stayed the night in student accommodation within Jesus College which was great because we were able to see what life is actually like when you are at University.

The opportunity to go on this trip was very beneficial because we were able to gain an insight into the reality of University and how we can prepare for it in the future!

Gracie
10JCA



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

GREASE THE MUSICAL



Grease was the word on everybody's lips on Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th July. The John Spence Drama Department celebrated their first school production post covid showcasing the much loved musical 'Grease.'

Based on the book, music and lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, Grease is a rock'n'roll celebration of the trials and tribulations of teenage life in 1950's America. It follows the story of leather clad heartthrob, Danny Zuko (Dylan) and good-natured Sandy (Chloe) who, after a whirlwind holiday romance, are unexpectedly reunited at Rydell High School.

Mrs Patrick (Head of Drama) directed the show and couldn't be prouder of the achievements of the 38 students involved. "I am so proud that the show was a student-led production with the backstage crew, lighting operators and sound operators all being students". Students from Years 7 to 10 put in months of hard work and dedication, both on stage and behind the scenes, and it certainly paid off. From the minute the curtain came up,

the audience were hopelessly devoted to the high energy performance, complete with expertly choreographed dance

routines and hugely popular songs. All participants worked together to create a show which was truly electrifying and I couldn't be prouder!

Mrs Patrick
Head of Drama



FUTURE ME EVENTS

NUFC ENTERPRISE CHALLENGE EVENT



During the summer term, eleven year 9 boys were challenged to take part in the FutureMe Enterprise Challenge in collaboration with the North East Collaborative Outreach Programme and the local universities across the area including Newcastle University and Northumbria. The challenge consisted of working with Gavin from the Newcastle United Foundation to develop an understanding about the business side of the Football Club such as finance, marketing, media and management as well as well exploring a range of career opportunities available to them and how further and higher education can support them in their journey to achieving their future goals.

As part of this exciting programme, the students were tasked with designing an advertising campaign which advertised the pathways into Higher Education and also the benefits of higher education. The boys were tasked with competing against North East schools for the opportunity to get this professionally created!

As part of the finals day; the year 9 boys attended a day at St James' Park where they completed a number of workshops however the major focus of the day was delivering their advertising campaign to a panel of judges and

boys from other schools. The eleven students that participated all did an outstanding job and spoke with such confidence in what was a very daunting situation. Well done to all the boys that took part in the challenge, they were an absolute pleasure to work with it was great to see them grow in confidence during the course of the programme.

A special well done to the following team which consisted of Harvey, Riley, Taylor and Luke who were crowned the Newcastle United FutureMe winners!

The boys should be so proud of their achievements and the hard work and dedication that they put in to the challenge.



FUTURE ME EVENTS

Y9 UNDERGRADUATE MENTORING PROGRAMME



Since Christmas, fourteen year 9 students have been taking part in an undergraduate mentoring programme ran through Future ME and Newcastle University. The programme is designed to give students an insight into Higher Education and the opportunities available to the students.

The programme ran over a six-week period, students took part in a group session which was led by the student mentors from Newcastle University and also had a one to one session where they were able to explore their ideas further. The weekly sessions consisted of the following topic areas; What is HE? Map that Job, my post 16 options, Barriers to HE, my future career and finally knowing my strengths.

At the end of the programme, the students attended a trip to Northumbria University where they could see first-hand University Life. Well done to all the students who took part in the mentoring programme.

NORTHERN GAS WORKS

Renewable energy is a rapidly expanding industry in the North East and we want to offer our students as many opportunities as possible to explore this, and other growing industry sectors.

In June a group of Year 7 pupils visited the Northern Gas works Hydro Homes plant in Winlaton to explore careers in renewable energy. They visited the UK's first fully Hydrogen powered home, and got to sit in one of the first fully Hydrogen powered vehicles.



STEM



SCIENCE



TECHNOLOGY



ENGINEERING



MATHEMATICS



This term saw the return of STEM club with Year 7 students keen to carry out extra science experiments and further develop their investigative skills!

We began with ice cream making to demonstrate how salt can be used to change the freezing point of milk. For the first year no one mixed up the salt and sugar and Mrs Owens can confirm that the ice cream was absolutely delicious. Students can easily create this at home during the school holidays using the recipe and method below.

The following week saw students get stuck into a dissection masterclass! Our fearless students demonstrated their cast-iron stomachs by happily cutting into sheep eyeballs, lungs, livers, hearts and even pig's trotters! Some are destined to become fantastic surgeons (or butchers!) and showed great enthusiasm for the task, finding out more about organs along the way.

STEM club students also participated in a trip to St James' Park to attend STEM fest which was an exciting exhibition of STEM related businesses, showing off cool interactive activities like VR, welding chocolate and even a robot dog! The net zero carbon emissions theme helped to demonstrate the importance of climate change to our students.

STEM club runs on Thursdays after school in U13 for Year 7 students although if there are any Year 8 or 9 students who wish to join they should see Mrs Owens for details as we do have some limited spaces for keen Scientists.

