



ASHINGTON
Academy

WINTER NEWSLETTER

December 2022



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

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

As 2022 comes to an end, we are taking the opportunity, as a school, to reflect on a tremendous and extremely successful year. We were delighted to be rated 'Good' in all areas by Ofsted in March 2022 with brilliant results following in the summer for our Year 13 and Year 11 students! We are extremely proud to be recognised as providing an excellent, high quality education both within Northumberland and the wider region.

We've had a fantastic autumn term, welcoming new students and staff in September, and we have been pleased to invite a wide variety of special guests and visitors into school, including colleagues from the BBC, astronomers from Kielder Observatory and most recently, a careers roadshow from the NHS.

During the month of December, we have thoroughly enjoyed our 12 days of Christmas celebrations

with festivities including: Christmas Kindness Week, the Christmas Bake Off, Christmas Wish Tree, Breakfast with Santa and of course, our delicious Christmas dinner! In addition, we've been delighted to spread a little Christmas cheer throughout Ashington by inviting residents from the community into school, along with our local MP, Ian Lavery, for a special festive afternoon tea and our annual Food Bank Collection. Please do read on to hear more about our visits and activities.

As ever, 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 2023!

Wishing you all a safe and restful Christmas break!

Yvonne Weston

Yvonne Weston
Head of School



Jack takes centre stage at the House of Commons

We were so proud to listen to one of our sixth form students, Jack, as he spoke at the British Youth Parliament in the House of Commons, representing Northumberland.

We were delighted that Jack had the opportunity to speak about environmental issues, to play an active role in our democratic system, for representing our region and reminding students that their voice matters. Congratulations, Jack!

Bee-ology blooms

Our Bee-ology Club have come out on top winning the Best School/Business Award in the Ashington Gardens Competition!

Students of our award-winning Bee-ology Club have continued to work on the school garden this term, preparing the ground to make a new home for the plants kindly donated from Wansbeck Garden Centre.

Students have also planted a whole sack of daffodil bulbs in the grass outside the Hub and Sixth Form area, so we are looking forward to a beautiful show of colour in the springtime!



Dates for your diary

22 Dec Break up for Christmas

09 JAN Back to school

17 FEB Break up for half term

27 FEB Back to school

31 MAR Break up for Easter

17 APR Back to school

01 MAY Bank holiday

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

www.ashingtonacademy.co.uk

Foodbank kindness

Once again, we have been truly overwhelmed by the unbelievable generosity of our students and their families after donating a tremendous amount of food and toys to our annual 'Give a Little Nourishment' foodbank collection.

We were delighted that our local MP, Ian Lavery, was able to join us in school on the day of our collection and he was incredibly impressed by the kindness of our wonderful community. Mr Lavery commented: "The amount of food the children brought in is absolutely astonishing and a testament to the generosity and sense of togetherness that prevails in Ashington and across Wansbeck. The children I met were a credit to the school and town!"



A festive afternoon tea surprise

Residents from our local community were treated to a very festive afternoon tea in our Bistro, complete with bingo, traditional carols from our school choir, a festive story and a sing-along with Santa.

We were also delighted to be joined by special guest, Ian Lavery, MP. A very merry time was had by all!



Spooktacular!

A number of our Year 7 students were invited to enjoy a terrifyingly terrific afternoon tea with Mrs Coleman and Mrs Weston to celebrate Halloween and their excellent efforts since starting at Ashington Academy.

Students were nominated by their form tutors in recognition of their fantastic progress to date and enjoyed a range of devilish treats including: lime jelly

eyeballs, mummy caramel tarts, coconut eyeballs and a selection of ghost, gravestone and pumpkin shaped sandwiches. Well done to all students involved!



We're social



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NE6 scientists

Our NE6 scientists recently visited the Centre for Life in Newcastle to participate in a forensics workshop using gel electrophoresis to work out the identity of a suspect from DNA found at a crime scene.

Making the most of their day out, after the efforts in the lab, they watched a Christmas night sky show in the planetarium, went ice skating and enjoyed a festive hot chocolate!

Lilly races to the finish line

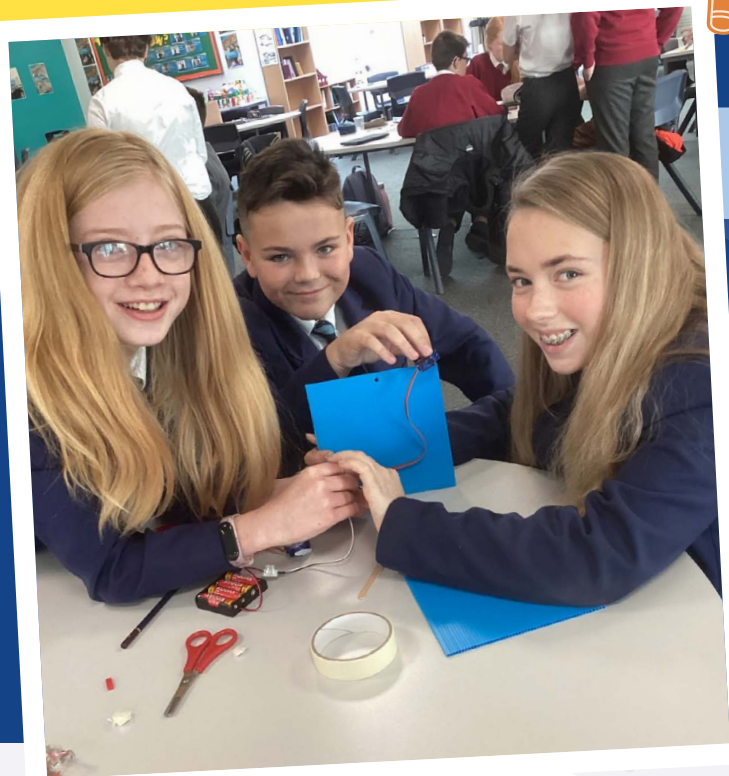
We are incredibly proud of Lilly, one of our Year 13 students, who ran the Great North Run in September, in a phenomenal 1 hour 55 minutes.

