



**Teesdale School  
& Sixth Form**

# NEWSLETTER

**APR  
2023**

# SPRING

Spring is the season of hope and promise. The birds sing; the dawn arrives earlier each day and the green shoots of bulbs begin to open. These are the quintessential sounds and sights of springtime, and we have a lovely selection of photographs taken by our students in this newsletter to celebrate them.

The Spring term in school is always a time for our students to look forward to new things to come and the opportunity to achieve important milestones. Our Year 11 and 13 students look ahead to their summer exams with the promise and challenge that they bring; it is the time for their hard work to come to fruition and open doors to all the opportunities that success brings. Success built on doing the right things every day, on giving their all in every situation and striving to be the best that they can be. It is these qualities that bring pride to us as their teachers, and you as their parents and carers. Spring is the time we see the shoots of celebration and excitement that will flower at prom and the sixth form ball.

We can also look forward to a summer term filled with an abundance of events through which students can show their talents and really flourish. The school production this year will be 'Sister Act' and promises to be spectacular. Work experience week for Years 10 and 12, a chance to go on a trip or try something new during activities week, fun in the sun (fingers crossed) on sports day and much, much more.

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## In this issue:



### Bonjour from Paris

6th formers have been living their best lives on a trip to Paris, see what they discovered...



### A blast from the past

Year 7 students visited Auckland Castle to work with local historians and volunteers where they handled original artefacts



### Music from the heart

Our music department welcomed Rupert Philbrick and Saul Rose, into school for a folk music workshop.



# Head's intro continued...

We will also welcome our prospective new Year 7 starters, during our transition days, as they take their first steps towards a new beginning.

So, with the roots of success well-watered by all the hard work behind us and the hope and expectation of a bright and blossoming term to come, we can celebrate Easter as a time to rest, relax and reinvigorate. We continue to recognise the crucial importance that you as parents and carers play in our school community and thank you for all that you do. Please enjoy a peaceful holiday and we look forward to seeing our students again in the summer term.

*Anna Cleckner*

**Anna Cleckner**  
Head of School

## Faith at spring time

As a predominantly Christian country, most of the UK celebrates **Easter** during the spring time to mark the resurrection of Jesus after his crucifixion. Each year, Easter Sunday takes place on a different date - the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox.

**Passover**, a spring holiday in the Jewish calendar, also takes place in spring. Passover celebrates the Biblical story of the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. It is tradition to eat a special bread that does not contain yeast (unleavened bread) called matzo. You must have speed on your side when making matzo as the bread begins to rise after 18 minutes!

**Ramadan** is celebrated by those who follow Islam and this year it's from the end of March to the end of April. Those who celebrate Ramadan practice fasting, prayer, reflection and celebrating community. Food can only be eaten after sunset or just before dawn, meaning many families create plentiful feasts to enjoy after daylight hours.

## Uni success for Beth

One of our fantastic Year 13 students, Beth, has been offered a place in the prestigious St Anne's College, Oxford to study Law with French Law, which includes a year in Paris.

After a rigorous selection process of attitude tests and interviews, Beth's hard work paid off and she will get to visit her college very soon.

Beth currently studies history, French and maths after achieving an Grade A music A level in Year 12. She is inspired by human and women's rights, furthered by the history module in civil rights and the impacts of the law on society.

When Beth joined us in Year 9, she also joined National Youth Choir in Durham which helped her to gain a choral scholarship at Magdalen College Oxford, which means she will get to sing seven weekly services in Magdalen College Chapel.

We are so proud of your achievements Beth!



## Global Easter traditions

In the UK, hot crossed buns are eaten to represent the crucifixion of Jesus. We also see supermarkets packed with Easter eggs - did you know in 2019, we spend a whopping £206 million on them!?

Some North Western European communities kick off Easter celebrations by enjoying a bonfire while people from Ethiopia often celebrate 'Fasika', which is similar to lent, where people avoid meat and animal products for 55 days in the lead up to Easter Sunday.

Italian people often gather for firework displays which dates back over 350 years.

People from Guatemala mark Easter by creating colourful carpets. In the city of Antigua Guatemala, locals cover the streets in colourful carpets to prepare for the Good Friday procession through the city.

What is your favourite Easter tradition?





