



# Newsletter

Ashington Academy Sixth Form

December 2025

## Welcome to the First NE6 Newsletter!

At NE6, we believe that students thrive when school, home, and students work in partnership. To strengthen this connection, we've introduced a **half-termly newsletter** to keep you informed and engaged with everything happening in our sixth form community. We look forward to sharing updates, achievements, and opportunities with you every half term.

### Our new Year 12 cohort!

Our new Year 12 cohort began their Sixth Form journey on a positive note, taking part in an induction programme that included team-building activities, a first aid course, an introduction to study skills, and a young driver safety awareness session delivered by the Fire Service.

Since then, students have been adjusting to the academic rigour of Sixth Form and learning how to manage their time effectively during lessons and study periods. The Sixth Form team continues to check in regularly and provide support, but ultimately, success depends on the students' commitment. As we like to say: hard work works!

This term also saw their first in-class assessments, and we are incredibly proud of the effort they put in and the way they have responded to feedback from staff.



### NE6 Student Executive

In October we appointed our new Year 12 Student Executive to join forces with our experienced Year 13 team. Together, they will take the lead in planning and delivering a wide range of activities—from charity fundraisers to team-building events and quizzes—all while strengthening our connections with the wider Ashington community.

This year, the team is introducing a focus on supporting health-based charities and creating opportunities to work with the elderly in our local area. Their commitment to making a positive impact both inside and outside school is something we can all be proud of!



### *Fabulous Fundraising*

September saw the return of our much-loved annual Bake Sale and Tombola in support of Macmillan Cancer Support. Thanks to the incredible efforts of Jan and our enthusiastic new Year 12 cohort, we raised an impressive £366.76 to help this vital cause.

But that's not all! Our newly appointed Student Executive hit the ground running, bringing the whole school together with a series of fun-filled events to raise money for Comic Relief. Most recently, our Sixth Form students showed their commitment to Remembrance by selling poppies, ensuring we all had the chance to honour the fallen and reflect. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed!



### **WORLD READY SPOTLIGHT**



**World Ready** is our exciting programme that helps students thrive beyond the classroom, combining PSHE, careers guidance, and enrichment activities.

This term, Year 12 have explored online safety and wellbeing, learning practical strategies for mental health, the importance of sleep, and stress relief techniques. They've also started planning their futures with one-to-one careers support and inspiring talks from universities such as Cambridge and Northumbria.

Year 13 have been busy submitting UCAS applications and are now exploring apprenticeship opportunities, while continuing to enjoy critical reading sessions, wellbeing activities, and our ever-popular weekly quiz. It's been a fantastic start to the year, with students embracing every opportunity to grow and prepare for life beyond NE6!

### *Duke of Edinburgh*

A group of adventurous Year 13 students took on the challenge of their silver Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition in the stunning Northumberland coast. The weekend was wet, and at times, tough, but they demonstrated incredible resilience and determination.



### Year 13 Mocks and Results Event

This half term, students completed their first set of mock exams, and we were hugely impressed by their focus and commitment throughout. Results were shared in the final week with copies emailed to parents.

For many, these marks will reflect their hard work, while others may need extra support—which we’ll provide in the coming term. It’s a timely reminder that effective use of non-contact time and revisiting Year 12 content alongside new material is essential, as A-level exams cover the full course. The next mock exams begin at the start of March.

We’re also approaching January BTEC exams and coursework deadlines. Staff and students are working hard to prepare for this. Form tutors and the sixth form team will continue to check in with strategies for study and revision—but ultimately, success depends on students putting in the time and effort.



### Apprenticeships

There has never been a better time for students to consider an apprenticeship as part of their next steps.. Apprenticeships offer a route in to work through paid, on the job training and are more varied than ever before. There are over 170 degree level (Level 5 or above) apprenticeships across a diverse range of fields including, engineering, law, animal care, transport and logistics and many more.

Apprentices spend most of their time learning through working (typically 80%) and the rest of the time (20%) studying or completing the professional qualifications needed for the role. Furthermore, with the minimum wage for apprenticeships increasing these opportunities are becoming more attractive and therefore more competitive.

In the North-East there are currently some key growth areas:

- Advanced manufacturing
- Life Sciences
- Digital Services
- Energy – including renewables
- Business Services

All of which offer excellent apprenticeship opportunities.

#### Where to find apprenticeships:

The following websites are great starting places to identify apprenticeship opportunities.

- [UCAS - Apprenticeships](#)
- [GOV.UK - apprenticeships](#)
- [Apprenticeships](#)

You can also apply directly through company websites and from January students will be sent the up-to-date apprenticeship vacancies for the area each month.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## 12 days of Christmas

December marks the return of our much-loved *12 Days of Christmas*, a whole-school celebration focused on finding joy in the little things during the winter months. Sixth Form students have embraced the festive spirit with a window decorating competition, themed registration activities, and plenty of Christmas quizzes and games. Some students will also enjoy a festive reward trip to the Everyman Cinema in Newcastle, recognising their hard work and commitment.



Our community has once again shown incredible generosity through our annual food bank collection and by donating gifts to *Mission Christmas* to support local children. Students and staff also hosted a festive afternoon tea for pensioners from a local day centre—a wonderful way to give back. Finally, everyone came together to celebrate with a Christmas lunch and festive jumpers, ending the term on a high note!

## Dates for your diary

Here are upcoming dates for your diary for next half term. Please keep an eye on the social media channel for any updates.

Date	Event
21/01/26	Year 13 Parents Evening
Week Beginning 26/01/26	Year 12 Revision Week
Fortnight Beginning 02/02/26	Year 12 Assessments
Week Beginning 09/02/26	National Apprenticeship Week
13/02/26	Year 13 NEA Deadline

## Reward Points

We have had a record-breaking term for reward points with over 7,400 points being awarded over the Autumn term. Our top point earners were recognised with a trip to the Everyman Cinema in Newcastle last week. Our top 5 point earners were **Alex H, Hareem, I, Hannah B, Callum S** and **Josh R.**

We also always look to reward all the hard work outside of lesson with independent study points and the top 3 earners of these were **Kayley D, Max R** and **Emma B.**

## Finally...

A very merry Christmas and a happy New Year from all of us at Ashington Academy Sixth Form! We hope our students and their families enjoy a restful break and return refreshed for an exciting year ahead.



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## Keep in touch

We would love to hear from you if you have anything to share about your child or if there is something that may be happening in the community that you think we should be aware of and could feature in our newsletter or in our social media posts.