



Teesdale School
& Sixth Form Centre

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

July 2019



Welcome...

What a year we have had and now it's time to celebrate! Our Year 11 and 13s have shown great determination and diligence throughout the exam period. They have given their very best and we are proud of them.

'Trips week' has been bursting with activity both at home and abroad. On the home front, our students have enjoyed the thrills at Lightwater Valley, getting creative at Bowes Museum, the speed of the velodrome, BMX cycling, gorge walking and 'doing something different' at school. Our overseas trips have ventured far and wide to Albert and the Dordogne in France, Belgium and Geneva, Switzerland. Both students and staff have had wonderful and memorable experiences.

Ofsted have been and gone! I am delighted with the report which captures the spirit of our outstanding school. We are proud of our students and all our dedicated staff who have worked tirelessly to bring about the changes we can see today. It has been lovely to hear the students talk about how proud they are of their school.

We are already looking to the future by developing an environmentally friendly school. We have introduced recycling bins and we are trying to reduce our use of plastics.

Teesdale is a beautiful part of the world and we are creating a nature reserve within the school boundary. We are totally inspired by our pupils and their determination to protect the flora and fauna of the

Dales. They will lead this new project supported by our staff and site teams.

I would like to thank Mr Williams for his sterling work as Head of School this year. Next year Ms Ellis will return from her travels at our Northumberland schools. Mr Williams will continue at Teesdale as the Deputy Head Teacher but he will also spend time each week working across the trust. Ms Ellis has thoroughly enjoyed working across the Trust but is looking forward to coming back to Teesdale.

At this time of year we say goodbye to staff who are moving on to new adventures. We thank them for their dedication and inspiration. We also look forward to welcoming new staff and students in September. There has never been a better time to join Teesdale School.

We hope that everyone has a lovely summer holiday and comes back to school in September refreshed and looking forward to the new term.

Executive Headteacher



STUDENTS APPOINTED FOR NEW ROLES!

Congratulations to our newly appointed prefects (pictured above) and to our new head girl, head boy and deputy - Louise (head girl), Ben (head boy) and Katie (deputy).

Our prefects are exemplary students who act as role models for our school. They will be on hand to assist with Year 6 transition days, parents' evenings and open evenings and they will help organise the Year 11 prom.

It is an important, prestigious role which will give students the opportunity to develop leadership skills, team-work skills and initiative. They will be actively involved in the day-to-day running of the school. The opportunity will also look good on CVs and UCAS applications.

The head boy, head girl and deputy also play important roles and will lead the school council and prefects. They will act as student representatives on issues that affect everyone such as uniform, catering and even interviewing new teachers! They are also ambassadors and representatives for Teesdale School, on trips and at events that take place outside of school.

Well done to all students and good luck in your new roles.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

19 JUL - BREAK UP FOR SUMMER

15 AUG - A-LEVEL RESULTS DAY

22 AUG - GCSE RESULTS DAY

3/4 SEPT - INSET DAY

5 SEPT - BACK TO SCHOOL

3 OCT - OPEN EVENING

10 OCT - SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

25 OCT - BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM

29 NOV - INSET DAY

To keep up to date with all news and events please visit:

www.teesdaleschool.co.uk



Musical *Fame Jr.* causes a storm!

Congratulations to our super talented students in Years 7-12 who performed in our sell-out musical, Fame Jr.

Students were involved in all aspects of the musical from the choreography, staging and improvised scenes, to the singing and acting.

Our summer show was based on the renowned musical, Fame, which follows the interesting lives of a number of performing arts students over four years.

We would like to say a special thanks to Cal Baker, Year 12, who did a fantastic job as our co-director.

Well done to all those involved, staff and students!

Poetry corner

Primary School Adventure

When I was young I
Loved my school.
The fun things we did that
Made us laugh.
The fun things we did as
A class.
One of the best was a trip
To the beach.
The castles we built were
Big... and decorated with
The beautiful shells.
The fun had to end when
The waves lapped in.
Our hard work was taken
Back to the sea again!
Every year as we grow,
Another year group had to go.
We wished them well and
Drew on their shirts.
Then we turned around
With a grin and welcomed in
The next kin.

