



**Teesdale School
& Sixth Form**

NEWSLETTER DEC 2023

WINTER

A message from our headteacher...

The end of the autumn term is a time to reflect on all that has been achieved this year and look to 2024 and all the excitement that it promises.

This term we celebrated the twelve days of Christmas with our 'festive stars' programme rewarding those students who do their best every day. We have decorated doorways, lit up classrooms, guessed the teacher dressed as Santa, donned our Christmas jumpers in one giant crime against fashion and much more.

While it is easy to be swept up in the fun of the festive season Christmas is also a time of grief and sadness for many, so we remain committed to ensuring that the school community pulls together to help those who need it most.

We have supported the TCR food bank through our 'Tins for Tickets' initiative in connection with the Christmas concert and craft fair. The Sixth Form also hosted a charity pizza and Christmas quiz evening to raise money for a breast cancer charity so very close to our hearts.

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Students light up the sky!

As part of the Light up Barnard Castle event, our students created and displayed beautiful lanterns.



Sporting success

The start of a new school year meant our sporty students were ready for action!



New starters' concert

Our new Year 7s settled into school life so well this term and enjoyed displaying their endless talent at our concert!



Tasty fundraising

Our actual Macmillan morning returned this term and we raised a great £361 for the cause.

Students light up the sky

Students have been hard at work in the art department this term creating lanterns for the Light Up Barnard Castle event. Our students worked with visiting artists in a range of workshops to create willow lanterns which took to the sky earlier this month.

On the night of the big event, everyone braced the -4 temperatures to take part in the wonderful evening along with other members of our local community.

Our artists paraded their amazing lanterns to kick off this year's Christmas festivities and they looked absolutely spectacular! A huge thank you to everyone involved, including visiting artists Gemma, Anneliese and Holly for delivering some fantastic lantern workshops. An extra special thank you must also go to TCR The Hub for organising the event and our workshops. We were so proud to be part of such a special event!

Head's message continued...

Fundamentally, Christmas is about family. For some that provides wonderful memories, excitement, and fun. For others that can be uncomfortable and difficult and we acknowledge that. All those connected to Teesdale School are, however, part of a wider family and we want to wish you a very Merry Christmas, recognise and value every one of you, and hope for good health and happiness for all in 2024.

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Anna Cleckner, Head of School

Did you know?

In Columbia, people celebrate Little Candles' Day, or Día de las Velitas, which marks the start of the Christmas. Locals across Columbia place candles and paper lanterns on show in their windows, balconies and front yards. Over the years, the tradition has evolved and now entire towns and cities are lit up around this time of year.



Oh what a night!

After settling into school life so well, our Year 7s raised the roof at the New Starters' Concert in November, showing off their wonderful musical talents.

Our students displayed excellent musicianship and their behaviour and conduct both during rehearsals and the concert itself were exemplary.

We can't wait to see more of their abilities blossom during their time at Teesdale School - well done everyone!



Fun in the field

Our Year 13 geographers had a great time completing fieldwork by exploring the success of bottom-up, community-led regeneration in Glasgow this term.

As well as collecting their qualitative and quantitative data to analyse back in the classroom, the group managed to squeeze in some extracurricular fun, tackling an escape room!



Careers trip

This term, as part of our careers programme, a group of Year 11 students travelled to St James' Park in Newcastle to attend the UK University and Apprenticeship Search Event.

Students spoke to universities from across the UK, as well as apprenticeship and training providers including the police, army and the NHS. This provided our students with lots of options to consider for their next steps after school.



Sporting success

This term our Year 7 and 8 athletics teams took on the School Games Indoor Athletics Competition at Bishop Barrington School. All students represented our school greatly, with the Year 7 boys' and girls' team coming 2nd overall and the Year 8 boys' team bagging first place. What a great achievement!



Christmas careers

Let's take a look at some careers that really come into their own during the festive period:

Ski instructor

It's certainly a white Christmas when you work in the mountains during the winter months. Working abroad is a fantastic way to broaden knowledge of different cultures, languages and make friends. You'll need a BASI (British Association of Ski Instructors) Level 2 or 3 to get started as an instructor.

Events manager

December is the busiest time for events planners, whether it's planning small get togethers or huge Christmas festivals for thousands. The role can earn you up to £45,000 per year and you'll usually need an undergraduate degree in events management or any other planning subject.

Pizza and quiz night

Our sixth formers and their guests raised over £1,250 for Cancer Research at our special Christmas pizza and quiz night this term. Over sixty staff, parents and members of the public enjoyed home-made pizza and festive nibbles as well as competing to be quiz champions.

All of this was to help raise funds for a very important cause that is close to the hearts of our Teesdale School family. We wanted to show our friend, teacher and colleague, Katie Swinburne, how much she is loved and valued by her Teesdale family, and to recognise her courageous fight against breast cancer.

A big thank you to everyone who was involved in this wonderful event!



DATES

FOR YOUR DIARY

20 DEC - Break up for Christmas

08 JAN - Back to school

16 FEB - Break up for half term

26 FEB - Back to school

28 MAR - Break up for Easter

15 APR - Back to school

06 MAY - May bank holiday



Fantastic footballers



Year 9 Lucie has worked hard coaching our Year 7 and 8 girls' football team this term, and all her hard work paid off when they saw success out on the pitch!

The team took to the field and started strong with a win. We wish them the best of luck for the rest of the year.



The 12 days of Christmas



In the lead up to Christmas, our school became a winter wonderland as staff and students got into the Christmas spirit.

Our 12 days of Christmas timetable was jam packed full of exciting festive activities, fundraisers and charity events.

We were delighted to celebrate our students' talents in our Christmas concert, see them unleash their creativity in our form room door decorating activities and relax and unwind during our Christmas movie night.

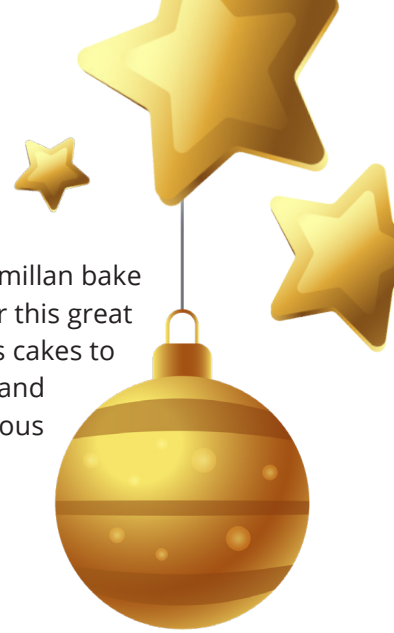
As always, our young people gave back to their community - we are so grateful for the generosity of our students and their families who made donations for the local food bank to help those in need this Christmas.

As a cherry on top (or, star on top of the tree!) each day we selected Christmas stars to receive selection boxes - just for being amazing around school always!



Macmillan fundraising

This term we held our annual Macmillan bake sale and raised a fantastic £361 for this great cause! 26 students baked delicious cakes to sell and we proudly crowned Alex and Tilly our star bakers for their delicious creations. A massive thank you to everyone who contributed.



Nature club

Our Nature Club has been busy this term, looking at anatomy. The group took on a pretty disgusting, yet very interesting, task in October - dissecting owl pellets (the regurgitation of a night's hunting!).

Club members were able to put on their detective hats and identify which species of owl produced the pellets by their diet. They then made comparisons between the anatomy of bone fragments and bone anatomy diagrams. Great work!

