

April 2026

Welcome to our Easter Edition 🐣

Term 2 has flown by quickly, but students have packed an impressive amount into the weeks since the New Year. Our Year 12 cohort have now truly settled into Sixth Form life, with some sitting their first BTEC exams in January and all students completing another round of assessments across their subjects. It may have been a short term, but their focus and commitment have been evident throughout. Meanwhile, our Year 13 students have worked with real determination through their second mock exam period, and we are now turning our attention to preparing them for their final summer examinations.

World Ready Update

Year 12 have been looking at Labour Market Information, alongside key personal-safety topics such as safe travel, first aid and the risks of young drivers. Our Active Citizenship programme is also going strong, with all Year 12 students completing at least 30 hours of volunteering — supporting lessons and clubs, reading with younger pupils, and helping at school events.

Year 13 have explored finances and relationships. The finance unit covered budgeting and financial planning, student finance, and how to stay safe by avoiding fraud and identity theft. The relationships unit focused on contraception, sexual health and consent. As Year 13 move into a particularly busy period, we have scaled back some of their enrichment and extra-curricular activities to allow them to focus fully on their studies.

Chemistry Olympiad

Huge congratulations to our students who took part in this year's Chemistry Olympiad — especially impressive given that the grade boundaries were higher than ever!

Alex – Gold 🏆

Hareem – Bronze 🏆

These are outstanding achievements for Year 12 students, and both should be incredibly proud.

Student Executive Update

Our Student Executive team has been busy organising Easter Enrichment activities, including an Easter Catchphrase event, egg-design crafts, and assembling gift parcels for local care homes.

They've also continued supporting extra-curricular clubs and school events and have been coordinating weekly praise-point shout outs and prizes to the sixth form tutor groups.



Future of AI in the North East

Some of our Year 12 students attended an AI conference at the Energy Central Learning Hub in Blyth, hosted by Ian Lavery MP and sponsored by QTS, the company developing the new Cambois data centre. They heard from key national speakers about how AI could shape jobs, public services and daily life, and took part in discussions around both the opportunities and challenges ahead.



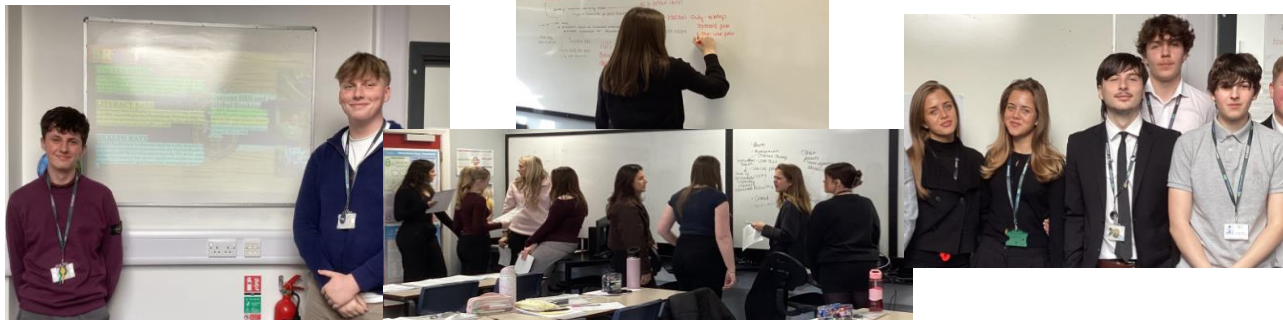
IN LESSON SPOTLIGHT

This term has been an exceptionally busy and rewarding one across our Sixth Form classrooms, with students engaging in hands-on learning, developing key skills, and pushing themselves academically.

In Year 13 Business, students have been taking part in formal interviews as part of their Recruitment and Selection unit. Each student took on both the role of interviewer and interviewee, demonstrating impressive professionalism throughout. It was wonderful to see how smartly dressed, confident, and well-prepared they were for this element of their coursework.

Year 13 Psychology students are diving into focused exam preparation. Lessons have included mini whiteboard quizzes, live modelling of high-quality exam responses, group planning of longer answers, and extensive use of past papers. This combination of active strategies is helping students consolidate their knowledge and refine their exam technique.

In Economics, students have been exploring globalisation and international trade. Working in small groups, they researched different countries and presented findings on each nation's economy to the class. This peer-led approach has helped broaden students' understanding of how interconnected the global economic system has become.



Law lessons in Year 13 are also centred on revision, with students reviewing mock exam feedback and revisiting key content from Criminal Law. A highlight of the term was welcoming a member of the House of Lords into school, giving students the chance to discuss, first-hand, how laws are made and the role politics plays in shaping the legal system.

In Product Design, students have completed their final NEA projects — with some outstanding practical outcomes. These include an accessible fishing chair, tested on a traditional coble fishing boat in Newbiggin, and a maintenance trolley reviewed directly by the E-Karting team at TeamSport on Scotswood Road. These real-world applications have added an exciting dimension to their design process.

In Biology, Year 12 students have been working through a unit on inheritance and genetics. They have been exploring patterns of inheritance, population genetics, and the ways different genes interact to influence phenotypic characteristics. Meanwhile, **Year 13 Biology** students are in the final stretch before their exams, tackling challenging exam questions, refining key skills, and working hard on essay planning to prepare for the summer.

CAREERS

This term, students benefitted from a range of careers events, including our mock interview day with apprenticeship providers and universities, National Apprenticeship Week, the Careers Fair and National Careers Week — all designed to support their post-18 choices.



For **Year 12**, next term will focus on introducing the UCAS application process. Students should also now have their work-experience placements arranged for next term, giving them valuable insight into potential career paths. If your child is unsure about their next steps, please let us know so we can offer further guidance.

For **Year 13**, all university applicants have submitted UCAS applications, with most receiving their decisions (any remaining offers will be released by 13 May). Students are now moving on to choosing firm and insurance options, followed by applying for student finance and accommodation. Others are continuing to apply for apprenticeships as new vacancies open. They should regularly check:

- Find an Apprenticeship – GOV.UK
- Apprenticeships in England – UCAS

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
WB 20 th April	Art and Photography A level Exams
4 th May	Bank Holiday Monday
7 th May	A level and BTEC written exams begin

Reward Points

We have had another fantastic half term of reward points and have now tipped over the 20,000 mark for this academic year. Our top 5 point earners this half-term were Matthew W, Kate S, Lacey H, Alex H and Neve B.

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 Alex H, Annalise W and Scarlett D.

Our rewards trip this half term was to Escape Room, Newcastle Students spent the morning solving puzzles, cracking codes and working together. Well done to our winning team!



Finally...

We wish all our students and families a happy and restorative Easter break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for a focused and successful final term of the year.



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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.