



**Teesdale School
& Sixth Form**

NEWSLETTER

**JULY
2023**



SUMMER

A message from our headteacher...

The summer term is a time mixed with celebration and sadness. We celebrate the achievements of our students across the course of the year, but we also say goodbye to many young people who have been a part of the Teesdale family for so long.

Year 13 students started school back in 2016, which seems almost like a lifetime ago. The result of the Brexit referendum was only just beginning to be digested, nobody had ever heard of Coronavirus, England's men had not been to the final of a major football tournament since 1966, the women had never won the European championships, and we did not even know what TikTok was. Even more unimaginable, we had only had two different prime ministers in the preceding five years! Those little fresh faced Year 7s have grown and blossomed into the remarkably accomplished young adults that are now leaving us for the next phase of their lives.

Year 11 students have worked hard this term to complete their GCSE exams, and are now ready to move onto the next steps in their journeys too, with many coming back to join

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Magic of the musicals

This term our talented students performed some musical hits at The Sage Gateshead as part of the NELT summer concert.



Sister Act success

After months of hard work, our students hit the stage in our school production of Sister Act!



What Would David Do?

This term we launched our new eco campaign in school and crowned our first set of winners.



A surprise visitor!

We've had a peculiar visitor in our car park this term!

Sailing to success

After setting himself a new challenge this term, our keen sailor, Toby, tried out a different type of boat - an Ilca 4. Toby moved into his new boat in the middle of May and recently entered the RYA Northern British Regional Junior Championships at Bassenthwaite Sailing Club.

Toby entered into the Ilca 4 fleet amongst some strong entries who have completed over a year's worth of training.

Toby had a very successful weekend and came first in four out of the seven races and with two more seconds, won the Ilca 4 event - gaining him a gold medal win.

He is now looking forward to further training over the summer ready for the Ilca Nationals in August in Hayling Island.



our Sixth Form in September. We should pause and remember how much of their education both year groups sacrificed to protect the health of others and how much the world has changed during their time here at Teesdale. They are a credit to everyone.

However, the sadness that comes from knowing that we will miss them is tempered by an enormous sense of pride that we have been able to share in their successes and watch them become who they are. We celebrate all that they have achieved - sporting accomplishments, the school show, wonderful contributions to art and culture and caring for and nurturing the environment around us. This newsletter is full of examples of the people and ideas that make this school special.

So, with the sun shining, we anticipate an exciting summer ahead to rest, relax and recharge ready for the new term where students can expect a warm welcome back in September as we look forward to a new academic year full of promise and expectation.



Hallelujah-sister act is a hit!

After months of hard work and rehearsals, students took to the stage for a heavenly rendition of the hit musical Sister Act!

Wowing audiences with their pitch perfect vocals and energetic dance routines, Teesdale students told the story of how disco diva Deloris helps a struggling convent choir find their true voice as she unexpectedly rediscovers her own.

A good time was had by all, and our thanks go out to everyone who made the production possible.



The magic of the musicals

This term came to an end with a roof-raising performance from our students at The Sage Gateshead.

Our talented students came together with the other schools in the North East Learning Trust for the annual NELT summer concert.

The first concert after the pandemic certainly did not disappoint! Everyone came together to perform hits from much-loved musicals and the audience were truly wowed.

A huge well done to everyone who was involved - you were amazing!



Colonel car park!

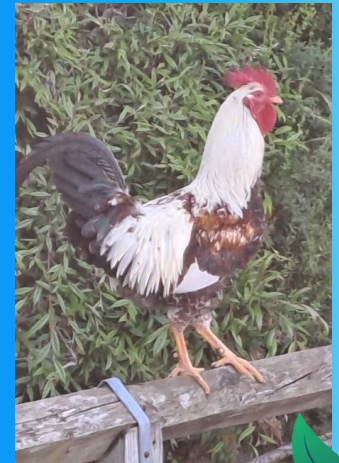
Introducing, Colonel Car Park, Teesdale's resident rooster! He appeared in the middle of May and has made the car park his very own territory.

He likes to cock-a-doodle-do at regular intervals and enjoys perching on the fence to greet staff when they arrive in the morning.

He can also be seen at the end of the day checking that all students get onto their buses.

At the time of writing, he has survived two attempts by the RSPCA to capture and re-home him. There is talk, nonetheless, of the real heavies arriving soon with larger nets. Our money is on our rascal rooster to outwit them again!

Colonel, we salute you!



Summer traditions around the world

In the UK we have lots going on during the summer months, including the oldest and arguably most famous tennis tournament, Wimbledon. In Gloucester, people even celebrate all things cheese in the summer months by taking part in cheese rolling races!

But what about the rest of the world?

In Spain, on the last Wednesday of every August, over 20,000 people gather in Buñol, Spain, to celebrate La Tomatina. Hundreds of tomatoes are thrown at each other in the street just for the fun of it. The tradition began in 1945 and approximately 40 metric tonnes of tomatoes are used – that's a lot of tomatoes!

