



JULY 2023

GIRLS STRONGER TOGETHER

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 second John Spence Awards Ceremony, which will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate these successes.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer.

Jonathan Heath  
Headteacher

hello  
**SUMMER**



On May 19th, a number of girls from Year 9 and Year 10 attended a conference at the Linskill Centre involving girls from several high schools in North Tyneside. A range of speakers and fun activities were organised that were designed to get girls to think about the pressures they are under and how girls, and women, can become stronger by working together in positive activism. The girls were particularly interested in the history of women's activism and were both surprised

and horrified to learn how recently it was that women achieved certain, basic legal rights.

The John Spence girls created a manifesto to bring back to the school, bringing together all they had discussed and distilling what they thought the key issues for John Spence were. They decided that their future activism in school would be based around the theme of "expectations"; expectations the girls felt they were pressured by, particularly involving their appearance. They have also asked for more assemblies to educate both boys and girls about the damage these expectations can cause and about how we can all have the courage to be ourselves without outside pressure.

The girls' behaviour and attitude drew positive comments from the conference organisers who said:

***"The girls from John Spence were a credit to your school: they listened intently to guest speakers, engaged really well in group activities, were chatty, personable and they came across confidently."***

## SEGEDUNUM BAND COMPETITION WINNER



Maggie, Class 8CEN, took part in the Segedunum Band and Soloist Competition in Wallsend with her band, Clear Blood, last weekend. The band first formed at North Tyneside Music Hub's Rock School, which started 9 months ago, and play a range of metal and rock music. Clear Blood were the winners out of 13 other acts which is an amazing achievement. The band got to play on the Priory's Main Stage at the Mouth of the Tyne festival, with a 30-minute slot, ahead of Gabrielle's evening show. Well done Maggie, we are all so proud of you.



The band :

Dan - vocals and guitar (Newcastle College)

Maggie - vocals and bass guitar (John Spence)

Harry - lead guitar (South Wellfield)

Jett - Drums (Marden)

## YEAR GROUP UPDATES

### Year 7

Year 7 have enjoyed a fantastic start to their life at John Spence and it has been a joy to see them grow in confidence and bring so much to the school community. I am proud of the efforts they have made across all aspects of their schooling and how they have settled in. At the beginning of the year I encouraged pupils to get involved in as much extra-curricular provision as possible and I am amazed by how many have listened and the memories they have made will last a lifetime.

A number of the year group were involved in the recent Lion King production which received acclaim from the parents, families and staff. I must congratulate each and every pupil who played a role in the performance. They were fantastic and a credit to our school. To see them perform with such confidence and composure gives me a massive sense of pride and admiration.

At the recent Sports Celebration evening I was again amazed by the number of Year 7 that achieved awards. Sport is a major part of a child's development and I would love to see more pupils gain recognition in year 8 and I encourage parents and carers to promote sport during the summer holidays with a hope to see everyone in our year group attend at least one of the many activities our fantastic PE staff provide.

Finally, it was an absolute pleasure to spend 3 days with a large proportion of the year group at Ford Castle and to see the children in a different setting. Building relationships is not just based in classrooms and I was so happy to see many of them overcome some of their fears and face challenges head on. There are so many different personalities in our year group, but what was very evident throughout the trip is that they are a caring and considerate group, a family as we like to call ourselves.

I do hope that each child, and their families enjoy a restful, but exciting summer break and I urge you all to spend time together, doing what you all like to do in your free time. I know myself and the form tutors will do the same and we look forward to seeing you all back in September, but I would like to personally thank Mr Sadler for his hard work over the past year and wish him the best of luck in his new job, and I am certain all the year 7 pupils will miss him so much.

## Year 8

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since we were looking back at the end of Year 7. It's been an incredibly busy year in which our year 8 students have risen to the many challenges of higher expectations and no longer being the youngest students in the school.

Schools are not just about qualifications, and there have been many instances over the course of year 8 where our students have demonstrated our key values of being skilled, resilient and considerate.

The first example of this happened in dramatic style within the first two weeks of year 8, when we received a very grateful email from a lady who had been involved in a car accident. She told us about two year 8 boys, Daniel J and Jacob O, who not only stopped in the rain to make sure that she and her family were okay, but through their skilled use of their phones, helped to identify the individual at fault.

Just this week, we welcomed our new Year 7 cohort into school for a Taster Day, and their decision to come to this school was likely to have been influenced by a very positive Open Evening back in September – in which many year 8 students helped to demonstrate activities and answer questions about the school.

