



**ASHINGTON**  
Academy

# WINTER NEWSLETTER

December 2020

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Welcome to our winter newsletter. Although it has been a term like no other, we are thrilled to share with you some of the many exciting things that continue to take place here in school, despite our day to day lives looking quite different at the moment. We have welcomed new students and staff into our school community and we are so incredibly proud of everybody's achievements this term.

During the month of December, we have also enjoyed our 12 days of Christmas celebrations, with festivities including a Christmas decoration challenge in the porches, Christmas songs at lunch as well as our annual collection of items to donate to local foodbanks to provide a little nourishment this Christmastime. Furthermore, we have enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch and celebrated the last day of term wearing our Christmas jumpers!

I would like to thank parents and carers for all of your support during this challenging term. I really look forward to seeing our students continuing to flourish in the new year.

Wishing you all a safe and restful Christmas!

*Yvonne Weston*

Yvonne Weston, Head of School

## Students light up Ashington!

We are proud to announce that Year 7 students, Tayla and Harry, have won the annual Ashington Town Council Christmas light competition!

The winning designs - Tayla's festive gingerbread man and Harry's sprig of holly, have been made into Christmas light features and are now on show in the main street of Ashington Town Centre.

Congratulations to both students, they look fantastic!



# Culinary delights!

This term, Year 11 students returned to the kitchen to start learning and perfecting the high-level skills needed for their forthcoming exams. Despite nearly eight months since their last practical lesson, all students worked diligently to produce outstanding dishes to a high level.

Their first practical was homemade pasta - firstly, pork and fennel tortellini with a tomato and basil sauce, and secondly a homemade lasagne with bechamel sauce and a ragu reduction in the same lesson.

Their second practical was focussed on high level knife skills where they jointed a whole chicken for the first time and dredged a chicken breast in fresh breadcrumbs to make a homemade chicken kiev with homemade garlic butter made from over whisking cream, garlic and parsley. The class managed to squeeze in making an additional dish suitable for children - chicken goujons and seasoned wedges. They all learnt how to make fresh chicken stock ready for another recipe in the future too.

We would like to give a special mention to Sophie Brenard who made a homemade chicken korma, rice and her own naan dough bread, presented to a high standard. We are so delighted with all of our students' efforts!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 04 Jan** Back to school
- 12 Feb** Break up for half term
- 22 Feb** Back to school
- 26 Mar** Break up for Easter
- 12 Apr** Return to school
- 28 May** Break up for half term
- 07 Jun** Return to school
- 15 Jul** Break up for summer

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

[www.ashingtonacademy.co.uk](http://www.ashingtonacademy.co.uk)



## Students give to the community

We are so incredibly proud of the generosity of students and staff who have donated to our annual appeal for Wansbeck Valley Food Bank.

The kind-hearted efforts of our community will hopefully go some way in making a difference to those who need it most this winter.





# O Christmas tree O Christmas tree

A number of students from 7RLi were selected to help us decorate our Christmas trees throughout school... socially distanced, of course!



## Guess the character CHALLENGE

**9R were challenged to write a 100 word story by Mrs Corbett. Can you guess which famous literary character the tale involves?**

Inside their shared home, the pair looked at the man. Questioning him, they paid attention to every detail: his movements, the tone of his voice, his facial expressions. One sits holding a musical instrument and listening. The other stands at the window, looking out at the London street. Quietly beginning to play the violin, the first ponders the client's story and its possible explanations. The second then begins to take notes, writing an account of the story. Suddenly, the first jumps up, grabbing his coat and hat, and leaves, being followed out by the other, off to solve the crime.

**Answer**

Sherlock Holmes



## Caring sixth formers 'leg it to the finish line'

**Although NE6 could not host their annual MacMillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning cake sale, our sixth formers were undeterred in their fantastic fundraising efforts!**

Whilst we were disappointed not to be able to sample some delicious cakes and bakes, our students instead raised £75 for Macmillan by volunteering to complete jobs in their home for their family and a number of students completed a sponsored marathon relay around People's Park exercising their legs in the name of charity. We would like to say a huge well done to all students involved!

**We're on Twitter  
and Facebook!**



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## Year 7s settle in

Everyone here at Ashington Academy has been blown away by the efforts of so many of our new Year 7 students.

The students completed transition work they were set in the summer term before they joined our school. One particularly fantastic effort was seen from Isla Ford who completed every task in her summer activity booklet to a very high standard.

Well done Isla!

## Deck the Halls...

...Or at least the porches!

Whilst students could not decorate their form class doors this year, each department in school was set the challenge of creating a festive board to brighten up the porches and bring some merriment to break and lunchtimes! Once again, we've been wowed by the creativity of our teachers across school!



## The best present a teacher could ask for... brilliant work!

**An excerpt from Year 11 descriptive writing of a battlefield...**

Frenzied screams and bellowing cries, the two opposing combatants hurled themselves towards one another with bared teeth and poised blades; each fierce warrior seemed to be enshrouded in a cloak of rage. Violently, they swung. Swung their malicious weapons towards the enemy, lacerating them with brutal force. As the battle began to intensify, the bloodied armies appeared to move as one, convulsing and oscillating about the grim field. Towering over the chaotic scene stood a solemn peak, which regarded the men far below, questioning – despite its ancient wisdom – what had initiated such a malevolent affair. The vast idol itself however, had a struggle of its own to endure; menacing clouds began to amass on the distant horizon, threatening to usurp the throne on which the benevolent monarch sat.

**Photography in lockdown...**

Our fantastic students here at Ashington Academy have been showing us that lockdown hasn't stunted their creativity as they have wowed us with some fabulous art and photography this term! Postcards are sent home on a weekly basis to celebrate exceptional work that is created, as well as being featured on our Instagram account [@art.at.ashington](#)

