



ASHINGTON
Academy

WINTER NEWSLETTER

December 2021

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Welcome to our winter newsletter that is jam-packed with news and updates from our school community.

We returned this term to a much-improved school thanks to a £1.7m investment from Northumberland County Council and our school sponsors the North East Learning Trust. The money paid for a new sixth form cafe, new heating and lighting in our huge purpose-built sports hall, a refurbished main hall and new outdoor dining spaces - the school is looking great thanks to the changes!

As ever, it has been a very busy term here at Ashington Academy, which has seen us welcoming new students and staff, and students have been working extremely hard across the whole curriculum. One of the most exciting developments this term has to be the re-launch of our extra-curricular programme with over 50 lunchtime and after school clubs on offer! We're also delighted that we've been able to invite some visitors back into school, including an NHS Careers Roadshow for our Year 7 students and most recently, our local MP, Ian Lavery, who was incredibly impressed by our recent improvements and upgrades to the academy!

During the month of December, we have enjoyed our 12 days of Christmas celebrations with festivities including: Christmas Kindness Week, Breakfast with Santa, Christmas Dinner and of course, our Give a Little Nourishment Food Bank Collection! Please do read on to hear more about our visits and activities.

Once again, I would like to thank parents and carers for your support this term and I really look forward to seeing what our students go on to achieve in 2022. Wishing you all a safe and restful Christmas!

Yvonne Weston

Yvonne Weston, Head of School

A sneak peak...

This term, we welcomed prospective sixth form students and their families to our school for our NE6 open evening.

Our special visitors heard from our Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher for Sixth Form, and two student representatives Rosie and Emma.

Guests got a sneak peek of our exciting, brand new sixth form bistro and enjoyed some canapés and soft drinks.

We hope to see our visitors join us in September!



The big debate

This term saw six secondary schools within the North East Learning Trust come head to head in 'debate day' at The Academy at Shotton Hall.

Each school was given a different topic to prepare a speech on and our Ashington debate team set to work preparing their argument on whether reality TV shows should be banned.

Our Year 10 students Lorian Dodds-Crouth, Laura Cross and James Halliwell, assisted by other members of our Debate Team, produced and delivered an incredibly powerful argument and although they were just pipped to the post by Teesdale School, who took home the overall trophy, we are so impressed by their team work and organisation, as well as the clarity and fluency of their speech. We are so proud of them all!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

17 Dec Break up for Christmas

05 Jan Back to school for Years 10, 11 and sixth form.

06 Jan Back to school for Years 7, 8 and 9.

18 Feb Break up for half term

28 Feb Back to school

08 Apr Break up for Easter

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

www.ashingtonacademy.co.uk

Rudolph lights up the skies of Ashington

We are very proud to announce that Year 7 student, Emmie Pattison, has won the annual Ashington Town Council Christmas light competition with a fabulous design featuring a red nosed reindeer wearing candy canes!

Emmie's design has been manufactured into a glittering Christmas light and is hanging pride of place in the main shopping area of Ashington. Emmie and the Academy are also featured on the Ashington Town Council website.

Emmie has been awarded with a letter from the town council, a certificate and a shopping card for her to spend.

Congratulations Emmie, your wonderful design has lit up Ashington!

New to netball

This term saw lots of Year 7 and 8 students try out netball for the first time!

It has been lovely to see the two teams training, competing and making some excellent progress in their skills and knowledge of the rules.

Furthermore, the return of hockey has provided yet another opportunity for students to try something new! The students who have been coming to hockey after school club every week are doing fantastically well, especially considering most had never held a hockey stick before! We have a strong link with Morpeth Hockey Club who host a thriving junior section and lots more students have recently joined, allowing them take part in training and play in regular fixtures. If anybody else would like to get involved, please see Mrs Smalley.

A knockout success

This term, Year 12's Lilly began her journey into coaching boxing.

Demonstrating energy, enthusiasm and dedication within all aspects of school life, Lilly is a real inspiration to our younger students.