## Bonjour from Paris

During the February half term break, we said "Bon Voyage" to a group of our sixth formers who spent three nights in beautiful Paris.

After a trip on the Eurostar and avoiding French train strikes, which a number of students have recently studied, the group made their way to St. Christopher's Inn near the Gare du Nord train station.

On their exciting first day our sixth formers were able to immerse themselves in French culture and see sights like the Moulin Rouge red windmill, Centre Pompidou Museum of Modern Art, Notre-Dame Cathedral and the River Seine.

The following days of the trip involved some more early starts! The group visited the famous Louvre Museum where Ms Howlison led students on a tour of some of the most famous works of art in the world. Later, the group ticked off even more bucket list activities like seeing the Eiffel Tower lit up, viewing Paris from a 56-floor height on the Tour Montparnasse and exploring the land at the Palace of Versailles.

Between sightseeing activities our students loved sampling famous French pastries and trying specialities like frogs' legs.

Everyone enjoyed making memories that will last a lifetime and would like to thank the teachers who made it possible.

## Spring time in Teesdale

Our students have been taking some lovely photos of nature here in Teesdale (including some very cute animals!)

During the holidays, why not head outside and take some springtime snaps?

You could use the weather, blooming flowers or animals as your subject. Use your imagination and be as creative as possible.





# Careers update

This term has been a busy one for careers education where we celebrated National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week alongside a packed schedule of careers events.

Year 10 and 11 enjoyed completing the ASK Apprenticeship CV writing and application workshop. They also headed to Bishop Auckland College for a college course taster morning where they enjoyed trying out different subjects like mechanics, painting and decorating, and joinery.

Students from Year 7 all the way up to Year 13 attended our annual careers fair at the TCR Hub full of helpful information future pathways.

Keep your eyes peeled on our Facebook page and website for our weekly careers newsletter.



# DATES

for your diary

31 MAR	Break up for Easter
17 APR	Back to school
01 MAY	Bank holiday
08 MAY	Bank holiday



## Easter careers

Let's take a look at some career paths that really flourish at Easter time...

### Chocolate Research and Development Scientist

This career involves developing new chocolate prototypes and products as well as improving quality of existing products. But it's not just about the taste test, a chocolate scientist needs to provide technical reports and guidance too. Having qualifications in food chemistry and nutrition can lead to becoming a Chocolate Scientist.

### Florist

Did you know that florists are busiest during the Easter period? A college course in floristry on average takes around two years to complete. You may also choose to open your own florist shop!

### Allergist

During the spring, allergists see almost 30% of their patients for the whole year. After completing training, the average salary of an Allergist is £29,384 - £34,012. At the level of a Consultant, this can rise to £114,003!

## A blast from the past

As part of our local history project, Year 7 students spent the morning at Auckland Castle to work with local historians and volunteers where they had the amazing opportunity to handle original artefacts discovered by archaeologists, such as coins and chain mail armour.

The trip linked perfectly to our Key Stage 3 topics, William the Conqueror and 'the power of the church through the ages'.

We also got a private tour of the magnificent Throne Room and St Peter's Chapel!





# Music from the heart (and soul)



This term our music department welcomed Rupert Philbrick from Music at the Heart of Teesdale and Saul Rose, a professional melodeon player, into school for a folk music workshop.

Our musicians from Years 7 to 10 learned melodies and harmonies by ear before putting together an arrangement of folk tune Needles and Twine - part of the Collingwood Collection of folk music discovered in our local area.

They showed tremendous musicianship - learning by ear and playing in a group are both tricky skills to master.

Musicians wishing to explore folk music further can collect a letter from Mrs McGrath with information about the next activities Music at the Heart of Teesdale are hosting.



## 3, 2, 1... action!



Our Year 9 students had a fantastic session with film-maker Cheryl Jenkins in partnership with The Hub this term where they explored different areas of film making. They even had a go of being in front and behind the camera themselves!



## Dodgeball champs

Our Year 9 boys' and girls' dodgeball teams took to the court at Bishop Barrington School at the beginning of the term to compete against other schools across Country Durham.

Both teams played remarkably well and won plenty of matches scooping bronze in their leagues.

Great job!





