John Spence
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



25th September 2026

Weekly Parent Newsletter

Our two highlights this week were Open Evening on Tuesday and Pledge Day today.

Our Open Event was a huge success, with our visitors leaving with a great impression of our school. Thank you to the student guides and helpers who were all excellent ambassadors for the school - lots of parents told me how impressed they were with the maturity and considerate nature of our students. It was also lovely to see many of you here with your children in Y6. I was pleased to hear your positive experiences and grateful to you for sharing them with prospective families.

Pledge Day is currently underway, with students out and about all over the North East enjoying cultural, team building and future focused activities. We look forward to sharing photos and highlights in our next issue.

Congratulations also to our sports teams whose success is below - a particularly great start to the season for our girls' football teams.

Have a lovely weekend!

Ms Marshall








Key Notices



Scholars Bus

Students who use the Scholars Bus will receive their bus pass next week and will be required to show it before getting on.

Students have been reminded of the behaviour expectations on the bus to ensure every student has a safe and pleasant journey. Should there be any concerns raised or students found to be causing an issue, we may remove the bus pass and the right to use this transport.



Ready to Learn Routines: Equipment & Punctuality

Equipment

Student equipment available next week: Pencil case - £1. Pencil case with 2 pens, pencil, rubber and ruler - £1.50.

Punctuality

A reminder for students to be in by 8.25am so they are not late to Form. Any time after the 8.35am bell is late and results in a pastoral lunch detention.



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:

- **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).



Year 11 Snapshot Exams: Week Beginning 12th October

Year 11 Snapshot exams will take place the week beginning 12th October. Over the coming weeks, students will receive revision materials for all of their GCSE subjects.

These assessments allow us to identify key strengths and areas for growth, ensuring we can provide targeted support ahead of the summer GCSE exams.

We greatly appreciate your support in encouraging your child to establish a consistent revision routine at home.

Celebration of Good News

Year 6 Open Evening

Thank you all to all of the student guides for giving up their time to help at the Year 6 Open Evening.

We have had lots of positive feedback from prospective parents about the how lovely, welcoming and articulate the guides were.

Well done and thank you from me!

Mrs Wyllie







Recognition of Improved GCSE Results

On September 22, 2026, North Tyneside Council's Director of Children's Services, Rebecca Wall, sent a letter formally congratulating the staff of John Spence Community High School on their improved summer GCSE results. Rebecca Wall commended the collective dedication of staff, governors, students, and families, noting that their strong leadership, quality teaching, and inclusive approach helped secure better future opportunities for students while strengthening the broader educational community across North Tyneside.

Fantastic Start to the Season for Our Girls' Football Teams!

- **U14 Girls:** Secured a hard-fought **2–1 victory** against St. Benet Biscop in a thrilling, closely contested first round of the English Cup on Tuesday!
- **U15 Girls:** Kicked off their ESFA Cup campaign in style with a impressive **4–1 win** over WBHS. Huge congratulations to Lacy D for an outstanding hat-trick (3 goals), Phoebe B for finding the back of the net, and Lily-May C. for earning Player of the Match!







