John Spence
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



6th November 2026

Weekly Parent Bulletin

It has been a truly eventful week at John Spence!

We started the week on an absolute high with the wonderful news of our choir performing for this year's John Lewis Christmas advert, alongside alumnus Sam Fender. It is moments like these that showcase the exceptional talent and potential within our school community, and we could not be prouder of our students. I hope you have enjoyed all of the news coverage!

Sky News Interview

BBC News Interview with Pupils

Evening Chronicle Video



Alongside these celebrations, we have also launched our whole-school behaviour push this week to ensure every classroom remains a calm, purposeful, and distraction-free environment where all young people can thrive. Thank you to everyone who took the time to read the letter sent out earlier this week detailing these expectations and the adjustments we are making. Your continued support and partnership at home make all the difference as we reinforce these high standards together. You can read the letter here.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school community, and I wish you and your families a restful weekend.

Ms Marshall



Baking up a storm this week!



Inspiring Drama workshops.



Practicals in Science



Rememberance Crafts



What an exciting week for the choir!



Filming with the BBC!

Key Notices



Community Safety this Fireworks Weekend

With Bonfire Night celebrations taking place, please help us keep our young people safe. We ask parents and carers to talk with their children about staying safe around fireworks, being mindful of where they are spending their evenings, and ensuring they avoid any antisocial behaviour in the local community.



Calling all Alumni!

After the huge success of the John Lewis advert this week, we'd like to celebrate our ex John Spencer's!

If you are an ex student and would like to be added to our Alumni please contact: kate.winder@johnspence.org.uk.

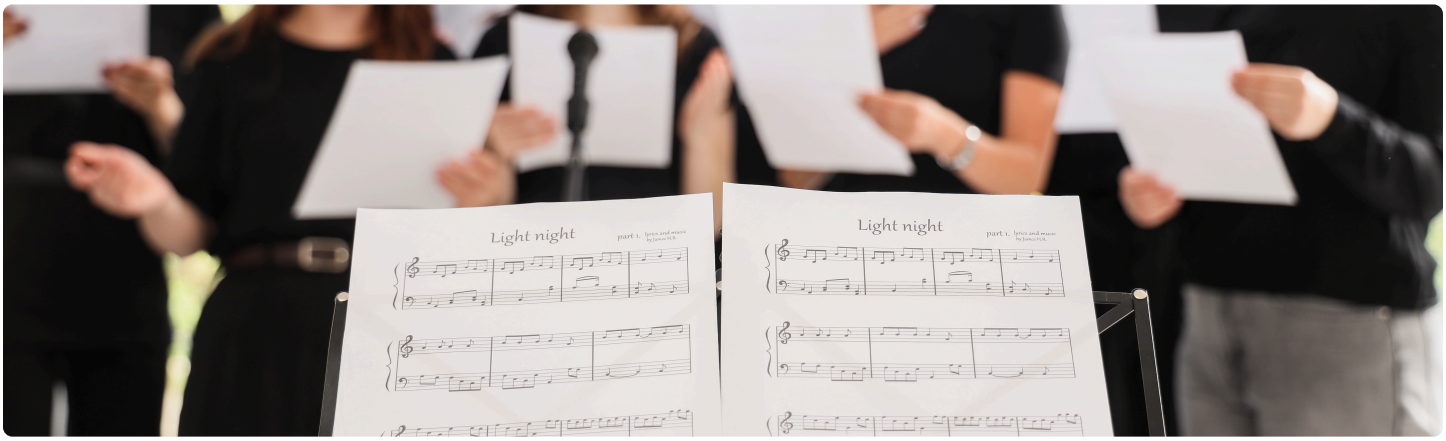
We have an exciting event planned for January and it would be great to get as many alumni there as possible!



Ready to Learn

A reminder of our equipment is below - please ensure your child is ready for the first day back with their school bag, pencil case and full equipment.