# Wonderful watercolours

As part of their cells and natural structures project, our Year 9 artists have been looking at the work of Van Gogh and more specifically his sunflowers.

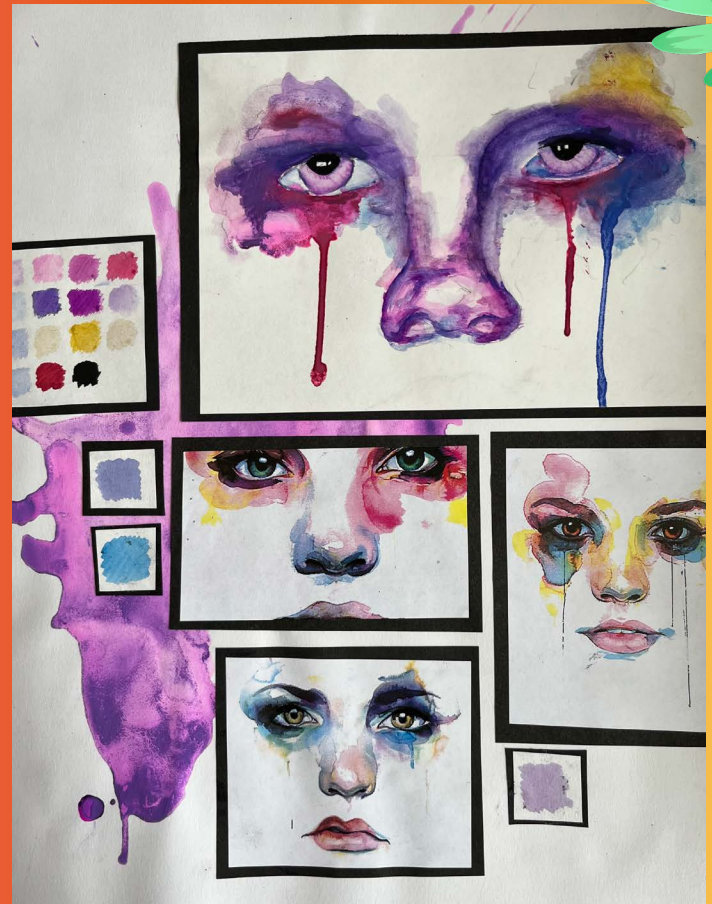
Students have had a go at creating their own watercolour sunflowers as well as creating their own tonal drawings. Keep up the great work!



## Blossoming artists

This term, our Art Club have had the exciting opportunity to work with visiting artist Suzanne Williams and create some artwork for their trail at 'Book Fest'.

Our students were inspired by the Dr Suess imaginary landscapes and created a large book with hot air balloons, soft pastel drawings and pieces using Brusho. We loved seeing these pieces exhibited as part of the trail and felt very proud!



## Super sketches

Year 10 have focussed on their portraiture skills this term and we have been blown away by their pieces.

After studying a range of artists like Mark Powell and Marion Bolognesi, Year 10 responded with a variety of techniques, in particular the Bolognesi watercolour drip work.





# WHAT WOULD DAVID DO?

Is your child an eco champion? We're launching a new eco-campaign in school to encourage all students to join our exclusive What Would David Do? (WWDD) club, where membership is reserved for our most eager energy experts, resolute recyclers and superior species savers.



←  
**MERCH!**

Your child is in with a chance of bagging this year's must-have uniform embellishment if they can prove that they have worked hard to save energy, reduce waste and improve the environment around school and at home.

Students (even sixth formers!) across the North East Learning Trust will be sent one of our limited edition pins and certificates at the end of each term if they can prove that they are an eco champion.

Is there anything you can do at home to help them bag one of our recycled wooden David Attenborough pins?

## HOW TO WIN A BADGE:

START AN ECO INITIATIVE

SHOW PROOF OF YOUR ENERGY SAVING

SHARE ECO IDEAS OR PROJECTS + MORE

### How to apply:

Your child will need to download an application form and fill it in (including a signature from their teacher) before sending it to NELT Head Office. At the end of term our eco champions will be decided and their place in the WWDD club confirmed with the delivery of their certificate and pin.

Visit: [nelt.co.uk/WWDD](http://nelt.co.uk/WWDD)



North East  
Learning Trust