



18th September 2026

Weekly Parent Newsletter

We've had a busy week with our Ofsted inspection on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thank you to all parents who completed our survey - the feedback you provided was valuable and helped the inspectors to shape a full impression of our school community.

While we can't share the outcome of the inspection until the report is published, I can tell you how proud I was of how staff and students welcomed the team and demonstrated the great work that takes place here. We all feel very pleased with the inspection and I really look forward to sharing the report with you later on in the half term. The inspectors commented in particular on the wonderful interactions they had with students - without exception they were impressed by their confidence, friendly, open and thoughtful conversations. They were excellent ambassadors for John Spence and a credit to you.

Enjoy your weekend!

Ms Marshall





Key Notices



Safeguarding - Spotlight on: Child-on-Child Abuse

Child-on-child abuse occurs when a young person is harmed, exploited, or bullied by a peer—whether in school, online, or in public. It must never be written off as "just banter."

Key Forms

- **Bullying & Cyberbullying:** Ongoing physical, verbal, or digital harassment.
- **Sexual Violence & Harassment:** Unwanted sexual comments, touching, or coercion.
- **Sharing Explicit Images:** Non-consensual sharing of private photos or videos.
- **Physical Abuse:** Assault, intimidation, or hazing rituals.
- **Sexual or Criminal Exploitation:** Forcing or coercing peers into illegal acts.

If you have any concerns, please contact John Spence staff immediately so action can be taken.



Ready to Learn Routines: Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance

100 Club: A fantastic **598 students** are still in the running for the 100 Club by maintaining perfect attendance! Keep up the great work to stay in the draw for special prizes—**35 students** have already bagged Q Jump Passes. After half-term, we're launching our first "Streaks" competition, where every winner is guaranteed a prize. Remember: Great attendance = great outcomes.

Punctuality

Morning Routine: Students must arrive by **8:25 AM** to ensure they are on time for Form. The bell rings at **8:35 AM**—anyone arriving after this point will be marked late and issued a pastoral lunch detention.



Year 7-10 Homework Update

Sparx homework will continue to be set weekly this academic year. Students can access all Sparx platforms using their Sparx Reader login, which they should have already used during their English library lesson.

- **Science:** Set and due on Wednesdays
- **Maths:** Set and due on Thursdays
- **Sparx Reader:** Set and due on the day of their weekly English library lesson

If you or your child need any assistance with logging in or completing homework, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Kind regards,

Mr Dodd

robert.dodd@johnspence.org.uk



Year 8 Assessment

Year 8 students begin their first assessment cycle the week of **October 5th**. These tests highlight strengths to celebrate and identify gaps to address. The subjects that will be tested in this cycle are Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, MFL, and Technology.

Key Dates & Revision Details:

- **Sept 21st:** Revision period starts. Teachers will set, guide, and support revision in class.
- **Accessing Tasks:** All revision details and deadlines will be posted on Google Classroom. Students should also log them in their blue form books (kept in school bags daily).

While students are encouraged to show independence and resilience, parental support plays a vital role in their success.



Year 11: Form Time Intervention

We are excited to support our Year 11 students as they begin their journey toward their May GCSEs!

Starting **Tuesday 22nd September**, all Year 11s will take part in morning form time interventions every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. This dedicated time gives your child an extra 75 minutes of tailored support in a specific subject area each week.

We know how much of a positive difference this extra help can make, and we want every student to feel confident and fully supported. Please encourage your child to make the most of this opportunity by arriving on time every day.

Students will find out their assigned subject groups during form time on **Monday 21st September**.



Upcoming Events and Trips



Academy Open Sessions

Week one of the Academy Open Sessions was a great success with a total of 262 students across KS3 trying out. There is one session left this week, details below:

Open sessions are available for anyone in Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

- **Thursday 24th September** 8.15am - 10.00am session 2

You can read more information about Academy [here](#) and this [document](#) will show you all of the enrichment opportunities we have available to your child.



Open Evening: Next Week!

Next Tuesday, 22nd September, from 5–7pm, we are opening our doors to welcome Year 6 families considering joining us next year.

- **Tour Guides:** A selected group of current pupils will be guiding our guests. Selected guides should arrive in full school uniform by **4:45pm**.
- **Spread the Word:** Please help us promote the event by sharing our social media posts with friends and family!