During August, Japan celebrate a festival called Aomori Nebuta Matsuri. Throughout the month, vibrant lanterns showing gods and mythical characters are paraded through the streets of Japan as drummers and dancers bring the parade to life!

Summer careers



Let's take a look at some careers that really come into focus during the summer months.

Pilot

A newly qualified captain can earn between £54,000 and £75,000. For experienced captains, this can rise up to £140,000. Before you can fly a plane, you must gain an Airline Transport Pilot Licence by completing a modular or integrated course. You can find out more about training to become a pilot through [Flying Start](#).

Coastguard

The busiest time of year for coastguards is during summer. A Coastguard sends out weather and tidal reports, responds to emergency distress calls, offers navigational advice along certain stretches of sea, monitors radio and satellite communications and gives information about coastal and sea safety.

Rollercoaster designer

If you have a passion for maths, engineering and thrill rides, you might be interested in a job designing roller coasters. You'll need a degree in electrical, structural or mechanical engineering and could earn around £30,000 per year for this unique and exciting profession.

Careers: An overview

We've had a busy in term when it comes to careers.

Our Year 11 sports science students enjoyed a taster sessions from Bishop Auckland College and from ex-student and Sunderland player, Adam Mitchell.

We welcomed parents/carers into school for our UCAS and apprenticeships evening and launched our new Unifrog programme with everyone.

We had multiple talks, visits and workshops including a careers fair from the NHS.

Most recently, our Year 10 and 12 students took part in Work Experience Week where we hope they got a real feel for life in the world of work.

Don't forget, you can keep up to date with the huge range of careers news and events in our weekly career newsletters.

You can find all the issues [here](#).

DATES

FOR YOUR DIARY

05 SEP - Back to school

27 OCT - Break up for half term

06 NOV - Back to school

20 DEC - Break up for Christmas

08 JAN - Back to school

Sporting success

As always, this term has seen some great sporting trips and achievements.

District athletes: Following attendance at the district trials, Hollie S, Emily W and Rory H attended the county championships at Jarrow. Hollie and Emily came away from this competition as county champions for discus and shot. Rory performed brilliantly and came 2nd in his 3000m run.

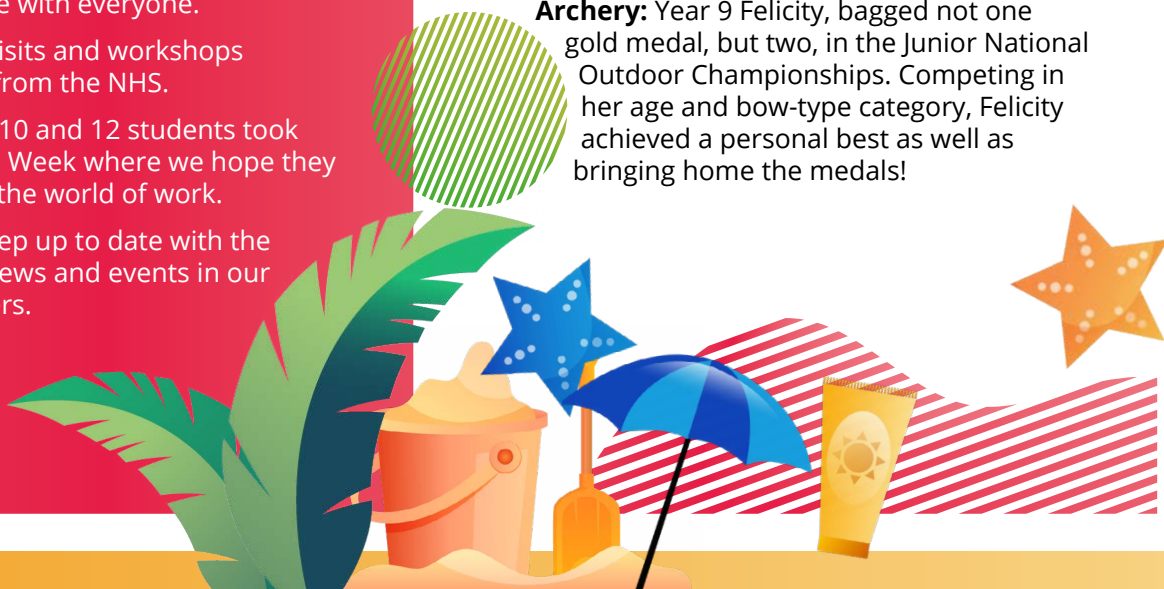
Rounders: We took our school team to the school games competition at Staindrop School and won.

Cricket leaders: Our Young Leaders attended a local cricket festival to help primary school children during their games. The leaders were fantastic as credit to our school.

Athletics: A team of students competed in a local competition at Shildon. We saw lots of great team work and it was great for our students to experience competing at a national standard quality stadium.

County football: Xienna and Isla attended county football trials this term and made it to the last 50 from 150 that started the selection process.

Archery: Year 9 Felicity, bagged not one gold medal, but two, in the Junior National Outdoor Championships. Competing in her age and bow-type category, Felicity achieved a personal best as well as bringing home the medals!



