



**Teesdale School**  
& Sixth Form Centre

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

July 2017



## DEAR ALL,

As if by magic another academic year draws to a close. At this time of year we reflect on how much we have to be proud and thankful for. Our students have worked hard for their examinations; enjoyed excursions to London, Newcastle, Tallin, France and Belgium; participated in county and national sporting events and our summer concerts showcased the talent of our students.

This time of year is also a time for celebration. Our Year 11 prom and sixth form ball are lovely opportunities for staff and students to laugh and have a 'bit of a party'. As you can see by the photographs, everyone was dressed in their finery and a good time was had by all. In some ways it's sad to say goodbye to our Year 13s, many of whom have made a significant contribution to our school community, but it's also wonderful to be able to wish them well as they start the next steps in their lives.

This time of year is also about renewal as we welcome our, slightly nervous but very excited, Year 6s to our school. We've also welcomed new staff and they too are slightly nervous, but very excited, about joining our school. Plans are also in place for the school to undergo a 'make over' during the summer holidays and we are all looking forward to seeing the improvements this work will bring when we return in September.

All that remains is for us to wish you a very happy summer.

Best wishes,

Dr Janice Gorch, Executive Headteacher and Ms Clare Ellis, Headteacher.

## Jake wows in Poetry by Heart finals

Teesdale student, Jake Knight, represented the North East in the Poetry by Heart competition, held at the British Library in London in May.



He was among 45 county winners and his stunning performance of 'The Galloping Cat' got him a special commendation and a prize.

Speaking of his time in the competition, Jake said: "I would thoroughly recommend this competition to anyone. The process of learning the poems has proven invaluable by getting me to think in new ways about poetry. In London I made loads of new friends and had a fabulous time. The whole weekend felt much more like a celebration of poetry than a competition. I must also thank Mrs Flint for taking me there and back, and providing excellent company throughout the competition. I did it, enjoyed it tremendously, and think that you would too!"

We think Jake gave a wonderful performance and did Teesdale School proud, well done! You can watch Jake's performance on our new showcase area of the school website.

# Freedom City 2017

**Teesdale School is delighted to announce that we have been approved as an official partner of the Freedom City 2017 project to mark the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. receiving an honorary degree from Newcastle University.**

Teesdale School will co-ordinate a series of Trust wide initiatives that will culminate in an evening of history, music and art in November 2017. The project leader, Dr Simon Henderson, said: "this is a fantastic opportunity for staff, students and parents to engage

with the legacy of King and explore how his message of racial and social justice can be applied today."

Commemorating the themes of Dr King's passionate speech in Newcastle – his final public address outside America before his assassination – Freedom City 2017 explores what Dr King called 'urgent and great problems' all over the world; 'the problem of racism, the problem of poverty and the problem of war'.

Taking place throughout the year, Freedom City 2017 culminates in a series of centrepiece events in November, including Freedom City on the Tyne – an epic, day-long series of performances commemorating historic civil rights marches from across the world.

A special city-wide cultural programme across Newcastle and Gateshead will see Freedom City 2017 events throughout the year at venues including BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Northern Stage, Live Theatre and Seven Stories,

National Centre for Children's Books.

In addition to the cultural events and performances, an education and academic programme - delivered by Newcastle University - will explore the themes of Dr King's speech and bring his legacy to life for a new generation.

Freedom City 2017 features work by international artists, musicians, filmmakers, academics and community groups in a city-wide inspired by the themes of Dr King's 1967 Newcastle speech.

Watch this space for more news as the project unfolds, and for more information, visit:

**freedomcity.com**



## BOOK REVIEW - The Maze Runner by James Dashner

Reviewed by Elanor Kipling

**The Maze Runner is the first in a series of books by James Dashner**

The story is about a teenage boy named Thomas who enters a maze with his new friends, Newt, Chuck, Minho and Teresa. They have to find a way out. In this book, there is love, mystery, adventure ...and monsters.

This story makes you want to read on and there is nothing that makes you want to stop. The first time I read it I thought that Newt was the best character as he is kind, thoughtful and always there for people, especially Thomas. The story also makes you stay on your toes as the maze is kept a mystery for the majority of the book. I think this is because the author possibly wants the reader to feel like the characters

do. The story gives you lots of different emotions such as sadness and happiness, making the book better in my opinion.

