John Spence
COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL



9th October 2026

Weekly Parent Bulletin

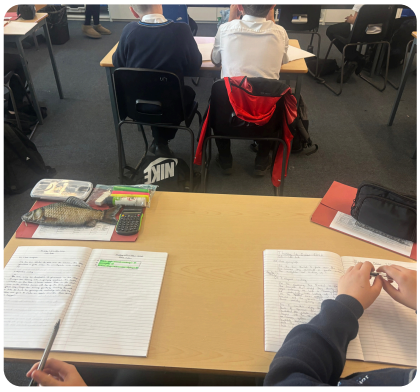
I hope you enjoyed reading the Ofsted report this week - there is so much to be proud of. Enjoy the lovely photos below and reading about the many student successes this week.



Showing off our computer skills



Focused and on task in lessons



Equipment out and ready



Tasty Treats



Things are heating up in Science



Beautiful Artwork

Key Notices



Online Harm Groups

Online harm groups, often referred to as ‘Com Groups’, use tactics such as grooming, coercion, manipulation and blackmail to exploit young people online. Their activity can overlap with a range of harms, including child sexual abuse.

The guidance aims to provide a specific, measured and containing narrative from the NCA that supports proportionate action based on the current threat picture.

Please follow this link for some practical guidance for Parents and Carers



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.



Lego Donations

Our Student Support Centre is looking to build up our stock of Lego bricks, and we need your help! Lego is a fantastic tool for encouraging teamwork, spatial reasoning, creativity, and providing a calming, hands-on outlet for students who need a quiet break or emotional support during the day.

Have your children outgrown their Lego collection? We are gratefully accepting:

- Loose bricks, baseplates, and mini figures of any shape or size
- Partial or incomplete sets (we don't need instructions or original boxes!)

Where to drop off: Please bring any unwanted bricks in a plastic bag or container to the school office

Thank you so much for supporting our students!

Celebration of Good News

Year 7 French

Year 7 have made a great start to their French learning journey. They have all been very focussed on recapping the basics and looking at key introductions including birthdays in the 1st and 3rd person. Keep up the good work!





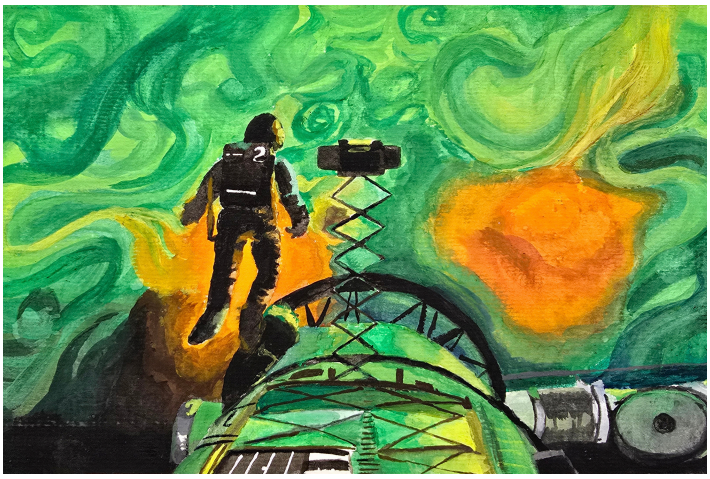
Year 8 Spanish

Year 8 have had a great start to the year in Spanish lessons. They have been looking at what they use their mobile phones for with a focus on key opinion phrases, frequency phrases, and key infinitive / present tense verbs. We're looking forward to seeing the great work continue!

Year 9 French

Year 9 classes have been extremely successful in manipulating key vocabulary in French on the topic of their online activities. They have been able to recall key phrases covered in previous years and use this in their written work as well as building their resilience in conjugating key irregular verbs. We're looking forward to seeing this reproduced in their upcoming assessments.





Beautiful Artwork

A beautiful painting completed by Abigail R in Year 11 as part of her personal project on Angles: Space. She has chosen to recreate a scene from her favourite film (and book) Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir.