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



Christmas choir rehearsals Monday lunchtimes

After the fantastic coverage of Sam Fender's 'You Can't Always Get What You Want' featuring Easington Colliery Band and the John Spence Choir we feel there is no time like the present to let you know that we have **Choir rehearsals every Monday lunchtime in the music room.** We would love it if you could encourage your child to come along and attend; we are going to host a Christmas Celebration with a variety of performers and want to celebrate the outstanding work that goes on in our music department with a large-scale Christmas Choir.

Who knows, we might have the next Sam Fender!

Celebration of Good News

Well done Year 7

Well done to Year 7 who have been successfully logging in to RealSmart / Google Classroom for a whole half term now. All students should have the instructions on how to do this from home stuck in to their blue books. Here is a copy to help you support them with this at home.





Remembrance Wreaths

Students in the Engagement Centre have been crafty this week making Remembrance Wreaths to go around school.

Remembrance Day – Thrive Students

Our Year 7 and Year 9 Thrive students marked Remembrance Day by creating individual poppies decorated with carefully chosen words of compassion and respect. This thoughtful activity encouraged students to develop key Thrive skills, including empathy, reflection and emotional awareness, while recognising the importance of remembrance, kindness and honouring the sacrifices of others.





U15 Girls Football

Well done to the U15 girls football team who progress through to the 4th round of ESFA cup following a 6-1 win against English Martyrs.

Goals from Lacy D 3, Shelayne G 2 and Lily-May C.

POM Shelayne G.



Jayne Eyre theatre trip

The Year 9 theatre trip to see Jane Eyre was a big hit! Well done to all students for their behaviour in the theatre. More to follow in the Christmas Newsletter.

Fit for Life Lessons

Fit for Life: Weekly Curriculum Insights

This Week's Spotlight: Year 7 - Over the course of Half Term 2, Year 7 will explore key aspects safety. Take a look at the full lesson breakdown below:



Upcoming Trips and Events



GCSE PE rock climbing

Wednesday 11th November
Departure: Leaving school at 2:30pm.
Return: Back at school at approximately 6pm.

Friday 13th November
Departure: Leaving school at 8:40am.
Return: Back at school at approximately 3pm.

Important Information
Students must wear full PE kit for both sessions. Warm clothing is essential, so please bring extra layers. Students **must bring** a packed lunch for Friday 13th November. Please ensure you arrive prepared and on time for both sessions.



Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Poppies will be available to purchase in school this coming Monday and Wednesday.

Lance Corporal Brown and Lance Corporal Phillips will be visiting form rooms during morning registration, so please encourage pupils to bring along some spare change if they would like to contribute.

In addition, our cadets are proud to be representing the school and parading at the Remembrance Service on Wednesday, 11th November.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important cause.



Year 11 Mock Job interviews

Year 11 Mock Job interviews will take place on Friday 13th January. This is a great opportunity for our year 11 students to practice their communication skills ready for the college/apprenticeship applications.

Best of luck to you all!



Year 10 Work experience

Year 10 Work experience is now live. It will take place the week commencing 10th May 2027. Parents of Year 10 students are invited to an information evening on **Thursday 19th November at 5pm** and will have also receive a booklet explaining how the process works.

Student Opportunities



Netball matches

Year 9 Netball match v Whitley Bay on Thursday 12th November at John Spence High School.