Pledge Day

Pledge day is a well loved day here at John Spence and this year it will be happening on Friday 25th September. Pupils will be off timetable all day taking part in various exciting activities designed to expand their experiences of the world around them. You can find more information by clicking the link below for your child's year group (this information has also been email home today):

- [Year 7 - Teambuilding](#)
- [Year 8 - Cragside](#)
- [Year 9 - North East Landmarks](#)
- [Year 10 - Hall to Harbour Walk](#)
- [Year 11 - College visits](#)

You can read all about our Fit for Life Pledge [here](#).



Year 11 Information and Post 16 Options Evening

As your child prepares for their next big steps, we invite you to join our Year 11 Information Evening on Wednesday 7th October 5-6pm. It's a great opportunity to check on their progress, prepare for upcoming exams, and explore Post-16 pathways.

Following a short presentation on revision strategies and key dates, you can chat directly with representatives from local colleges, sixth forms, and apprenticeship providers to explore their courses and entry criteria.

The poster for the evening can be viewed [here](#).

Student Opportunities



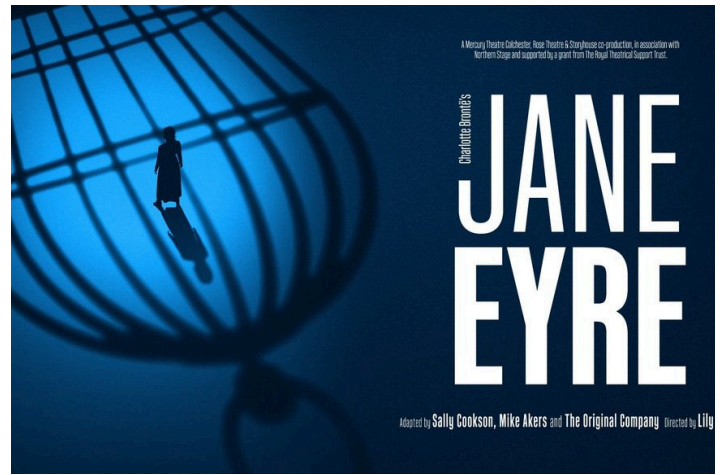
Mindful Mornings

A small island of time before the busy day starts to sit quietly, listen to relaxing recordings, and take part in calming activities.

Registration & Requirements

- **How to join:** Get a ticket from Mrs Wyllie by lunchtime on Wednesdays.
- **Ticket collection:** You need to bring it and give it to Sue on Thursday.
- **Capacity:** ONLY 6 SPACES AVAILABLE PER SESSION!

Check out the poster [here](#).



Year 9 Theatre Trip: *Jane Eyre* at Northern Stage!

Get ready for an unforgettable afternoon of dramatic gothic romance, unforgettable characters, and brilliant live theatre! We are thrilled to invite Year 9 to join us for a special production of Charlotte Brontë's masterpiece.

A letter is coming home with students today but is also linked [here](#) for your convenience.

Places are **limited**, so while the trip is open to all of Year 9, tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity!

For a sneak peek, please watch the production rehearsals [here](#).



Cadets

We were thrilled to welcome two special visitors from the Ministry of Defence to our Monday night parade! It was fantastic to see our 22 Senior Cadets back in action.

Following that great evening, we are excited to host a **Cadets Taster Session** for any students in **Years 8–11** who might be interested in joining!

- **When:** Monday, 28th September
- **Time:** 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
- **Who:** All students in Years 8–11

Please see the attached [letter](#) for full details. If your child is interested, they can speak to their Form Tutor or pop in to see Mr. Pilkington. We'd love to see them there!



Colouring With Crowe

"Colouring With Crowe" runs on Thursday & Friday lunchtimes in the SSC for our SEN students, who want a quiet space to colour & chat. Students are issued with their own sketch book where they can do their own drawings or choose from over 200 colouring sheets. This is a small but popular provision that we offer to our SEN students.

Colouring and Audio Book Club

The colouring and audio book club will be starting in the library on a Thursday lunchtime from **Thursday 24th September**. Please encourage your child to attend if you feel they would like this.

Family Opportunities



Connect Mental Health

The session is held on Zoom on the last Wednesday of the month at 5.30pm.

September's session topic is 'Understanding Anxiety and Strategies to Support Your Child' Wednesday 30th September - 5.30pm

The session is a place for parents/carers to get information and support and share experiences

Please click the link below to register your interest and to receive the Zoom invite.