One Year 7 class were fortunate enough to have an introduction to boxing delivered by Lilly in a recent PE lesson. The session was fun and engaging with lots of the students showing a real interest in the sport. If any students would like to find out more about boxing and sessions that are on offer, please come and speak to Lilly. Here is how she got into boxing...

"I started boxing training in 2018 at Northumberland Fire and Rescue Boxing Academy. I then joined the senior class in 2019, and from there I have progressed into coaching the novice class as well as training in the senior class. I hope to get my Level 1 boxing coach qualification when I turn 18."

DID YOU KNOW?

Christmas trees originated in Germany during the 19th century.

In the past, it was very popular to put Christmas trees upside down - you may even see this today sometimes in hotels!

12 days of Christmas

As the countdown to Christmas took place this term, our much-loved 12 days of Christmas returned...

Staff and students are firmly in the festive spirit and have been engaged in traditional activities including: Breakfast with Santa, Santa mail, the 'Good List', Christmas dinner and jumpers, Christmas songs and carols, our very own 'Golden Ticket' challenge and, our very own Ashington Christmas Quiz!

Christmas is a time when we think of others, particularly those less fortunate. With this in mind, staff and students have engaged with numerous charitable activities such as our food bank appeal, random acts of kindness towards one another, our teacher gratitude activity and, finally, by brightening the Christmas of elderly care home residents.

As this newsletter goes to print, we are still collectively supporting our local community as we strive to beat last year's efforts!

Christmas jokes

What do you call Santa when he has no money?

Saint 'nickle - less!

What do Santa's little helpers learn at school?

The elf-abet

Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?

He was picking his nose

We're on Twitter and Facebook!



@ashingtonacad



@ashingtonacademy



Projects with pride nomination

We are incredibly proud of 41 of our students who volunteered at the Northumberland Pride event that took place in Ashington in August.

The festival was organised to raise awareness of and celebrate Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT+) culture and heritage. Our students' participation in the event led to them being nominated for an award at the North East Youth 'Projects with Pride' awards.

A number of our students enjoyed the awards ceremony that was recently held at Gosforth Park in Newcastle and we are so proud of their support of the charity.

The return of inter-form competitions

This term, we are thrilled that we have been able to bring back our Inter Form Competitions. Teamwork, having fun with friends and occasionally pushing ourselves out of our comfort zone is all part of the Inter Form Activities.

In October, each form competed in the popular Tug of War competition and in November, the Inter Form Spelling Bee was a fantastic success. All students competed in the form round where they were asked to spell 10 words from the school curriculum. The winners of each form then competed in the final during their assembly.

A huge congratulations to the students that were triumphant in the final and won breakfast for the whole of their form class!

Year 7: Joel Mills and Sadie Orr

Year 8: James Prothero and Kloe Robson

Year 9: Oliver Bell and Oliver Ince

We would also like to say a massive thank you to all the Year 10 and 11 Student Ambassadors who have helped organise and run the events.

Bee-ology club!



This buzzing club meets each Thursday after school with a focus on the environment and nature.

So far, the group have planted bulbs for planters and in the grassed area at the front of school; made decorative planters in the new NE6 outdoor area and planted tree seeds.

We want to say a big thank you to Wansbeck Garden Centre for supporting our efforts with this and we cannot wait to see the flowers bloom in the new year!

All aboard the MELISSA bus!

This term we welcomed the NHS MELISSA bus that tours the region delivering healthcare education and training.

You might have spotted the colourful double decker in our car park back in November. The MELISSA bus travels across the North East and North Cumbria and stopped by Ashington to visit our Year 7s.

Students participated in an careers roadshow, involving a talk about the range of careers available within the NHS and a talk from dentists about the importance of good oral hygiene where students were asked to guess how many teaspoons of sugar were included in popular drinks and sweets; the answers surprised us all!