Year 8 took part in the first ever Pledge Day. This took them off the school site, and up to the Cragside Estate in Northumberland. All 7 form classes enjoyed beautiful weather and the stunning grounds, and it was a fantastic opportunity to be able to talk amongst themselves, and with their form tutors about the history of Cragside and their lives outside of school.

We helped in early October with the running of the Macmillan Coffee Morning, in which just under £200 was raised. Another new venture in the half term saw Lori, our family liaison offer (FLO), take a small group of students up to the Shiremoor Adventure Playground. October ended with a Halloween Writing Competition, in which Daniel R and Alex P won 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards, respectively.

The first 'Wanderers' gymnastic event took place back in November, and year 8 were represented by Rowan R and Tyler I. All the competitors were fantastic, and as usual, were a credit to the school.

Students, with the art department, did us proud by helping to make 600 origami paper cranes. These were part of the 'Canes for Ukraine' exhibition and our contribution were added to the 10,000 cranes that were displayed in the Bridge Gallery in Tynemouth Metro station at the end of the month.

Charity work continued in early December, when Eva P, Niamh R, Sophie M, Frankie H, and Rowan R all worked together to organise a bake sale, which raised over £85 for their chosen charity, the PDSA. Several year 8 students were involved in the NUFC Foundation Coaching Scheme, which ended in February. Daniel C, Emad M, Arda P, Logan M, Jack M, and Millie L all completed the scheme with a visit to St James' Park.

For the second year running, Rowan R and her friends planned and ran a bake sale for World Down Syndrome Day, in March. This was a great success and also raised over £100.

The weeks either side of the Easter break saw each form class heading up to the Simonside Hills, where they spent a day hiking some well-trodden paths. Every form class was a credit to the school, and the three groups that I joined all showed an impressive determination to complete the walk without any complaints.

Sport has again been a big part of the year 8 calendar. Over the course of the year, teams have taken part in football, cricket, rugby, rounders and netball competitions, with the girls' teams especially being incredibly successful in netball and rounders.



## YEAR GROUP UPDATES

### Year 8

Just in the last couple of weeks, year 8 have helped to make the 'Lion King' production the success that it was, and our very own Maggie M was one of the stars of the show at this year's 'Mouth of the Tyne festival', with her band 'Clear Blood'. I am always hugely proud of the range of activities and events that our students get involved in. Year 9 will be even more challenging, with the 'options' process forming a significant part of the year. I am eager to see how the students take on this new challenge.

### Year 9

Year 9 have had a really settled term, with lots of students taking part in a range of extra curricular activities. Mr Fullard's Duke of Edinburgh groups have shown perseverance and skill during their expeditions. With some groups in particular showing real collaboration and teamwork. Those students involved in the superb performance of the Lion King, worked incredibly hard and performed wonderfully well. We celebrated their success in an assembly and each student was awarded a certificate for their outstanding contribution to the school community.

The Science Ambassadors received many compliments from our local primary schools for their confidence and patience with the younger students that they planned and delivered lessons to. As we head towards the end of this academic year I could not be prouder of the Year group. They will begin their GCSE choices in September and will need to come back refreshed and ready to make the step up to the demands of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum.

I wish you all a wonderful Summer holiday and look forward to welcoming the students back in September.

### Year 10

I cannot believe we have reached the end of Year 10 already, it does not seem like two minutes since the year group were welcomed into John Spence as excited Year 7's. The end of the year marks a year of firsts for pupils, the first year of their GCSE's and first set of real mock exams. Staff have commented on the commitment demonstrated by the pupils, which is something we will continue to build upon as we move through Year 11. Pupils have had their first experience of work in the outside world and the feedback I received was stunning, pupils were a credit to the school and did themselves proud. In addition to this, many opportunities have been made available throughout the year which they have grabbed with both hands, including various sporting events and visits to colleges and universities; I only wish Miss Benson could have taken more pupils to Cambridge university on the residential trip as demand from pupils for this was unprecedented!

