John Spence
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



16th October 2026

Weekly Parent Bulletin

What a wonderful week it has been across the school! From achievements in the classroom to brilliant engagement in our extra-curricular activities, our students have filled the week with enthusiasm, curiosity, and fantastic learning. It has been a real pleasure seeing their hard work and positive attitudes on display every single day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.



Lots of lego fun happening in the SSC



Public speaking and speech writing in English this week.



17-9 Victory for the Netball Team! Way to go girls.



Beautiful work in Art!



Flying high in Academy



Future Engineers at work

Key Notices



Year 7 and Year 9 Photographs

Don't forget to order your child's school photos by **October 25th** to enjoy free delivery to the school!

Orders placed after this date will be shipped directly to your home (postage fees apply).



Ready to Learn Routines: Equipment

Equipment

Student equipment available to purchase in school: Pencil case - £1. Pencil case with 2 pens, pencil, rubber and ruler - £1.50.

Please note, if a child attends school without a pencil case for multiple days in a row, we will provide them with one and inform you so you can pay via Parent Pay.



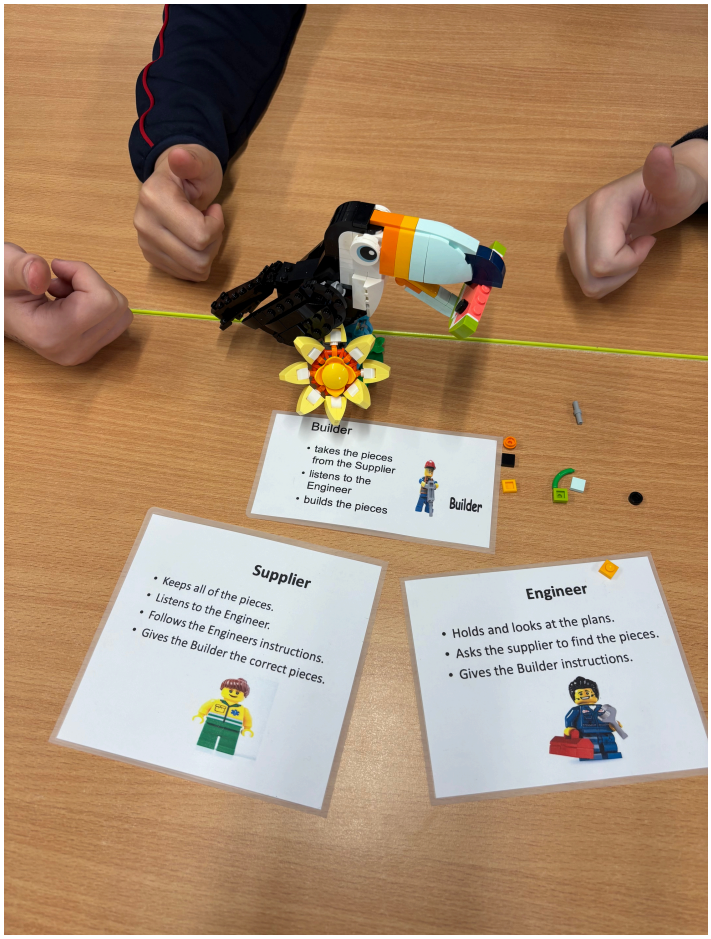
Student Lunch Accounts

A quick reminder to please top up your child's lunch account the night before. Payments take a couple of hours to process, and funds must clear before students can purchase food.

Celebration of Good News

Thrive in the SSC

This term our Year 7 students have been enjoying LEGO Therapy sessions as they settle into their first term at John Spence. Through fun, shared building activities, students develop communication, listening, teamwork, turn-taking and problem-solving skills in a safe, supportive environment. The sessions provide opportunities to build confidence, form friendships and learn to work together, helping our new Year 7s feel comfortable, included and part of the school community.





Lego Donations

A big thank you to the generous parents who have brought Lego donations into school this week!

Your support is very much appreciated, and the students have been absolutely thrilled to start building with them.