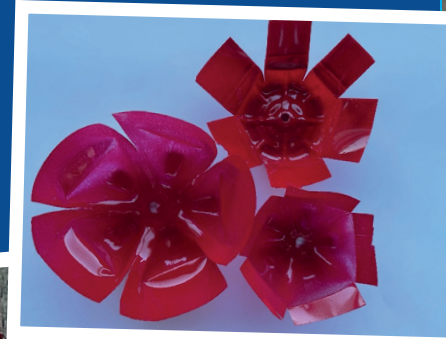
Students also had the brilliant opportunity of talking to an orthopedic surgeon as well as learning how X-rays work and were privileged to be joined by a world-renowned neurologist, who spoke about how the brain works. The experience was immersive with students given the chance to wander around Eric the inflatable brain – one of only three in the world!

Our Year 7 students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and many are now considering a rewarding career in the NHS!

Ashington Academy remembers

Students from our eco-school and bee-ology clubs worked with their teachers to collect empty plastic bottles from around school to make into remembrance poppies.

The plastic waste was then passed onto the Art club, who transformed the unwanted materials into the most beautiful poppies. The poppies were delivered to Ashington Women's Institute who constructed a stunning display in the Ashington Memorial Garden using our poppies alongside those made by the Ashington Veterans and Elders Institute and the Women's Institute. We cannot believe how beautiful the transformation truly is and we are so proud of how our resourceful students have paid their respects in such an innovative and touching way.

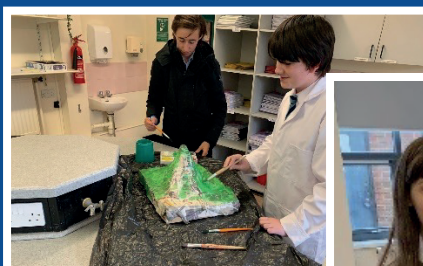


The Science Clubs 'Erupt' to no good!

The Science department has also been hosting a wide range of activities and clubs this term, which have proven very popular with students. Activities include:

Docu-science: a club that runs every Monday lunchtime and allows students to eat lunch together whilst watching scientific documentaries. This term, students have watched the BBC documentary 'Seven Worlds – One Planet', a series which is narrated by David Attenborough and reveals extraordinary stories of wildlife and unseen wildernesses across our seven, unique continents.

Science Club: takes place every Tuesday night with sixth form volunteers involved in running activities for students. This term, we have made volcanoes and tested them, as well as testing lava lamps, bridges and submersibles!



Sustainable Futures

Our Eco-school members are currently creating plans to continue to make our school a more sustainable and green environment.

So far, students have created a litter picking rota and recently supported the collection of plastic bottles from the dining hall that were then transformed into beautiful poppies by the Art club!





**North East
SCITT**

Did you know that our school is a partner of North East SCITT - an organisation that trains new teachers in schools across the north east - including in ours!

Whether you're a new graduate, in your final year of university or considering a change of career (it's never too late you know!), North East SCITT's high-quality school-based initial teacher training courses can provide you with the best start to a new career in teaching. They are based in the North East Learning Trust's lead school, The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee, but training happens in schools all across the region.

The quality of training they offer is rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted for both their primary and secondary courses. Along with this they have a proven track record of amazing

results and high employment rates. The programme gives you the opportunity to learn to teach 'on-the-job'. Unlike traditional university courses, you are in the classroom from the outset, interacting with pupils and teachers and learning first hand the knowledge and skills you'll need to become an outstanding teacher.

You will practise in a broad range of schools, gaining experience in different areas including special educational needs and disabilities, behaviour management, English as an additional language, phonics, and maths mastery (for primary only).

You will also be allocated a subject mentor from a team of specialists with vast experience who will introduce you to school life and help you to learn how to teach your subject.

At the end of the 10 month course you'll be a qualified teacher with a PGCE from Durham University.

So if you're thinking of teaching - there is no better place than through our school partners North East SCITT - please get in touch - we know they would love to speak to you!

Subjects available:

**Primary
Computing**

**Design and
technology**

Drama

English

History

Geography

Maths

Music

**Physical
education**

**Religious
education**

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

**Modern
foreign
languages**



Try a teacher training taster day...

If you're thinking about training to teach, you can come and spend the morning at The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee or Browney Academy in Durham to get a taste of what teacher training is like. Find out more and book your place at:

www.northeastscitt.co.uk/taster

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