The transition into year 10 is rarely easy, making that leap from KS3 to meet the demands of KS4, however I am over the moon with how pupils have adjusted to this and it has been my absolute pleasure to continue to watch them grow into the considerate individuals they have become and have a glimpse of who they will be as they enter adulthood. To end the year on a high, year 10 have now had their final round of summer celebrations: The challenge walk, which while a little wet this year was enjoyed by all. The resilience shown by pupils was excellent. Activity day was also enjoyed immensely and not forgetting Elite Athletes. As ever, I must thank all of the form tutors for the dedication shown to their form classes, they really do a fantastic job and I know pupils really appreciate all of their efforts. Two further thanks from me, firstly to the pupils who make me laugh every single day, without the characters we have in the year group my job would simply not be the same or as enjoyable! Finally, thank you to all the parents and carers who support their child and school every single day,

When we return in September I am confident the pupils will continue to demonstrate the resilience and skills that I see in them everyday! I look forward to welcoming everyone back fit, healthy and ready to give Year 11 all that they have, following a well earned break. Take care everyone.



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 students the best they could in preparation for their exams. Students' conduct throughout the exam period was exemplary. We held a leavers assembly on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June before students were sent

away on study leave. In that assembly we celebrated some outstanding achievements: Jessica C was commended for her exemplary resilience throughout school, having 100% attendance throughout all 5 years at John Spence. Aimua I was awarded a Head of Year commendation for demonstrating resilience under the pressure of adapting to a new school with months to go before exams and demonstrating an exemplary work ethic and exhibiting incredible kindness and gratitude towards staff. Nathan Y was awarded the 'Student of the Year' award which was voted for by staff in recognition of impeccable behaviour, outstanding commitment and optimising the schools' ethos of being resilient, skilled and considerate.

The 22<sup>nd</sup> of June saw the annual staff vs student football match which saw the students come out victorious. The game was played in great spirits in front of a large crowd. The 29<sup>th</sup> of June saw Year 11 descend on Percy Park rugby club

to celebrate the previous 5 years at school with the annual John Spence 'Prarty' (prom and party). The students arrived looking extremely smart and in the mood for a good night; which was certainly the case. The night was a great success, students bought into the evening and clear enjoyment was had by all, with a year group conga and a full dance floor by the end of the evening. Many awards were handed out to students and staff which will be remembered for a long while to come.



On the 6<sup>th</sup> of July the John Spence sports awards made a return to a live audience following the pandemic. It was great to see Year 11 extremely well represented, particularly in the hall of

fame category. The main award of the night, the 'Bobby Graham Award' was won by Fin M for his outstanding commitment to GB Gymnastics alongside his impeccable attitude in school.

Mrs Knight and myself 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. We would also like to thank parents/carers for their continued support throughout their child's time at John Spence it has helped enormously!

Me and all the staff at John Spence wish students the best of luck for results day and have no doubt that they will all have bright futures!

Mr Betts  
Head of Year 11



## LIBRARY THEME OF THE TERM

Our library 'theme of the term' hosted it's final 2 sets of competitions and activities during the last term of school. First, we had 'Spring has Sprung,' in which students and staff were challenged to write a spring haiku. Activities included getting out and about seeing the wonders spring has to offer in the spring bingo game and writing a speech about the importance of saving the bees. We had a fantastic haul of entries, and the winners were as follows:

**1st place:** Henry (year 10)

**2nd place:** Armaan (year 7)

**3rd place:** Caiden (year 7)

**4th place:** Sophie (Year 8)



## CELEBRATE PRIDE

In this final half term, students have taken part in our 'Celebrate Pride' theme to commemorate June being Pride month which is celebrated each year to honour the Stonewall uprising of 1969 in New York City.

During this, supporters of the Stonewall Inn staged an uprising to resist the police harassment and persecution to which LGBTQ Americans were commonly subjected. Students were tasked with writing a poem to celebrate their uniqueness. Once again, students impressed us with their creativity and eagerness to take part, and the winners were as follows:

**1st place:** Hannah (year 7)

**2nd place:** Kerrie (year 8)

**3rd place:** Sophie (year 8)

**4th place:** Jack (year 10)





# ACCELERATED READER

Year 7 and 8 take part in the Accelerated reader programme. Here, for every book read on the system, students can accumulate points and prizes. Year 7 have dominated the programme this academic year and have taken the overall winners for 2022/23 after having read a total of 845 books: a huge well done for such an amazing achievement!



Winners are announced monthly for the Programme in 5 categories:

- Top Reader
- Most Books Read
- Hardest Book Read
- Most Improved and
- Most Words Read

These winners are proudly displayed on the library mountain for all to admire. In June, the top classes on the Programme were 7I who read the most books, and 7E who earned the most points. They get the honour of keeping the John Spence Reading trophies for the rest of the school year! A huge well done to all for their incredible efforts in reading this year.