Year 11 Rugby

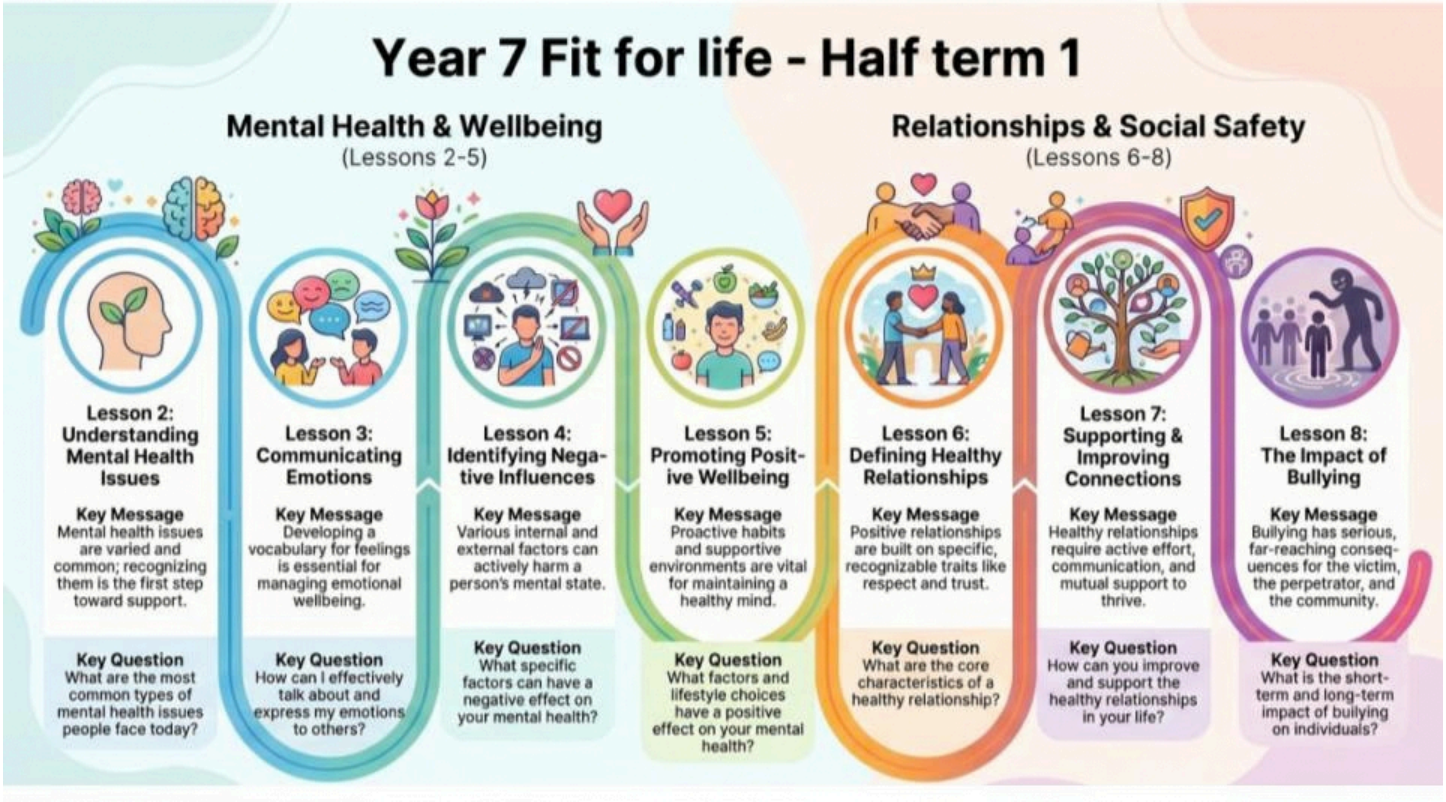
The Year 11 Rugby team started the season with some tough encounters against Ponteland and Prudhoe on Wednesday night. Great to see them out there playing and enjoying it, demonstrating huge resilience and bravery.

Fit for Life Lessons

Fit for Life: Weekly Curriculum Insights

Each week, we will be sharing an update on what our students are engaging with during their **Fit for Life** lessons. These sessions are designed to equip students with essential life skills, supporting their personal development, wellbeing, and understanding of the wider world.

This Week's Spotlight: Year 7 This week, our Year 7 students are taking their first steps into the Fit for Life curriculum as they transition into secondary school. The focus this half term is on **Mental Health & Wellbeing and Relationships and Social Safety**.



Upcoming Events and Trips



Year 8 - Strength Through Challenge

On Monday 28th September a group of Year 8 students will be visiting SafetyWorks!

Managed by the Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service in Newcastle, this multi-agency educational facility provides hands-on safety training for schools, youth groups, and community organizations. It features realistic, immersive scenarios (such as simulated streets, homes, and transport) where visitors learn how to prevent accidents, handle everyday hazards, and respond to emergencies safely.



