

February 2026

## Welcome to our first edition of 2026

Our Sixth Form students have made an excellent start to the year, showing real maturity in how they manage their time and make productive use of their non-contact periods. The Sixth Form team continue to check in with students during study periods, and teachers provide a wide range of resources to support independent study — but ultimately, it is the students' own effort that makes the difference, and we are delighted to see so many rising to the challenge.

## Assessment Focus

**Year 12** have just completed their second formal assessment period, which covered significantly more content than earlier in the year, with some students even tackling a full A-level paper. For those who used their study time effectively, the results will be a well-deserved celebration of their hard work.

**Year 13** are now approaching their final set of mock exams. Students have received their timetables and are already planning their revision carefully, supported and guided by their teachers. This term has been an important reminder of the dedication required to succeed in sixth form — and as we often tell students, **hard work works!**

## Danish Longball!

Our Sixth Form students enjoyed a fun-filled and highly competitive afternoon taking part in Danish Longball as part of their enrichment programme. The energy, teamwork, and friendly rivalry on display made it a standout highlight of the half-term for everyone involved.



## Student Executive Update

Our NE6 Student Executive have been busy making sixth-form life even better! They've gathered valuable student voice on rewards and extra-curricular activities, helping us shape what comes next at NE6.

They also brought a splash of colour with a *Wear Something Pink* day, raising an amazing £62 for the Think Pink campaign. ❤️ To round of the half-term, they organised an afternoon of valentine's crafts! 🧑‍🎨



## Super Scientists

In Chemistry, students have been distilling the products of an organic reaction and carrying out tests — including producing 'silver mirrors'. Meanwhile in Biology, students did a microbiology practical, investigating the effects of antimicrobial substances on bacterial growth.



## Showing Racism the Red Card

Year 13 recently took part in workshops delivered by *Show Racism the Red Card*, encouraging them to think deeply about unconscious bias and the importance of respect in diverse communities. These sessions help prepare students for the greater independence ahead as they move into an inclusive and diverse world.



## WORLD READY SPOTLIGHT



**World Ready** is our holistic programme that helps students thrive beyond the classroom, combining PSHE, careers guidance, and enrichment activities. This half term has been a busy one PSHE and registration!

In Year 13, our **PSHE focus** has centered on sexual health, with students from both year groups taking part in an informative and supportive session led by a visiting sexual health nurse.

Meanwhile, Year 12 have been exploring the theme of rights, roles, and responsibilities in a culturally diverse society, engaging in thoughtful discussions about what it means to be an active and respectful member of a global community.

Our Tuesday **critical reading** sessions continue to be a highlight.

- Year 12 students have been diving into extracts from much-loved classics such as 1984 and To Kill a Mockingbird.
- Year 13 have been reading texts that explore lives and experiences across a wide range of cultures, broadening their understanding of the world.

**Wellbeing** remains at the heart of our programme:

- Year 12 have continued developing practical strategies for managing daily stresses through the Vespa approach.
- Year 13 have been working through their 'Money Matters' unit, gaining key knowledge around financial basics including credit scores and different types of bank accounts. This learning was enhanced by an in-depth Budgeting Bonanza session delivered by Newcastle University.

And of course, our weekly quiz has stayed as competitive and enjoyable as ever—

**Congratulations to 13HAN for taking the Term 1 victory!**

Tutor Group	Week 15	Total
DWI	10	69
APE	11	55
CKI	7	62
HAN	14	81



Our Year 13 students have made fantastic progress this term with their post-18 planning!

**All UCAS applications have now been submitted**, and most students have already begun receiving offers, with **any remaining university decisions released by 13th May**. Students will now be able to select their firm and insurance choices, as well as begin applications for student finance and accommodation.

Some students are already confident about their next steps, while others are taking a little more time to reflect — and that’s absolutely fine. The **deadline for choosing firm and insurance choices is 3rd June** and they had a recent assembly on how to complete this process. Students who would like extra support are warmly encouraged to speak to the Sixth Form team.

For those students who are seeking apprenticeships, we will continue to share opportunities but would also remind you that 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.

## 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
13th February	Year 13 NEA Deadline
WB 2nd March	National Careers Week
WB 2nd March	Year 13 Revision Week
9th-20th March	Year 13 Mocks
4th March	Careers Fair
18th March	Year 12 Parents Evening
26th March	Comic Relief
3-5th April	Silver DofE Expedition

## Reward Points

We have had a record-breaking term for reward points with over 4,000 points being awarded since Christmas. Our top point earners were recognised with a sweet treat. Our top 5 point earners this half-term were Alex H, Hannah B, Rhys P, Jess B and Hareem I.

We also continue to reward all the hard work outside of lesson with independent study points and scratch cards. The top 3 earners of these were Max R, James T and Jason A.

## Finally...

We wish all our students and families a happy and restorative half-term break. We look forwards to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for a focused end to the Spring term up to Easter.



01670 812166



admin@ashingtonacademy.co.uk

## 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.