[Connect Virtual Support Group – September Registration](#)

Please register in advance of the Zoom meeting time as our emails are only accessible during office hours 08.30-16.30



North Tyneside Renew

Community reuse and repair shop located at Unit 30, Newcastle Quays (formerly Royal Quays), North Shields, NE29 6DW

What They Do

- **Pre-Loved Goods:** Sells affordable furniture, homeware, small electricals, bikes, TVs, and toys diverted from local Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC).
- **Repairs & Workshops:** Features a community-focused repair area offering bike maintenance, workshops, and skill-building volunteer opportunities.
- **Donations:** Accepts good-quality, reusable household items directly at the shop or via the local HWRC.



Healthy4Life

We'd love to invite you and your family to join our upcoming **Healthy4Life** program! It's a completely free, 8-week journey designed to help families build happy, healthy habits together.

Each week, the children will get to try out fun new sports and enjoy a delicious, healthy snack. It's a fantastic way to move, learn, and have fun together as a family!

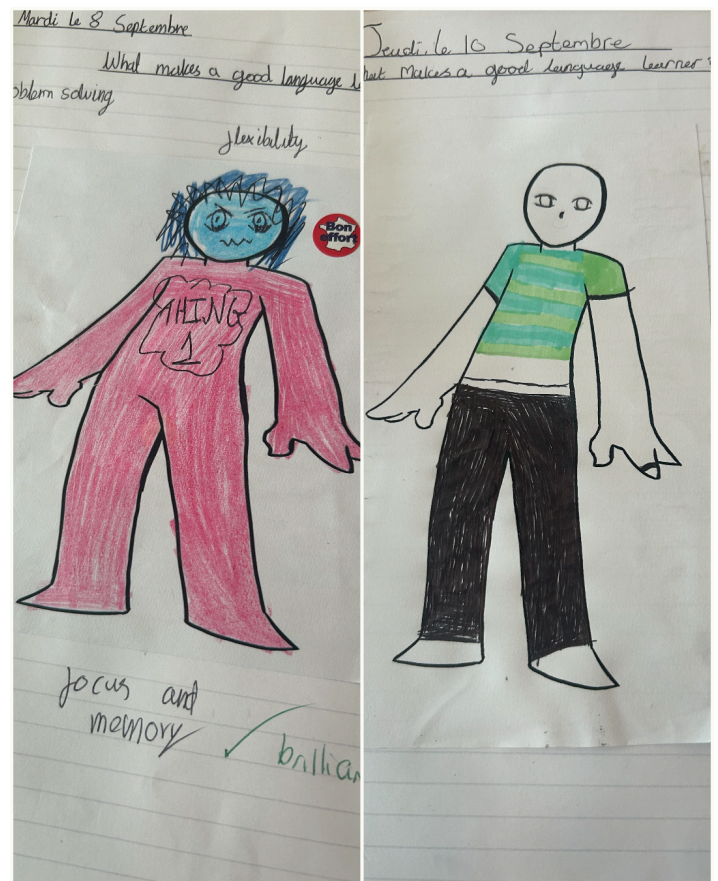
Check out the attached [poster](#) for more details. If you'd like to join us, simply fill out our quick [online referral form](#) here. We can't wait to see you there!



Celebration of Good News

Heroes in the Making: A Creative Start to Year 7 Languages

Year 7 have been exploring what makes a successful language learner. Students identified important qualities such as confidence, resilience, communication, teamwork and problem-solving, before creating their own language-learning superhero. A brilliant and creative start to their language-learning journey!



Success

Big shout out to the year 10 basketball team who had their first round of fixtures in the Newcastle Eagles school's league. It was great to see so many teams there playing basketball. The boys won both of their games and are looking forward to the next round!

Miss Weymes



Key Dates

- Tuesday 22nd September - Y6 open evening
- Friday 25th September - Pledge Day
- Tuesday 29th September - Y7 & Y9 photographs
- W/C Monday 5th October Y8 exams
- Wednesday 7th October Y11 post 16 options evening
- W/C Monday 12th October - Y11 Snapshot 1 exams
- W/C Monday 19th October Y9 exams
- Tuesday 20th October - Y7 BAE Systems STEM Roadshow (P1)
- Thursday 22nd October - Awards Evening
- Monday 26th - 30th October Half term

Links to Key Information and Letters



Year 11 - Post 16 Destinations

Year 11 parents should have received a letter outlining the support available to your child with post 16 destinations. It is linked [here](#) for your attention.

Contact Us

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