However, the book does have some flaws such as the main character, Thomas, who throughout most of the story is full of himself. He also gives off the same emotions throughout the whole book which can be a bit boring. Also, in my opinion, Teresa is a bit of an annoying character because she is also full of herself like Thomas. She only cares for herself and two others. I think James Dashner made the characters like this as he did not want them all to be loved and it adds interest to the book.

I believe that everyone should read this book, even those who don't like adventure stories, as it is one of the best books in the world! If you have seen the film adaptation and did not like it, still try the book because I think it is better and they missed lots of things out of the film.

Overall, I would recommend this book series to teenagers and young adults who are into adventure stories. I'd also recommend it to people who enjoyed the Hunger Games books. I rate the book 5/5.

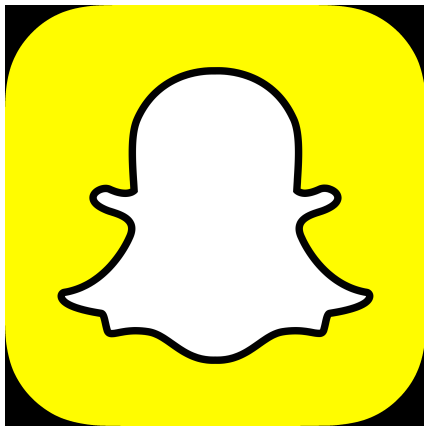
# A message for all new students...

by Joe Richardson, Year 7

As summer approaches, we know that our new Year 7s will be feeling a mixtures of excitement and nervousness about starting at a brand new school, but never fear, Joe is here with some top tips to make your first days at Teesdale School stress free...

- B** Buy an alarm clock because the new term will bring an early start and you do not want to miss the bus or registration! Do you?
- E** Eat breakfast before school as it is a long time until lunchtime, but well worth the wait!
- P** Plan your route to school so that you know how to get there and how long it will take. Always try to travel with a friend.
- R** Rucksacks should be good and strong to accommodate all of your books and equipment.
- E** Equipment is always key in Teesdale School. I find it helpful to have: a pen; a pencil; a ruler; a rubber; a pencil sharpener; colouring pencils; a glue stick; a scientific calculator; a protractor; a compass and your planner (which will be given to you on your first day of school).
- P** Planners should be taken to school every day because they will have your timetables in, so if you do not have those you will not know which lesson to be at. Your planners are also where any important information gets written, like, homework and parental notes. Your planners should also be signed weekly by a parent or guardian so that they are aware of what is going on.
- A** Ask a teacher, prefect or even just an older student if you ever need help or support, especially for things like finding your way around school or needing to know times of breaks or lessons.
- R** Reading books are also an essential item and should be taken to every English lesson. If you do not have one, there is always the library in school which would be happy to lend you a book.
- E** Enjoy school and make lots of friends because you have to go anyway so you might as well try to make the most of it!
- D** Do all of your homework because you could get a detention if you don't hand it in before the deadline!





## Snapchat warning

You may have seen a warning about a new Snapchat feature - Snap Maps - in the news recently. For any parents saying "Snap what?" this is a very popular social media app on smartphones that is used to share photos and video.

Technically, you'll have to opt-in for the new Snap Maps feature to work, which is the good news. But it is worth checking that your privacy settings are secure as the feature does allow your location to be shared with others, opening up the possibility of people snooping on you without your full understanding or knowledge. We don't need to explain why this is probably not a great idea...

### How to turn off Snap Maps

To access Snap Maps you'll need to pinch the screen in the main Snapchat menu where you can see what your front or back camera is shooting. Pinch with two fingers here and you'll be pulled out to your location on a map.

In the top right hand corner you'll then see a cog icon, which is the Settings menu for Snap Maps. If you press here that will then show you an option called Ghost Mode. If you toggle that on, it will delete your last known location and make sure no-one can see your future locations either. That doesn't mean Snapchat won't be able to see your location though.

To ensure Snapchat can't see your location at all, you'll need to head to the Settings menu of your Android or iOS device and make sure the app doesn't have permission to see where you are.

## Website updates

Hopefully everyone has seen our new school website - did you know we post lots of useful information on it that could save you time and keep you bang up to date?

For a start, all class or school-wide non-personal letters sent home are now also posted on the website in the 'Useful Info' section.

You can also find a range of forms, policies and statutory information on the site. For instance, if your circumstances change during the school year, you may become eligible for free school meals. The application form can be found under 'Useful Information'.

Similarly, if you qualify for free school meals, you may be eligible for travel to school on a school bus if you are outside of the school catchment area - the information is on the site under, you've guessed it, 'Useful Information'.