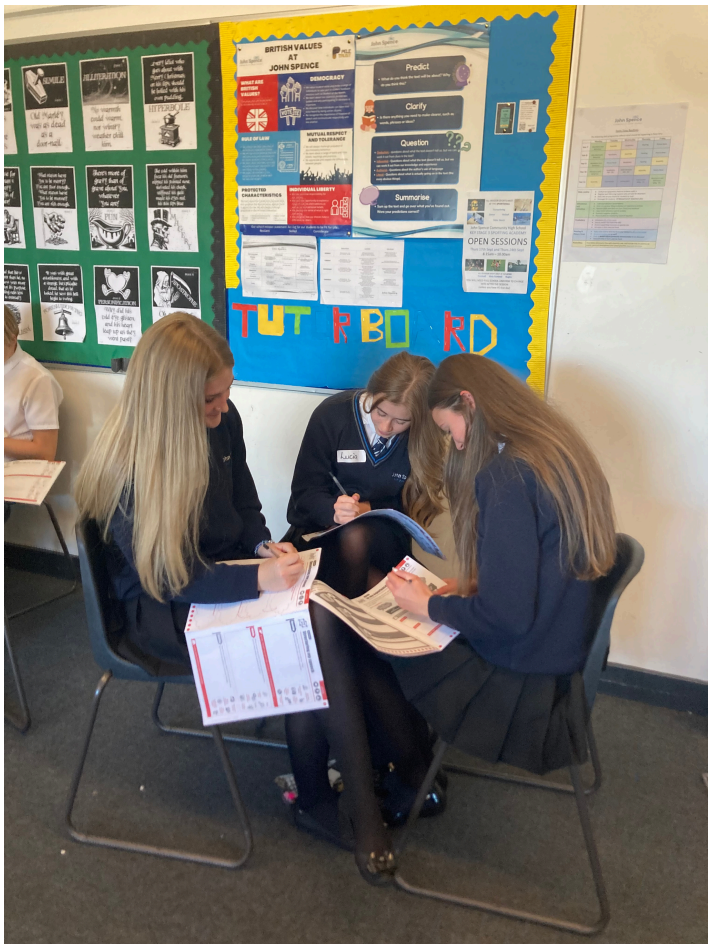
The Speaker's Trust

This week in English, we were delighted to welcome Gabi Glover, a public speaking trainer from The Speaker's Trust. Gabi spent the day working with a group of Year 10 students to build their public speaking skills and confidence.

Speaking in front of an audience is no easy task, but our students rose to the challenge and pushed well outside their comfort zones. Throughout the day, they took part in interviews, collaborative group work, and learned valuable techniques to manage body language and speak confidently on prompt. To top it off, every single student delivered a speech to the wider group—completely without notes!

All participants have now been invited to refine their speeches for a chance to compete in the **North East Speak Out Regional Finals** at the end of November.

We are incredibly proud of their courage and enthusiasm—well done, Year 10!







The Music Mark

We are delighted to announce that John Spence Community High School has been officially awarded the **Music Mark**! This national recognition celebrates our ongoing commitment to

providing a rich, high-quality music education both inside the classroom and across our wider school community.

We are immensely proud of the number of students who actively engage with music here—whether participating in instrumental tuition or coming along to our bustling extra-curricular clubs and ensembles.

Our vibrant music provision also extends into the wider community: we are proud host partners for the **North Tyneside Music Education Hub's Saturday Morning Music Centre**, right here on site at John Spence!

A huge thank you and congratulations to our talented students, and supportive parents for making music such a thriving part of school life.



Finding our words through Art

Our Year 7 ARP students have been exploring their feelings and experiences as they begin their journey at John Spence. Through creating colourful tissue-paper collage birds, each student selected an emotive word that reflected how they felt at the start of their first term. This creative activity provided an opportunity for self-expression, reflection and building confidence as they settled into their new school community.

I Am An Artist

A very creative start to GCSE Art, Craft and Design by Lily-May in Year 10!

Demonstrating exceptional initiative, she has delivered an ambitious and highly personal response to our opening project, *I Am An Artist!*.

Lily-May has set a fantastic benchmark for the term, blending technical skill with an authentic exploration of her creative identity.





Netball Results

Well done to the Year 10 girls' netball team, who secured a fantastic 17–9 victory against St Thomas More! A special well done to O.I., who was voted Player of the Match. What a great team effort!