Lilly, a first-time half marathon runner set herself a series of challenges to achieve before turning 18, the GNR being one of them. Prior to the event, she had sustained a number of injuries but did not let these hold her back; Lilly did not stop the whole way and although her legs felt like jelly by the end, she says that the atmosphere was 'incredible' and the crowds kept her going!

Lilly raised over £200 for Cancer Research UK, in memory of her grandad and for her friend's grandad.

Lilly has also recently been awarded a scholarship worth £1200 per year from Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang (CMS) LLP to support her with her law studies at university over the next three years and provide her with work experience, as well as a mentor.

We are unbelievably proud of Lilly's achievements - huge congratulations!



Engineers of the future

Four of our brilliant students from Year 8 – Hannah, Joel, Mya and Sasha – recently took part in the Institute of Engineering and Technology's Faraday Challenge Day.

The students had a fantastic time working from a brief they were provided on the day to plan, design and construct a prototype or a product to be used in the field of drone technology in the Future Flight Project. Our students designed an impressive 'claw' that would enable a drone to pick up and deliver parcels. We were so impressed by their innovation and teamwork skills throughout the day – well done!

A visit from the NHS

Students in Year 8 recently enjoyed a visit from the Performance in Education group who delivered an informative session on the variety of careers available in the NHS.

Students learnt that there are 350 different career routes available in the organisation! Students really enjoyed the performance and many are considering a career in the NHS in future.

Christmas joke

What did the English teacher call Santa's helpers?

Answer: Subordinate Clauses



Christmas poem

The journey of a pig in a blanket

As the butcher opened the oven door,
All the steam filled the air.
The pigs in blankets were ready
And the smell of sausage and bacon lingered everywhere.

But something was different,
With these traditional Christmas treats.
They had grown feet and legs
From their delicious sausage meats.

And little did the butcher know
These mischievous pigs had a plan.
Their thought was 'we will run and visit
As many famous landmarks as we can!'

So, there was a stampede
When the oven door was open fully.
Trying to get to these famous landmarks,
The pigs in blankets were in a hurry.

All the drivers on the motorways,
Stared in absolute shock
At the hundreds of pigs in blankets
That overtook them as a flock.

At the end of the day when
They had visited all the landmarks they could
They all ran back home,
Trying to avoid the mud.

Panting and puffing, the pigs in blankets
Arrived back at the butcher's shop.
They were ready to be eaten tomorrow
With gravy and with stuffing, it was
time for the chop!

By Dylan (Year 7)

BBC share your story

In October, we were absolutely delighted to welcome colleagues from the BBC to Ashington Academy! Our students participated in their 'Share your Story' tour, which celebrates the BBC's centenary.

Students learned about the power of storytelling and experienced an hour of incredibly moving and uplifting personal stories from senior BBC Journalist, Sian Davies and Assistive Technology Tester, Natalie Curran. Their inspiring key messages reminded us that even when we face challenges in life, we should make the most of every opportunity that comes our way. Excitingly, Newsround presenter Shanequa Paris hosted our sessions, providing insight into opportunities for apprenticeships with the BBC in the North East and the BBC Young Reporter competition - more information on this to follow!

We were very proud that our students asked some incredibly insightful and thoughtful questions, and took a great deal from the sessions.

Thank you, everyone and happy centenary, BBC!

Macmillan morning

Our annual cake and bake sale in support of Macmillan Cancer Support was a huge success and we managed to raise an absolutely incredible total of over £400!

An enormous thank you to our sixth formers who ran the event and to everybody who got involved, through baking and donating or purchasing and enjoying the cakes. We're already looking forward to next year!





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Making the move to teaching is easier than you think...

Did you know you can train to be a teacher in our school? Training to teach in our school with North East SCITT takes less time and is more affordable than many people realise. Our nine-month courses begin every September meaning you could be starting out on a new career before you know it. Many people worry they don't have what

it takes to make the move into teaching, but with training and support from our team of experienced, outstanding teachers who are right beside you from day one, we always prove them wrong. If you have a good degree and the desire to learn new skills and make a difference, then we'd love to talk to you.

Thinking about training to teach?

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 with North East SCITT.

19 th	January	2023
8 th	February	2023
10 th	March	2023
18 th	April	2023
19 th	May	2023
8 th	June	2023
27 th	June	2023

Virtual taster days also available. Please check our website for more details.



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