Ice cream method

For one small portion you will need:

- A cup of full fat milk
- 1-3 tsps sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- A large Ziploc bag
- A smaller Ziploc bag
- Several handfuls of ice cubes
- 4-5 tsps salt
- Gloves

Method

1. Add milk, sugar and vanilla essence into the small bag.
2. Squeeze air out of the small bag of ingredients and seal carefully.
3. Place the small bag into the larger bag along with the ice and salt. Seal larger bag.
4. Wearing gloves, shake and massage the milky mixture bag continuously, ensuring that the ice/salt makes contact with the milk as much as possible (gloves help- it hurts after a while!). You may need to replace ice and salt if it starts to melt.
5. Keep doing this for around 5-10 minutes- you will see the milky mixture solidify. Eat quickly with a good selection of toppings!

COSTAL EXPLORATIONS FINAL



On Wednesday 13th July the Coastal Explorations project came to a close with a final performance at the Whitley Bay Playhouse. Seven months of hard work came to an end as the students showcased their final work alongside other pupils from Marden and Norham High Schools.

During the project, our year 8 students have worked alongside the band Ex-Easter Island Head to research the beautiful sounds created by nature along our wonderful North East Coastline. In exploring these sounds, students also had to study the physics of sound and how sound waves were created. The students researched Aeolian instruments, how they worked and how they could then create their own instruments.

Once students had completed their research they entered the school workshops to design, build and decorate their own instruments, which they eventually took down to the Spanish Battery in Tynemouth to let nature play the instruments for itself. Students recorded the sounds that their instruments made and this formed the bedrock for the evenings performance at the Playhouse.

The music performed on this evening was entirely created and shaped by the young people on stage taking inspiration from the coast around them.

The evening was most enjoyable and all of the student's present loved the experience of performing their final work on stage in a most prestigious venue.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the students who took part in making this project such a success.

Mr Grazer



ARTS AWARD SUCCESS



This year has been very exciting for the Music and Performing Arts Departments with the official launch of our 'Arts Academy'.

Throughout this year, students have worked on vocal performance skills, performing on tuned percussion, ukulele, music technology via iPad and even creating their own podcasts.

Whilst working on a variety of projects over the year, many of the students have also been working towards their first Arts

Award. Eleven of our academy students have been successful in achieving their Bronze Award, which is a nationally recognised qualification awarded by Trinity College London.

Many of our students have also taken the opportunity to perform outside of school and have recently performed at the Wallsend Festival.

We are extremely excited about the next stage of development for our students and the academy which will see some of our students aiming to work towards their Silver Award.



JOINT ARTS AND DANCE VIDEO PROJECT

During the last half term, both the music and dance academy have worked together to create a transition video for our incoming year 6 students.

The schools dance academy choreographed the dance and allowed the arts academy students to use their video skills in order to film their routine.

Performing Arts Academy learned the song, in harmony and with solos and small groups; they also learned how to set up the microphones and audio interface to record each young person recording their voice singing separately.

Students mapped out a scene following the journey of a new student at John Spence.

The video will be shared with all of our feeder primaries and you too can watch their amazing work on the school YouTube account.

STAYING SAFE ONLINE

IN THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS



With the summer holidays fast approaching children will have more free time to spend online. For some, this will be spent using the internet to keep in touch with friends, catch up with the latest apps and online trends, and playing their favourite games.

Sit down together

For parents, the summer holidays are a great chance to sit down with your children. Together you can visit their favourite sites and play their favourite games, this is a great way to stay up to date with online lives and show them that you're interested in what they are doing.

The holidays are also a good opportunity to have positive conversations about the internet, so if something ever does upset your child online they would feel more confident in confiding in you. [Our conversation starters](#) are a great tool to help encourage an open dialogue with your child.

Social media and staying in touch

During the summer holidays, children may want to keep in touch with their friends through social networking sites. It's a good time to ask them about what sites they use, and check any age requirements as many social media sites require users to be at least 13 years old.

Encourage your children to use the privacy tools on the services they use, so the content they post is only available to people they know and trust in real life. To help your children set these up, we have [a guide to the privacy settings on the different sites](#). You can also download the UK Safer Internet Centre's [safety checklists for popular sites](#) such as Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook.

Talking about their time online

The holidays are also a good opportunity to talk to your children about their online friendships, the sites they use and encourage best practices online.

Sharing holiday pictures

Some children may want to share photos and videos of what they are getting up to in their summer holidays online. Talk to your children about what types of photos are appropriate to share, and who they are okay to share with. Photos can hold clues that give away personal information. For example, if you share a selfie of you and friends, are there any landmarks or street signs that give away your location?

This is true for photos you might share of your children too! It's always worth asking children if they are happy with an image you want to share online. [Our Safer Internet Day research](#) found that 2 in 5 (40%) of 8-17s said that in the last year their parents or carers have posted a photo of them that embarrassed them, rising from 34% of 8-12s to 46% of 13-17s.

Make a family agreement

[A family agreement](#) is a great way to start a conversation with your whole family about how you all use the internet and discuss together how to behave in a positive way when online at home, at school or at a friend's house.