Year 9 - Fit for Life Transition

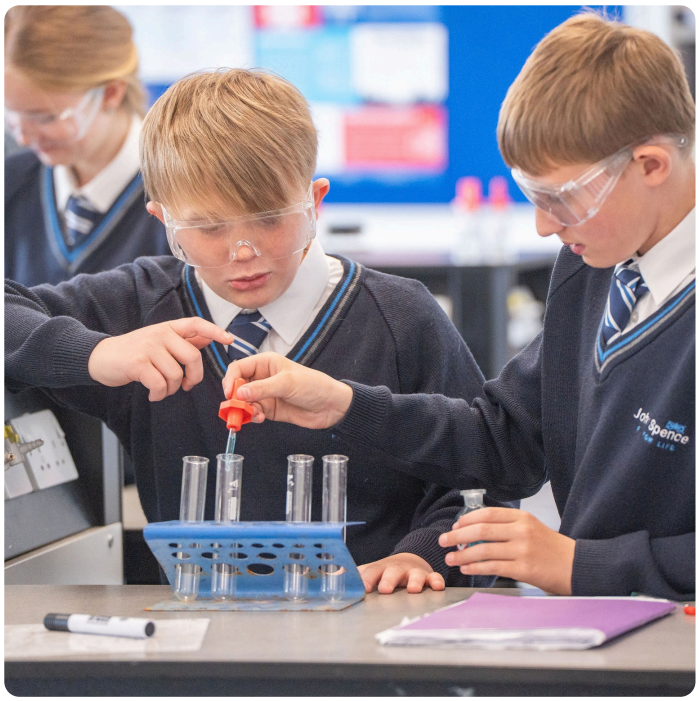
Year 9 students in the "Fit for Life Transition Programme" will attend one of the following trips next week:

Rock Climbing Trip

- **Date:** Tuesday, 29th September 2026
- **Location:** Newburn Leisure Centre
- **Schedule:** Meet in the Sports Hall at 8:30am (returns by 11am)
- **Kit:** Full PE kit

Surfing Trip

- **Date:** Thursday, 1st October 2026
- **Location:** South Shields Surf School
- **Schedule:** Leave class at 11:45am, meet in the Sports Hall
- **What to Bring:** Swimming costume, towel, warm clothes, and a packed lunch (or food bought at break)









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.

Please complete this form if you will be attending.

Student Opportunities



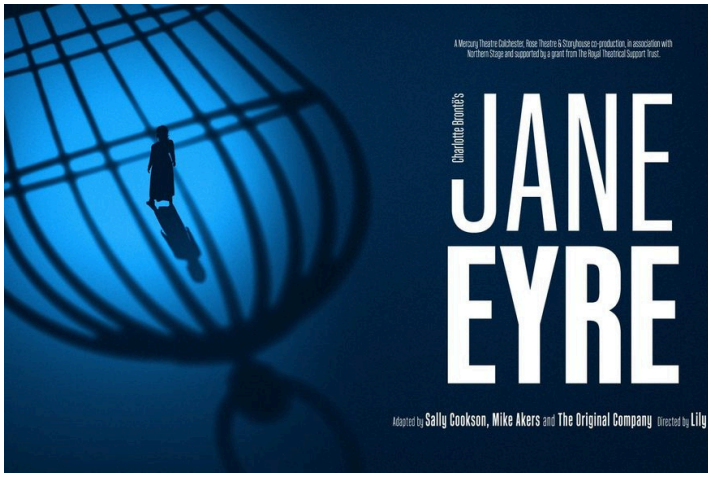
Cadets

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!





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.

Key Dates





Key Dates for this half term

- 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

Contact Us

John Spence Community High School
Preston Road
North Shields
NE29 9PU

Office@johnspence.org.uk - 0191 296 1432 - www.johnspence.org.uk

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