## TOP READERS AFTERNOON



As part of the programme, the years 'Top Readers' took part in the Accelerated Readers Top Readers afternoon to celebrate their efforts and achievement in the programme.

Here, 15 deserving students enjoyed a lesson of relaxation, games and films, alongside tucking into some treats!

## AIR—READING FOR PLEASURE



We have now completed the Active Independent Reading programme for this academic year.

Over 7500 original submissions have been received and discussed on Google Classroom. Some students managed to share their thoughts on what they have read for every single one of the thirty weeks that made up the AIR programme.

You can track the progress of your child using Google Classroom. Their comments and those

in response from school staff are all located within the 'Communication' pages of Google Classroom. Simply click on your child's name and enjoy their Reading journey again.

When AIR has been done well and consistently, the results are clear. Attainment is higher across the curriculum and obvious improvements have been made from week to week. The opinions about a wide variety of texts that have been offered by the young people have been so interesting and some have been really perceptive and insightful.

Some of the portfolios of work submitted by the students are absolutely stunning. We have selected the most outstanding examples from each year group and those young people will receive Amazon vouchers which we hope will be spent on new books to further their love of reading.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Abigail R	Maisy Y	Cleo M	Bailee S	Ellie B

It was a tough decision and there were some highly commended portfolios too. Certainly, the work produced by Hamzah I, Evan S, Anisha K, Arjun S and Nathan Y (in order of year group) has been consistently excellent over the course of the year. Thanks to all parents, carers and members of staff for their support of the AIR programme this year.

## FUTURE FOCUS CAREERS FAIR (SEN)



In April, a group of our students visited the Future Focus Careers Fair (SEN) at The Parks in North Shields.

Lots of information, leaflets and freebies were collected - including some very fetching balloon sculptures. Many larger training organisations were present: for example, NHS, Nexus, Tyne Met College and Newcastle College. There were also smaller organisations there representing drama

groups, volunteering opportunities and charities. One of the most popular stalls was from Kirkleigh Hall, offering a selection of animals to hold, eg. lizard, snake, stick insect.



# SCHOOL OF SANCTUARY



We all have a part to play in building a welcoming and inclusive society.

John Spence has just become part of a national network of over 400 primary and secondary schools, nurseries and sixth forms all committed to creating a culture of welcome and inclusion for refugees and people seeking asylum.

An accredited School of Sanctuary is one that has received recognition from City of Sanctuary UK or a partner organisation in the form of a Sanctuary Award for its good practice in fostering a culture of welcome and inclusion.

To be eligible for the award, schools must demonstrate that they have implemented three key principles:

## LEARN

Schools help their students, staff and wider community

learn about what it means to be seeking sanctuary and the issues surrounding forced migration.

## EMBED

Schools are committed to creating a safe and inclusive culture of welcome that benefits everybody, including anyone in their community seeking sanctuary.

## SHARE

Schools share their values and activities with their local communities.

Through the work in school by a number of staff and students, complemented by the partnership work with the charity 'Walking With' we have secured the right to become a School of Sanctuary. As part of the application, key aspects outlined as outstanding practice where:

- Support students and families receive in school
- Hosting of a fundraising Coffee Morning, 'Chit Chat'
- Range of resources readily available within the school library
- Supporting the volunteering of Redeer, a PE Teacher for Iraq now supporting the Football Academies
- Year 10 Work Experience opportunities with Walking With
- Creation of all the bunting for our recent production of Lion King via a textiles group at Walking With

Mr Pilkington was joined at the celebration event on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July at the Quadrant in North Tyneside to showcase some of the work, but also receive the accreditation along with other schools in the local authority area.

# BIZARRE



On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May we held our first ever Bizarre Event at school. The original idea came from Benjamin (Year 8) who thought a School Fayre fundraising event would benefit the school and its community. With uSActive being linked to school as an adopted charity we felt we would work with them and the event grew and grew and grew!

Bizarre was created and was aimed at promoting physical, social and mental health and well bring opportunities within our local area. On the night we had over 25 stalls mixing together to offer a vast range of products, fun activities and

fundraising opportunities highlighting not just what's on in school, but the local area as well. Free refreshments, ice creams and popular entertainment from the students at school (Dance Academy, Drama Students and Year 11 Open Mic) all made the evening a special one.

Throughout the night we received lots of positive comments and remarks to hopefully make this a permanent fixture within the school diary. A huge thank you to the students, staff, uSActive and the community for bringing it all together. We raised over **£600** for the charity and many families went away with new ideas, goodies and incentives to help them in the future. Thank you to all those families and students who made it along on the night and supported the event.