By *Matthew Raine,*
Year 7

We're on Twitter and Facebook!



@teesdaleschool



@teesdaleschool
andsixthform



We are outstanding!

We are delighted to announce that our school has just been judged as 'outstanding' by school inspectors Ofsted.

Inspectors were full of praise for the dramatic improvements that have taken place since we joined the North East Learning Trust in September 2016.

They reported that the quality of teaching and learning is outstanding and that our pupils show highly positive attitudes, work hard and are proud of their work and their achievements. Their conduct in lessons was also described as "exemplary" both in lessons and around the school. Outcomes are outstanding because consistently strong teaching ensures that pupils make rapid and sustained progress across each phase of the school.

The sixth form was also praised as inspectors saw the transformation that has taken place. They said that our students are receiving an outstanding education and that they are ambitious, aspirational and determined to excel.

Our Executive Headteacher and Deputy Chief Executive of the North East Learning Trust, Dr Janice Gorch, said:

"I am so proud of every one of our staff who has worked tirelessly to bring about the changes at Teesdale. I could not have asked for more.

Every person, in every part of the school, has given their all to bring about what we see today. We want every child to have the very best education possible and to work with parents to give them the best possible start to their adult lives. Our young people are just wonderful and have risen to the challenge every step of the way. They make everything worthwhile."

Lesley Powell CBE, Chief Executive Officer of The North East Learning Trust, said:

"To read the inspectors' unreserved praise for Teesdale School is just fabulous. Everyone at the school has worked so hard over the last three years and I'm incredibly proud of the progress that has been made. Coupled with strong exam results, sporting success, creative and performing arts achievements, valuable community work and record levels of Russell Group university acceptances, the outstanding judgment only goes to confirm that Teesdale School has rapidly developed into one of the best schools in the country."

Visit our website to read the full story and to download a copy of our report.



TRIPS WEEK 2019



Students were recently involved in a wide range of trips as part of our trips week. The week kicked off with Years 8 and 9 spending the day at the Bowes Museum, where they took part in a series of workshops including making sculptures of facial features and programming Lego cars.

The annual Belgium and France World War One battle fields tour also took place during trips week. Students from Year 9 visited landmarks across the Western Front including the Tyne Cot memorial, Langemark cemeteries and preserved trenches in Sanctuary Wood. The students also visited Wellington Quarry under Arras, where soldiers had built a network of tunnels and an underground hospital one hundred years ago. This hospital is specifically mentioned in their GCSE specification focussing on injuries and treatment on the Western Front. Being able to walk along the corridors of the actual places these events took place really brought this aspect of their course to life.

There were also two further trips to France for Year 7 students and a mix of Year 8, 9 and 10 students. The Year 7's trip to Albert involved practising their French skills whilst visiting lots of exciting places such as Montdidier, an aquarium, a chocolate factory, a cathedral in Amiens and Parc Astérix. During the trip the students took part in a photography competition and took some fantastic photos of their time in France.

The Year 8, 9 and 10 trip to France was based in

Dordogne where the 41 students took part in an array of activities including a visit to a monkey forest and canoeing. They also had the chance to visit many landmarks and locations like Gouffre de Padirac, Rocamadour, Autoire's waterfall, Turenne's castle and Collonges-la-Rouge. They managed to escape the 29 degree heat while they took a mile-long trip inside a cave where the water was a refreshing 11 degrees.

Back at school, Nidderdale Moorland Group visited to talk to the children about wildlife, moorland conservation and controlled heather burning. They also brought in a selection of game meats for the children to try, which they loved!

The PE department also had a fantastic trips week with the outdoor pursuits club visiting beautiful Swaledale to find fossils and build a dam. They moved on to exploring Hamsterley Forest and putting their leadership skills to the test during some water-based activities before finishing off their trip abseiling, climbing and coasteering. PE also took a trip to the Velodrome in Middlesbrough where the coaches of the Stockton Wheelers put the students through their paces.