Basketball Success

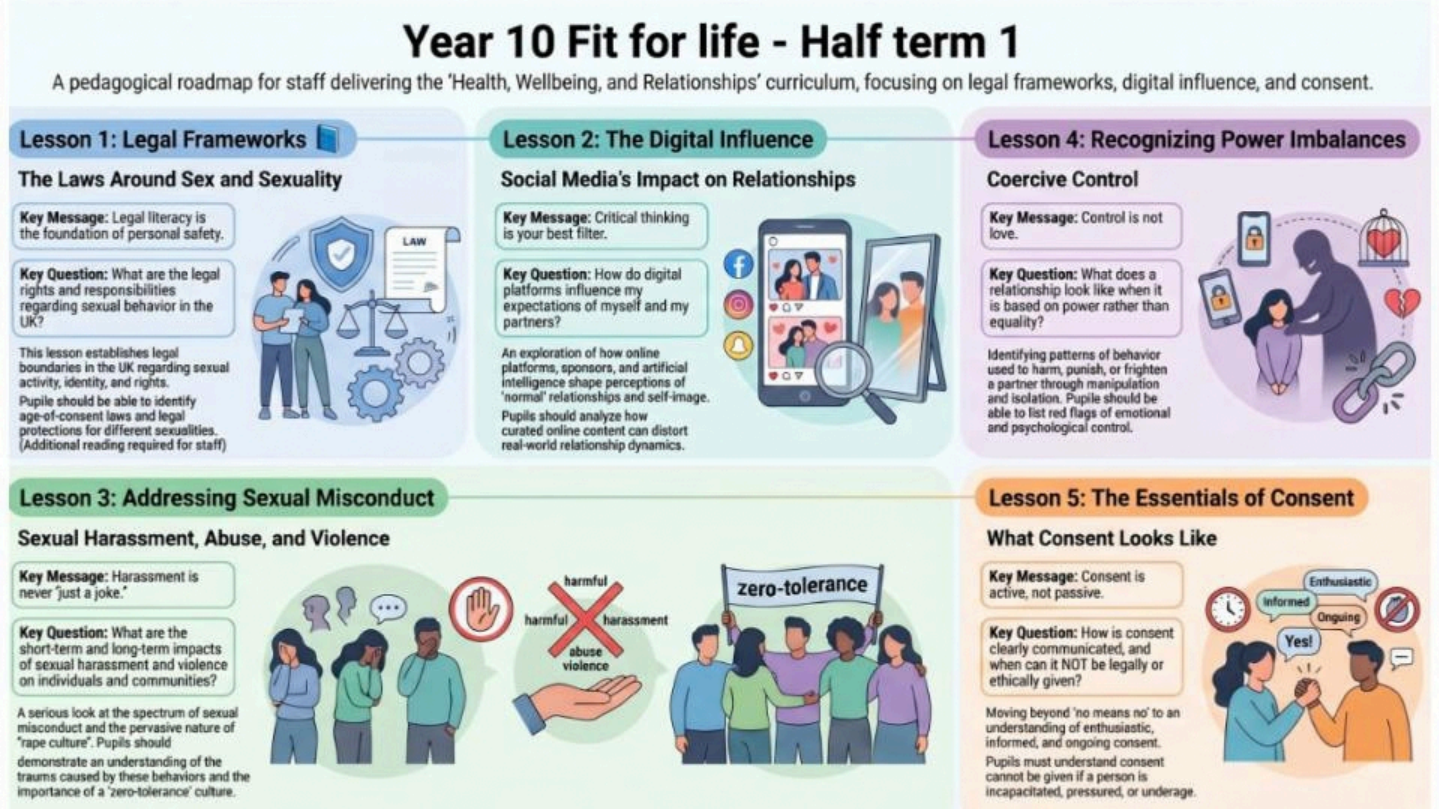
Well done to the U14 Basketball Team who had their first ever fixture in the Newcastle Eagles' School League. Lots of talent on show & the lads were an absolute credit to the school!