In future, we also plan to put all examination/test schedules on the site.

Ofcourse you can always visit our site for the fun stuff too. We regularly post news articles on the front page and on our social media accounts. Facebook and Twitter. We are also busy populating our brand new 'Teesdale Showcase' where the very best pieces of school work are posted for the world to see.

Check it out now at [www.teesdaleschool.co.uk](http://www.teesdaleschool.co.uk)

## New GCSE gradings

From August 2017, some exams will be graded using the new grading system that uses numbers rather than letters (from 9-1 rather than from A\*-G). The government have developed web pages and a fact sheet that attempt to explain the changes as simply as possible. Please visit our website [www.teesdaleschool.co.uk/performance](http://www.teesdaleschool.co.uk/performance) to link through to the guides.

## Rotary club student interviews

On Wednesday 21 June, 40 students in Year 10 were interviewed by members of Barnard Castle Rotary Club as part of their BTEC Business course unit on selection and recruitment.

Students were tasked with researching a job that they would be interested in the future and had to create a person specification and job description for the post. They then wrote a letter of application, created a CV and completed an application form for the job and submitted these to their interviewer.

Thirteen members of The Rotary Club then visited the school, with each Rotarian interviewing three students. Although most students felt very nervous before their interview, the majority admitted to enjoying the experience, and found the feedback on their applications and interview performance constructive.

We'd like to say a big thank you to The Rotary Club for their help and support with the interviews!





## Film review

# Transformers - The Last Knight

by Jack Dominy

This film feels like lots of story elements are forced in like an overstuffed sausage and the pace of the movie doesn't flow well. The story revolves around the Transformers being considered dangerous and an enemy of the human race.

The filmmakers try to make some rapid fire jokes, but, like the blast from Optimus' guns, some hit but most miss. The jokes can be clever and funny at times, but they can also seem like they are forced on to you to try and make you laugh. A good thing about this movie is the change of villain rather than constantly relying on Megatron.

This time the villain is a female creator, but the story doesn't explain where she comes from and where she has been all this time. I saw some characters as useless with no relevance to the story such as the young girl; she wasn't in the movie much except in the first and last act.

If you are a die-hard Transformers fan you will forgive the movie its many bad points as it has the usual mix of epic special effects and huge battling robots.

**WARNING - spoiler section!!!!** One of my favourite scenes is at the start, set in England in the middle ages. King Arthur is fighting a battle then a massive dragon appears - it seems like a better movie was lurking in that scene! The main character is revealed to be someone called the last knight; we only see him use his ability to summon a sword that can destroy a transformer once, then we don't see any more of this strange ability throughout the film.

Another example of this is the female character, a descendent of Merlin, who can unlock the staff's power and use its abilities. During the film, we get an amazing flashback scene where we see Bumblebee in World War 2 battling the Nazis with the Allies - again, this seemed like another much better movie.

In my opinion, fans just want to focus on the Transformers rather than the humans, so I recommend that the filmmakers just make a movie about one of the fans' favourites which is Bumblebee!



## After school club

**Staff at the TCR Hub beside Teesdale School (within close walking distance) are proposing to run an after school club from September 2017 within their community facility.**

The club would offer a range of fun and interesting activities, with its own dedicated area and dedicated play worker to run the sessions.

At present TCR Hub are looking for expressions of interest by contacting Rachel Twedde on 01833690150 before Friday 21 July 2017. The club would have an hourly charge and run from 3:00pm to 6:00pm for Years 7 - 9.

## Maths corner

by Elanor Kipling

**SUDOKU** - Enter numbers into the blank spaces so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 to 9.

### MATHS JOKES

Q: Why is 6 afraid of 7?

A: Because 7 8 9

Q: Why did the mutually exclusive events break up?

A: They had nothing in common.

9				4		
	4	8	2	6	9	5
4		3	7	8	2	
	6		9			
8	5	6	4		1	3
		8		9		
4	2	7	3			9
9	8	7	1	4	5	
	3					7

**MATHS ANAGRAMS** - An anagram is a word or phrase made up of the letters of another word. These are all made up from maths words. Can you work them out?

ANGEL, RENUMB, CAR, CAGEDON, TRAIN LEG, SITE TEAM, A CROFT, BART SUCTION

**BRAIN TEASER** - How can you add eight 8s to get the number 1,000? (only use addition)

# Uni life

**Earlier this term, 79 students from Year 8 spent a day gaining a taste of what it might be like to be a university student.**

After arriving on the main Teesside University campus, the Teesdale students went off in small groups with students from the university to complete their first activity, which involved visiting key areas of the site, including the library, faculty buildings, student union, accommodation areas and sports facilities. The student ambassadors talked to the Teesdale students about their journeys from school to university, the courses they were studying and general experiences of student life.