For more information about the work uSActive do please visit [www.usactive.org.uk](http://www.usactive.org.uk)





# SPORT

## NATIONAL SPORTS WEEK

National School Sports Week was held between Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023. Every year at John Spence we embrace the week which is promoted by the Youth Sport Trust and SUPPORTED by thousands of schools across the country.

This year we had an Opening Assembly on the Monday followed by welcoming our local feeder schools for our annual Fun Run Event. As a school we made three promises to our students that we would aim to offer that week:

1. Encourage other subjects to do sport based activities
2. Make our facilities free to use at lunchtimes for all students
3. Collapse the timetable on the Wednesday afternoon so that students could reach their POTENTIAL in an area which the teacher felt like they could

It was the latter of the promises which proved to be the main attraction of the week. During the POTENTIAL afternoon we had 60% of the students engaged in over 16 cross curricular activities in school.

The other 40% competed in 10 different sports against 15 different schools equating to over 500 students playing competitive sport in every facility we could offer. Part of the Performing Arts Academy put together a PODCAST of the event which they have called Varsity. This includes our special guest for the afternoon, Amanda Coulson from England Boxing. You can listen to this by scanning this QR Code:



The closing assembly on Friday focussed on the need to lead a healthy active lifestyle aiming for the recommended 60 mins of exercise on a daily basis.

We hope the messages shared during the National School Sports Week will inspire all students to lead a Fit For Life attitude for all.





# SPORT

## STUDENT COUNCIL ARTICLE ON NATIONAL SPORTS WEEK



National School Sports Week: the annual event where pencils are swapped for trainers and classrooms swapped for the fresh air of surrounding fields or the amazing facilities of indoor sports centres. It's a staple up and down the country with hundreds of schools taking part. Our school, John Spence, was fully involved. This is the story of the *Potential afternoon*.

Here at John Spence, 15 schools visited our fields for ten on-site sports. There were 14 John Spence competing teams for this ONE massively successful event. Football, Rugby, Cricket, Table Tennis; some students even got the opportunity to play Futsal using an inflatable pitch. Thanks to the Potential event, north of 500 students got to show their skills. Everyone there got to 'Play For Fun And Play For 60'. That's the Sports Week slogan going forward.

The fields were not the only places where activities were taking place as inside the school building, other sport

related activities were undertaken. This included the BBC young Reporter Comp, where the selected students went around the fields doing interviews and getting pictures of the goings-on around the school.

The drama studio continued their amazing work which entailed preparation of their showing of 'The Lion King', which was performed on the 27th and 28th of June and was a massive success. A member of the cast, Cleo M (Year 9), had this to say about the production:

***'It's so far so good; performing for a local school, Christ Church Primary School went well. The children really seemed to enjoy it. Everyone has worked really hard so we are looking forward to putting it on for a larger audience.'***

Our future Vivian Westwood's were in the textiles room making stylish t-shirts. The students used a variation of methods to devise a plan on how to make t-shirts going along with the current trends of today. One pupil; Charlie P (Year 9), had this to say about the opportunity:

***'It was very fun to take part in; everyone had the tools to create their own individual ideas and that made it really exciting. The fact we were allowed to take what we designed home was the perfect ending to a brilliant Potential afternoon.'***

Our football team had a run of good results in the shortened, 15 minute games that were played. After a hard fought 0-0 draw with Monkseaton High we bounced back to have a relatively comfortable 1-0 against Marden High, with our boys playing them off the park in every area of the pitch. All in all, this was a hugely successful day; it's an exciting time to be a student at John Spence High School.

Reporting - Lewis G (Year 9)

# SPORT

## SPORTS CELEBRATION EVENING



For the first time since the pandemic the Sports Celebration Evening returned on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July in the sports hall. Over 700 people were in attendance including special guests from the community, parents and award winners. We were lucky to welcome back Lucy Burwood (co-host) and Thomas Hodgson (Pro Boxer) who are both ex-students to help present the awards.