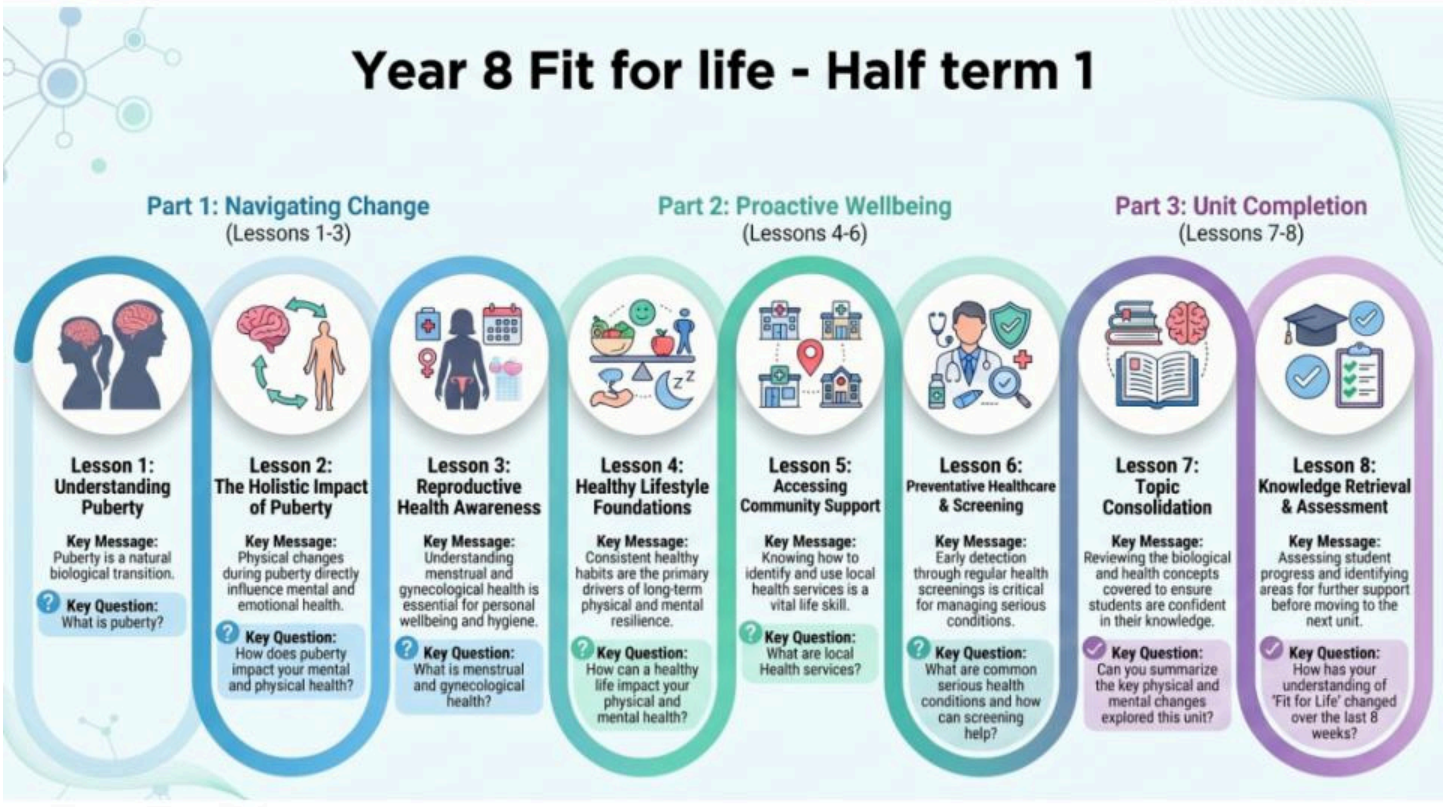
The Year 9 girls also played some fantastic netball against St Thomas More in a closely contested match. Both teams showcased some excellent shooting, keeping the game exciting right until the final whistle. The match finished in a well-deserved 13–13 draw. Well done to all the girls involved, and a special mention to H.M., who was voted Player of the Game!

Fit for Life Lessons

Fit for Life: Weekly Curriculum Insights

This Week's Spotlight: Year 8 - Over the course of Half Term 1, Year 8 will explore key aspects

of navigating change and wellbeing. Take a look at the full lesson breakdown below:



Upcoming Events and Trips



Cross Country

If your child has been selected for North Tyneside Cross Country event on Tuesday 20th October, please can any reply slips be returned.

A reminder of the details

Event Details

- Departure from school: 11.15am
- Return to school: At the end of the day
- Location: Monkseaton High School
- Transport: Students will walk to and from Monkseaton High School under staff supervision.

What your child needs to bring

- School PE kit – this must be worn for the race, Football boots or suitable running trainers
- A plastic bag for muddy footwear
- A packed lunch, a drink
- Warm clothing, including a tracksuit, coat, hat and gloves

Student Opportunities



Family Opportunities

INFORMATION SESSION · PARENTS & CARERS

Supporting Your Child's Mental Health and Wellbeing

Navigating your child's emotional wellbeing can feel complex, but you don't have to figure it out alone. Join an Educational Psychologist for a supportive, evidence-based session designed for parents and carers.

- What mental health looks like in growing children and young people
- Practical strategies to build emotional resilience at home
- How to spot when extra support might be needed

THURSDAY 12 November	**Duchess's High School, Alnwick** Starts 4pm
WEDNESDAY 18 November	**Ponteland Primary School** Starts 4pm
WEDNESDAY 25 November	**John Spence Community High School** Starts 4pm

Supporting your child's Mental Health and Wellbeing

Pele Trust have partnered with ASK Psychology to deliver a Mental Health and Wellbeing session for John Spence Families.

The session is being run by an Education Psychologist on Wednesday 25th November at school from 4pm.

If you would like to attend, please complete this form.

Key Dates



Key Dates for this half term

- 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