In the afternoon, Teesdale students selected a discovery session to attend. These included an introduction to forensic science, where the students visited a crime scene and had to look for clues, and made key fobs from their fingerprints. Katie Jones commented: "It actually felt like I was investigating a real crime scene".

Students taking the chemistry option completed chromatography experiments, whilst those doing engineering made radio controlled cars and planes from Lego.

Another group of students completed a star lab activity where they identified constellations. The final group, after undertaking market research by tasting chocolates, created and presented their

marketing strategy for a new brand of chocolates as part of the choc box challenge.

Mr Trevett, who organised the event with staff from Teesside University commented: "The students seemed to really enjoy the day, and I hope that the objectives of raising student awareness of, and aspirations to one day go to university, were achieved".

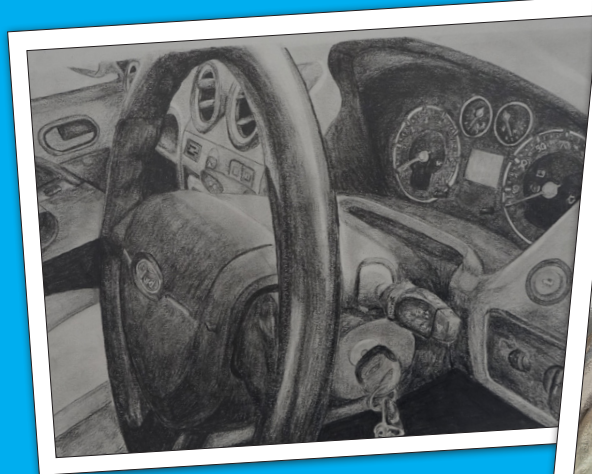


# Teesdale's new online showcase

Did you know that our website has a blossoming showcase area that hosts the very best examples of student work? From artwork to musical compositions, we want to show the whole world how talented and skillful our students are.

The showcase is only just beginning, but over the coming months we plan to fill it with pictures music and video - check it out at:

[www.teesdaleschool.co.uk/showcase](http://www.teesdaleschool.co.uk/showcase)





# Duke of Edinburgh Award

Did you know that community facility, TCR Hub (just a short walk along from Teesdale School), run the Duke of Edinburgh Award (DoE)?

The award is open to anyone aged between 14 and 25 years old.

There are three levels, bronze, silver and gold and there is funding available towards the cost of the award from Teesdale School.

For the past seven decades, DoE has inspired and transformed the lives of millions of young people from all walks of life. From volunteering to physical activities, life skills and expeditions, achieving a DoE Award is a passport to a brighter future, valued by employers and universities.

Speaking of his DoE experience, Teesdale Sixth Former Edward Seabey said: "The DoE Award was a very

valuable and enjoyable experience as it allowed me to mix with the community and friends whilst also gaining a very recognisable qualification.

"The best parts of the bronze award were the practice and qualifier expeditions to North Yorkshire, The Lake District and Upper Teesdale, which allowed us to learn a wide range of skills whilst enjoying being with our friends.

"It was good to be in the outdoors camping with friends and I would definitely recommend it to anyone who likes the outdoors and countryside, as well as being part of the community. It took a year to complete, but it was well worth the effort and I am now looking at completing my silver and gold awards next year."

There are limited places for each cohort and at present we are building the waiting list for the December cohort. If you wish to add your name to the list, please contact Rachel Twedde on 01833690150 with the name, age and contact number.



# Freedom City artwork

Students have begun work towards our Freedom City 2017 project (see page 2). As part of this, the art department has begun work on pieces inspired by King and the themes of the Freedom City 2017 project. A planned showcase exhibit will feature a giant collage portrait of Dr King which is contributed to by schools from across the North East Learning Trust.

An early contender for pride of place at the final exhibition has been produced by Miranda Lloyd in Year 10. Her work captures perfectly the image of King and all his emotion and humanity.

It is simply breath-taking!

Well done Miranda.



# Student teambuilding day

On Friday 7 July, a group of Year 11 students took time out from their busy post-GCSE exam schedule to take part in a bridging event in preparation for sixth form study from September.