A range of awards were given out on the night including:

- Engagement Award
- Outstanding Commitment Award
- Representative Award
- Hall of Fame Award

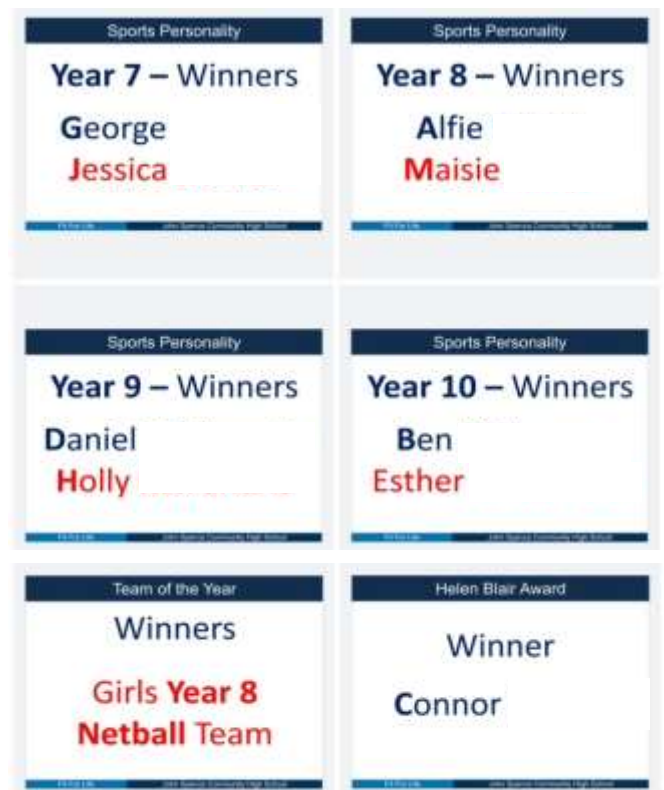
Certificates were presented to those students who completed the GOALS initiative and the Year 8 Leadership Academy collected recognition. The major awards on the night were:

- Most Improved
- Sports Personality of the Year
- Team of the Year
- Bobby Graham Award
- Helen Blair Award



It was such a special and inspirational evening and one that has been missed. We valued everyone's support and efforts on the night and can't wait to welcome you all back next year!

To download the evenings programme and receive more information please use the following QR code:





# TRIPS

## YEAR 7 ACTIVITIES



On Monday 3rd and Wednesday 5th July, some of our year 7 students participated in various activities both inside and outside of school.

In school the students embraced their creative skills to make a delicious pizza and to sculpt their own little monster out of clay! The students were then given the opportunity to display their resilience by walking down to Tynemouth boating Lake and buying an ice cream if they wished.

Outside of the classroom, the students were taken to Beamish, The Living museum of the North. Here, the students embarked on a journey back to the past where they learnt about what life was like in the North East of England during the 1820s, 1900s, 1940s and 1950s.





# TRIPS

## I, DANIEL BLAKE



***"I, DANIEL BLAKE TEACHES THE AUDIENCE TO BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER, TO HELP ONE ANOTHER, AND REMINDS YOU THAT THIS IS NOT A WORK OF FICTION."***

On the 7<sup>th</sup> June, the drama department took 20 of their students to the Northern Stage to watch the award winning performance of 'I, Daniel Blake.'

Ken Loach's timeless film I, Daniel Blake had been given a new lease of life in this powerful stage adaptation. Written by Dave Johns, the original Daniel Blake in the 2016 film and directed by Mark Calvert, the new production is a like-for-like adaptation which perfectly

captured the emotions of the film and the frustrations and desperations of both the audience and the characters.

The play follows the story of Daniel Blake (David Nellist) who has recently suffered a heart attack; whilst he has been barred from working by his doctor, he has been declared Fit to Work by the Department of Work and Pensions. Unable to receive an income any other way, Daniel must apply for Job Seeker's Allowance whilst waiting for a decision from an unnamed decision maker over an appeal for Employment and Support Allowance.

Whilst in the DWP offices, Daniel meets Katie (Bryony Corrigan) and her daughter Daisy (Jodie Wild), who have been uprooted from the familiarity of London to Newcastle. Immediately sanctioned by the DWP, Daniel takes Katie and Daisy under his wing as they navigate their new home.

Nellist and Corrigan's powerful performances are the true heart of the production; they are warm and caring to one another, yet too proud to ask for help. Their compassion for others and exasperation of the system they find themselves caught up in is incredibly raw. They try to find periods of warmth in the midst of what feels like a never-ending period of bleakness.

It was impossible to leave the production without a lump in your throat. A raw and emotive production which pulled on our students' hearts. We were even lucky enough to take part in a Q and A session with the actors at the end of the show. A wonderful experience for staff and students.



# TRIPS

## LION KING



On the 26th April the drama department took 65 students to see the production of The Lion King at the Sunderland Empire.