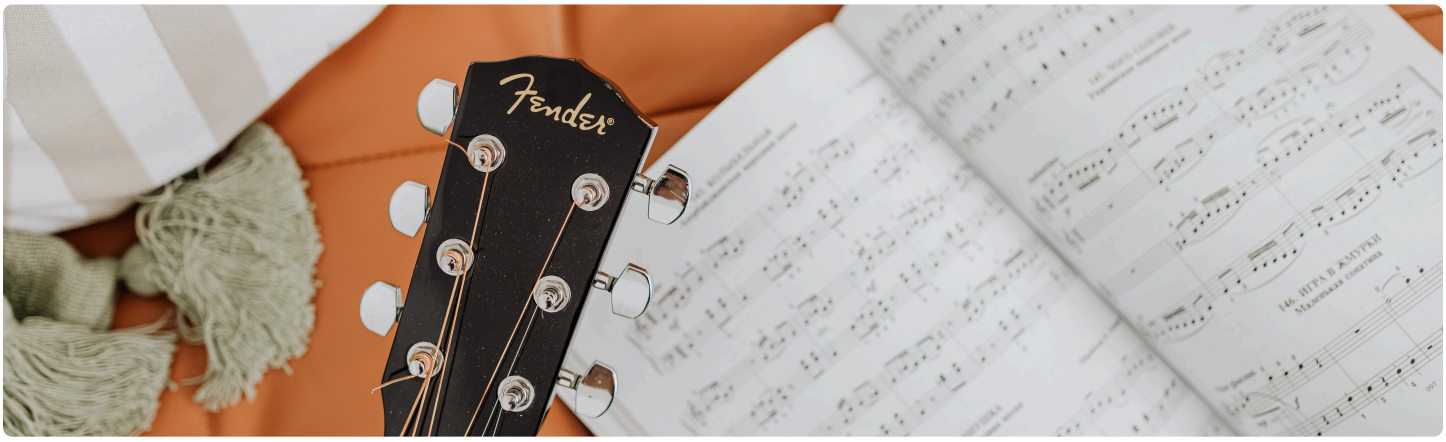
Year 10/11 Netball matches v Whitley Bay and Kings on Thursday 12th November at John Spence High School.

Full PE kit needed, 5pm finish



JED Talk

Diana Yousefi (year 9) will be doing a JED talk next week about her home country of Iran. If any of you would like to come along and support her at lunchtime on Tuesday that would be great. It is such an achievement that she is volunteering to stand up in front of other people and do a talk in English when she arrived at the school in Year 7 with no ability to speak, read or write a word.



Funding Opportunity for Young Songwriters & Composers: The Alan Hull Bursary

We are pleased to share an exciting opportunity for our young musicians!

The **Alan Hull Award** is managed by the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland in memory of Alan Hull, the legendary founding member and principal songwriter of Tyneside folk-rock band Lindisfarne.

- **What it offers:** An annual grant of **£1,000** to support an emerging young songwriter or composer in pursuing their musical ambitions.

- **Who it's for:** Young people with a passion for writing original music or composing.
- **Deadline: 11th November**

How to Apply / Get Support If your child is a songwriter or composer and would benefit from this grant, we strongly encourage you to apply.

Please reach out to the Music Department if you would like guidance or assistance before the deadline!

The second exciting opportunity is the **Young Musicians Fund**, administered by the **Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland**, delivers financial support to assist children and young individuals in achieving their musical aspirations.

Core Objectives of the Fund:

Financial Support: Awards individual grants of up to **£500** to eligible applicants.

Essential Funding: Covers costs including instrument purchases, weekly tuition fees, ensemble participation, masterclasses, and specialized training expenses

The links to both are attached.
£1000 bursary in memory of Alan Hull (Lindisfarne) which recognises one young song writer each year - Community Foundation

Grants for young people (up to 21) to pursue musical ambition - Community Foundation

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.

Parent Carer Forum

The Parent Carer forum will be in school on Friday 4th December from 9-11am.

All parents / carers welcome. Flyer to follow.



Key Dates





Key Dates for next half term

- Monday 2nd November - students return to school
- Tuesday 10th November - Y11 Data and Reports due 9am
- Wednesday 11th November - Flu Vaccination
- Friday 13th November - Y11 mock job interviews
- W/C 16th November - Y10 exams
- W/C 23rd November - Y7 exams
- Wednesday 25th November Billy Elliot drama trip
- Friday 4th December - school closed for staff CPD day
- W/C 7th December - Y11 exams
- Friday 18th December - school breaks up at 1pm for Christmas

Contact Us

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