Team building activities were run by the staff of Kingsway Adventure Centre and required students to solve clues to find their way to various locations across Barnard Castle. Once they arrived at each point students were faced with different challenges, ranging from crossing the river on a raft to diffusing a dummy bomb in the shadow of the Bowes Museum.

After a morning of hard work and lots of fun, staff and students retired for a much needed lunch. The students had a great time working together and learning to challenge themselves in different ways.



# Exam results days

Many of you are nervously awaiting GCSE and A level results in August - we all have our fingers and toes crossed that you get the results you are hoping for.

## A Level

GCE results are published on Thursday 17 August 2017, and will be available to candidates from 8.00am in school. Senior staff will be available to assist candidates with any UCAS or subject problems on the morning of 17 August.

## GCSE– Year 11

GCSE results are published on Thursday 24 August 2017, and will be available to candidates from 8.00am in school. Senior staff will be available to assist candidates with any queries regarding Sixth Form applications.

Mrs Robson will be on hand on the day until 3.30pm to speak to anyone who is still unsure or undecided about where they will be studying next. There is still time to apply to the sixth form at Teesdale School and Mrs Robson will be happy to advise you about your options on results day.

## Student information for collecting results

If students are unable to collect their own results, the following options are available:

- Send a signed letter in with a 3rd party to collect the results on their behalf
- Leave a stamped addressed envelope with the school office and the results will be posted
- Leave an email address for results to be sent (this will be done after 11am)

## Exam certificates

Exam certificates do not arrive into school until November each year, when candidates can call in to collect them. In accordance with the Joint Council for Qualifications regulations, Teesdale School will retain examination certificates for a minimum of 12 months, any unclaimed certificates after this time will be destroyed. Replacement certificates must then be requested (at a cost to the candidate) from the awarding body. However, candidates should be aware that some awarding bodies do not offer replacement certificates but will only issue a Certifying Statement of Results.





# Sixth Form Ball





# PROM - Friday 7 July 2017









# THE SPORTY BACK PAGE!

## Athletics

Students in every year group took part in the District Track and Field Athletics Meet this month. The Year 7/8 event took place at Shildon Stadium, where the Year 7 girls came 2nd, the Year 7 boys 3rd, the Year 8 girls 5th and the Year 8 boys 8th.

Well done to everyone who competed, especially as we saw many individual successes too (see George's athletic success on the right).

On top of that, the Year 9/10 event took place at Darlington's Eastbourne Sports Complex and winning results came rushing in:

- **Rachel Dent:** 1st in the junior 200m
- **Josh Mawer:** 1st in the inter 800m (plus a new PB), 2nd in the inter high jump
- **Robbie Lavin:** 3rd in the inter high jump
- **Harry Harrison:** 2nd in the inter 200m
- **Holly Deere:** 2nd in the inter shot put
- **Will Wood:** 3rd in the inter 3000m

Josh Mawer then went on to compete at Monkton Stadium in Jarrow, where he came third in the 800m, obtaining another personal best.

Well done to everyone who competed in the events.



Keep up with sporting successes and other stories on our Facebook and Twitter accounts. Links are on our school website.

## Lucy Deere wins ski scholarship

Huge congratulations go to Lucy Deere in Year 11 who, in competition with 29 other hopefuls under scrutiny of expert ski instructors, emerged victorious after being assessed on her ski abilities and personal qualities at Castleford ski slope. She is one of ten (out of a staggering 1500 national applicants) to complete the BASI Level 2 instructor training, winning her an Interski scholarship worth £8000! From here, Lucy will go on to attend an all expenses paid week's training in Italy in December, before returning in April to finish her studies and graduate as an official, fully qualified instructor.



## George's athletic success

George Peacock represented Durham in the Northern Inter-County Schools' Cross Country Championships recently.

After qualifying inside the top 10 in the Durham championships on 21 January, George put his spikes on again for the next leg of the competition where he had a good race and finished middle of the pack.

Following this success, he then turned to the track later on in the year, where he got through the district's, the county's and straight into the inter-counties at which he won three gold medals! Here, he tells us of his success.



**You represented Durham at the inter-Counties. What events did you do and how did you do?**

I did the 200m and came first by seven seconds. Then I did the relay and we were in 4th before the baton was passed to me but I managed to win it for the team.

**Do you want your continued success to lead to better things?**

Yes, I want to do better things, I want to be professional and if I can't make it that far, I definitely want to do something with sports.

**Finally, do you do other sports on top of the running?**

Yes, I also play football for Barnard Castle and I do boxing for the Barnard Castle Amateur Club.