Based on the 1994 Disney animated feature film of The Lion King, it follows the story of Simba, an adventurous and energetic lion cub who is next in line to be king of the Pride Lands, a thriving and beautiful region in the African savanna.

When Simba's father Mufasa is killed by his uncle Scar, Simba is led to believe that his father's death is his fault, and is encouraged to run away forever. Scar seizes power and with his already unstable mind deteriorating, the Pride Lands experiences a darkness and desolation from which only Simba can save the animals of the kingdom.

The music, costumes and passion of the actors created an unforgettable performance that explored many themes such as identity, family and responsibility. An exciting and inspirational performance which was enjoyed by all students at John Spence.





# TRIPS

## NISSAN TRIP

In May, 15 students from year 10 Engineering got the opportunity to visit Nissan, Sunderland plant for the morning. We saw the stages a car goes through from being a spayed shell to the end of the assembly line where it gets safety and quality control checks made, ready for sale. After learning all about assembly lines and watching all the parts get fitted, students went on to have a question and answer session with Nissan staff all about careers. Students are now well informed on apprenticeships and the wide range of jobs available at Nissan and the process of how to apply for one. A very informative and enjoyable morning which will hopefully help some of our budding Engineers consider taking apprenticeships in the future.



## YEAR 8 MATHS CHALLENGE



8X1 Maths class 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 Caleb, Dylan, Phil and Kai who were awarded a Bronze Certificate, with Kai achieving the best score.

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.



# TRIPS

## HARTLEPOOL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT



On Wednesday the 26th of April 15 year sevens, Mr Langley & Mr Staines headed down to Hartlepool Nuclear Power Plant to investigate how it operates and to be inspired for our future careers. We were greeted by two power plant workers at the gate and given an incredibly serious and important safety briefing. We then listened about how atoms can be split and nuclear power generated before we donned our safety jackets and helmets and went on to the site.

We first had to clear additional security checks and then we went straight to the megawatt counter where we watched how much energy was being directly added to the national grid. At its peak the power plant can power two million homes. We then entered the generator room where we had to wear our ear protectors as the magnets inside the generator spun at faster than 60 times per second. Once we had left the generator room we continued to tour the whole plant, and also went to the museum. Here the students were able to see how much energy they could personally generate by spinning a wheel.

Everyone at the power plant was friendly and helped to inspire our year seven students to become future engineers. Some of the year sevens promised to come back on their apprenticeship programme, while others assured us they would be working at the power plant in the future. We'd just like to thank everyone at Hartlepool Nuclear Power Plant and all the students who came along for the informative and eventful experience.

## TYNEMOUTH CRICKET CLUB



On 23rd May a group of years 7, 8 and 9's represented John Spence in the under 14 County Cup against Dame Allan's at Tynemouth Cricket Club.

Looking at our scorebook it seems this might be our first game of hard ball cricket since 2013 when Matty Longtstaff was playing for us!

Dame Allan's batted first, scoring 159-7 in 20 overs. George S doing well with 4 wickets and Leighton C and Lewis G chipping in with 2 and 1 wickets respectively.

It was always a tall order to match Dame Allan's with the bat and we came up just short, being bowled out for 14. Lewis G top scoring with 9 not out, supported by 1 from George S. Dame Allan's were always the favourites for the game but it was fantastic to see a range of students having fun representing the school. They were a credit to John Spence.

Hopefully this is just the beginning for the John Spence cricket team.

# LION KING



For two nights only, the drama studio was impressively transformed into the East-African Savanna, as our students took to the stage and whisked the audience away into the story of the Lion King, our end of year school production. Around 70 students were involved in the production from designing and making costumes and props to selling tickets and performing in front of an audience of 160 visitors.

In their dazzling costumes, Simba, Mufasa, Scar and friends belted out the toe-tapping and sing along classics including 'Just Can't Wait to Be King', 'Can You Feel the Love Tonight' and 'Be Prepared'. All parents and staff were amazed by the complexity of the roles and songs the students had learned. The students had worked incredibly hard to create such a professional performance and we were thrilled that we had two sold out shows. The Lion King was a real hit! A huge well done to everyone involved!

Mrs Patrick.





# CLUBS

## STEM CLUB



This term saw the return of STEM club for Year 8 and the welcome addition of some Year 7 members. The highlight of our STEM activities this term had to be meeting the animals from Saviour's Haven Sanctuary. We were able to interact with several animals including a rat, snake, owl and a dove. We were able to hold and touch the animals and also found out lots about the animal's habitats and feeding habits, which fit in nicely with our recent ecology themed activities. Everybody's favourite was Zante the fox who happens to be just about the only fox in the world who is tame enough to allow humans to cuddle him! We are so grateful to Steve

and his amazing animal sanctuary for giving us this amazing opportunity.