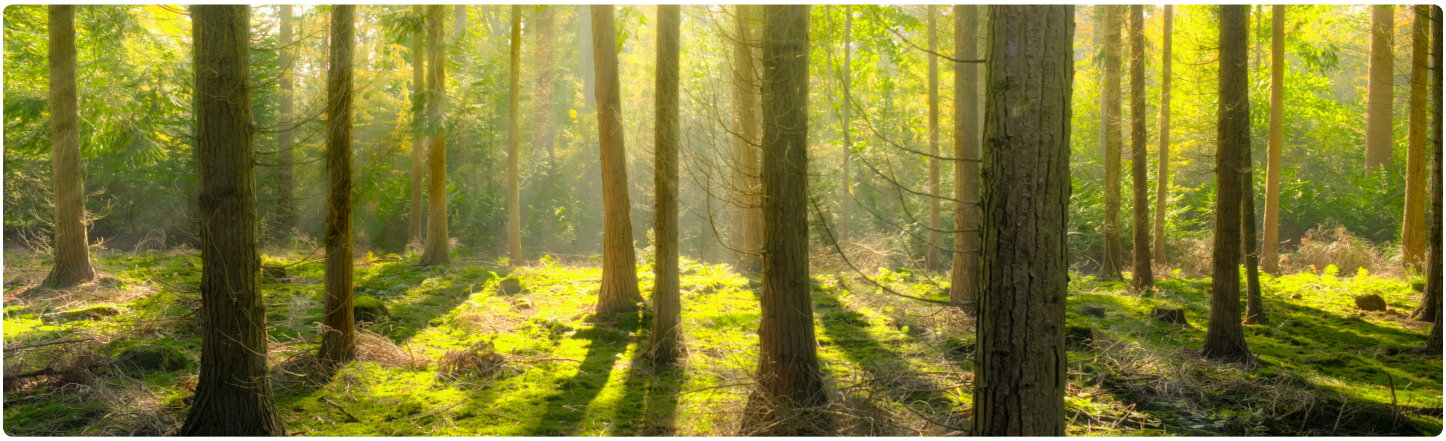
Fit for Life Lessons

Fit for Life: Weekly Curriculum Insights

This Week's Spotlight: Year 10 - Over the course of Half Term 1, Year 10 will explore key aspects of legal frameworks, digital influence and consent. Take a look at the full lesson breakdown below:



Upcoming Events and Trips



Water, Woodland, Wildlife & Wonder

A selected group of students from Years 8-10 will be heading to Kielder Forest next week as part of a Community Nature Project.

Student Opportunities



Fresh Starts and Resilience

This week, we were delighted to welcome Rev Dan McCarthy from Christ Church to lead an inspiring assembly for our Year 7 and Year 8 students.

Centred on the theme of 'A Fresh Start', Rev Dan tied his talk directly to our school value of resilience. Exploring the parable of the Prodigal Son, he encouraged students to see every single day as a brand-new opportunity to make positive choices, overcome setbacks, and grow.

Students were actively engaged throughout the session, taking away a powerful reminder to aim high, persevere, and passionately pursue their dreams and ambitions. A huge thank you to Rev Dan for taking the time to inspire our school community!



Instrumental Music Lessons

Playing a musical instrument can be a most stimulating and rewarding activity developing attributes that support the development of soft skills, creativity as well as a proven outlet to support positive mental health in children and young people.

Instrumental lessons are available in a range of instruments both within school and as part of the wider offer in partnership with our local Music Hub.

Please read this letter for more information.



Connect Mental Health

Connect Mental Health (MHST) Virtual Parent Support Session

- **Topic:** Understanding Emotional Regulation & Support Strategies
- **When:** Wednesday, 21st October at 5:30 PM (Monthly sessions: Last Wednesday of the month)
- **Where:** Zoom
- **About:** A virtual space for parents and carers supporting children with social, emotional, and mental health needs to gain advice, share experiences, and receive wellbeing guidance.

To Join: Register via the *Connect Virtual Support Group - October Registration* link. **Please register in advance** (emails are monitored office hours only, 8:30 AM–4:30 PM)



No Limits

No Limits is a FREE programme for children and young people to encourage them to be physically active.

There are sports hall and swimming pool based sessions where activities can include trampolining, football, basketball, dodgeball, racket sports, swimming, pool inflatables, and arts and crafts.

Please note the sports hall sessions are for children aged 8-13 years old and the swimming sessions are for children under 16 years old.

Please view the sports poster here and the pool poster here

Key Dates





Key Dates for this half term

- 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

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