Goodbye Year 11 and Year 13

A poem to you by Dr Henderson.

There is nothing more futile than fearing failure.

What's to fear about a step towards success?

Life isn't about scores and letters and numbers,

It's about the qualities you possess.

You can't learn from always being right,

Getting it wrong is absolutely essential.

If you fall, get up and dust yourself down,

To yourself be honest and be gentle.

When things feel dark, grey, damp and dreary,

Remember that clouds always blow through.

No matter how far away it seems,

The light you need is definitely in you.

When today seems a real struggle,

Ignore the voice that says tomorrow will be the same.

When people say, "you won't" and "you can't,"

See through them and play your own game.

You can be the change you want to see,

And you are the person who can do it.

It will not be forever easy, don't expect everything now,

All things worthwhile achieving need effort and some grit.

Choose to believe in hope and light,

Never apologise for insisting on what is just and right.

Choose love over hate,

However much that seems like a tough fight.

Believe even when you really don't.

Remember all those who love and have faith in you.

Hope even when it seems lost,

Don't be afraid to be open and vulnerable too.

Nobody has the answers or even knows all the questions,

So don't waste effort getting tied in a fearful knot.

Just live for now and do all you can,

To be the best of you, more often than not.

What Would David Do?



This term we launched the NELT eco campaign, 'What Would David Do?', and at the end of term we crowned our very first winners for their hard work to save the planet!

Congratulations to Danny, Chloe, Imogen and Edie who each get a very exclusive WWDD pin badge and certificate. Here's what our Eco Champions have been up to...

Year 7 Danny M is working towards his John Muir award which teaches participants about the local environment and how to look after it.

Year 7 Chloe C often heads out on litter picks with her family, sometimes spending up to an hour clearing the local area of litter.

Year 7 Imogen P was part of the group who worked with designer Kelly Ewing in creating garments out of donated fabric for the 'Trashion Show' at The HUB.

Year 8 Edie F took part in the Plants on the Edge project raising awareness of rare plants and how to help them in changing climates. Edie, along with her Nature Club, recently rescued tadpoles from the school pond with the aim to help raise them before setting them free, giving them a better chance of survival in our eco system.

All four students were presented with certificates and eco friendly wooden pins. If you'd like to get involved next term, you can find more information at: www.nelt.co.uk/wwdd



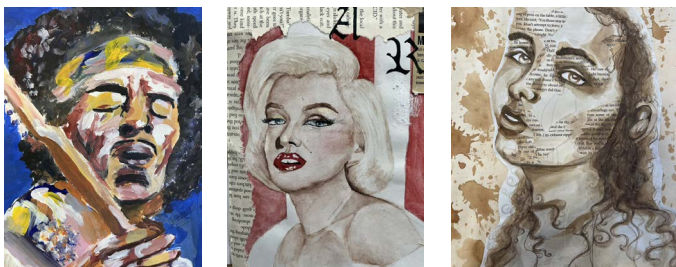
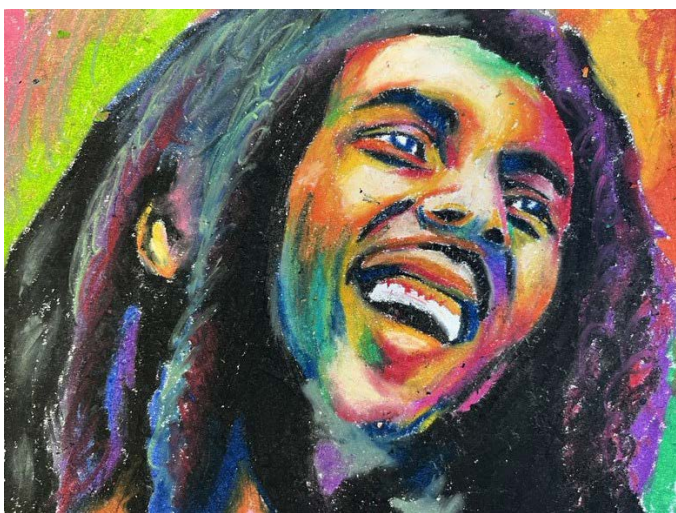
Artist spotlight

This term has once again been filled with lots of amazing art work across all year groups. Check out our gallery below to get a flavour of what's been going on in the art department...

Plants on the edge

This term our art department worked with Dan, a Digital Heritage Interpreter, to begin recording for a self-guide app advocating the flora in Upper Teesdale. These recordings will be used to connect stories to the landscape around us. We were so impressed with how confident and passionately they spoke!

The app will be released later this summer and is part of Teesdale Special Flora's Plants on the Edge Project, delivered in partnership with Northern Heartlands CIO and Moor House-Upper Teesdale NNR.



Turtle watercolours

Our Year 8 artists perfected their watercolour work this term by creating some amazing turtle pieces!



Perfect portraits

This term, we have been blown away by our fantastic Year 10 artists. Students have been working hard on a portraiture project and have been developing their own ideas. This means they have all chosen their own people to create their portraits from. These have included musicians, sports people and even themselves.

Well done Year 10 and keep it up.