We also have the upcoming Centre for Life STEM club trip to look forward to, we are excited to be visiting the exhibitions at Centre for Life and Great North museum. We are very lucky to have some fabulous science museums on our doorstep. The Great North museum and Discovery museum are actually free too so this could be a great opportunity for a day out in the school holidays!

Other STEM related activities that we have taken part in include the recent science fair at New York Primary School. Huge thanks to our Year 10 STEM ambassador girls who came and helped deliver activities to the primary school children. They got several comments about how lovely, pro-active and enthusiastic they were and we have to agree! Big thanks to Emma, Chloe, Ayla, Maddie, Bailee and Molly.

Finally we recently ran a CSI themed afternoon for our KS3 students. They had lots of fun gathering evidence to try and pin point a murderer! Students skilfully ran tests including hair and fibre analysis, fingerprinting and running ion tests in the lab.

Any students who would like to join in with future STEM events or STEM club should see Mrs Owens for more details.





# CAREERS

## YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE



Year 10 work experience took place in May. Students found their own work placement for a full week and the variety was amazing. From serving in a cat cafe, to visiting Berlin, Germany for meetings. The students found the experience really enjoyable and several have been offered the opportunity to apply for apprenticeships next year with employers including the NHS and ABS Precision.



## DELL EMPOWERING TRANSFORMATION WORKSHOP

**Dell Empowering Transformation workshop** - At the end of June, 60 year 8 pupils visited Durham University to take part in a workshop run by Dell Computers to explore life as a university student as well as submitting some amazing ideas for innovative new Dell products.



## CAREERS

### CALLING ALL JOHN SPENCE ALUMNI

Did you attend John Spence as a former student? If so, we'd love for you to get involved in an event we are planning in January. Please contact [kate.winder@johnspence.org.uk](mailto:kate.winder@johnspence.org.uk) for more information.



### OTHER CAREERS RELATED NEWS



Let's talk about you

A reminder that twice a week we have our Careers advisors in school. Year 11 will all have an appointment with Christina next academic year, but please feel free to email her with any questions you might have at [christina.didsbury@johnspence.org.uk](mailto:christina.didsbury@johnspence.org.uk).

She is also available during lunchtimes in the hub if your child would like to ask anything.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

As part of the John Spence 'Fit for life' pledge, year 10 will be visiting some of the local Universities for tours, and year 11 will visit some of the colleges in the area to explore that variety of courses they have on offer.

To compliment this, we are hoping to run a Post 16 Options evening in October where you can come along to discuss apprenticeship opportunities and speak to representatives from the local colleges face to face. A date will be confirmed in the next few weeks for this.



# STUDENT COUNCIL



Over the last term, our new student council has been setup and started running. The council is divided into different sub-committees who are working to improve and celebrate different aspects of school life.

## Wellbeing

Our wellbeing committee has been setup to provide support and advice to our students on wellbeing. So far, they have represented the school at its 'BIZARRE' event which was to promote wellbeing within our community. It was a fantastic event in which the committee ran stalls to raise money for charity.

The wellbeing committee is currently giving up one lunchtime a week to undertake wellbeing training with DiscoverME. This will equip them with the skills to further support the wellbeing of their peers from September.

## Eco-Council

Our Eco-Council is trying to improve the school's eco-friendly practices. So far, they have done an audit of the school and tried to raise awareness of key issues such as electricity waste with a poster campaign across the school. We have also completed several litter picks in school and the local community.

The Eco-Council hopes to grow as we move into the new school year so that we can earn the Green Flag award for the school, as well as starting work to promote the school's drive for pre-loved uniform.

## Sports Journalism

Our Sports Journalism committee wants to celebrate the sporting achievements of the school and gain experience of writing reports, interviewing and editing. They are currently producing a number of reports on different fixtures and tournaments, including the school's POTENTIAL event, that will be compiled to make a program to be published.



We want to grow the committee so that we have more reporters covering more sports in preparation for 2023-24.

STILL TO COME...

We are in the infancy of creating an LGBTQ+ council that aims to raise the profile of the LGBTQ+ community within the school and community, as well as continuing to grow the committees that are already in place.

Everyone is welcome - get involved in making John Spence a better place!

