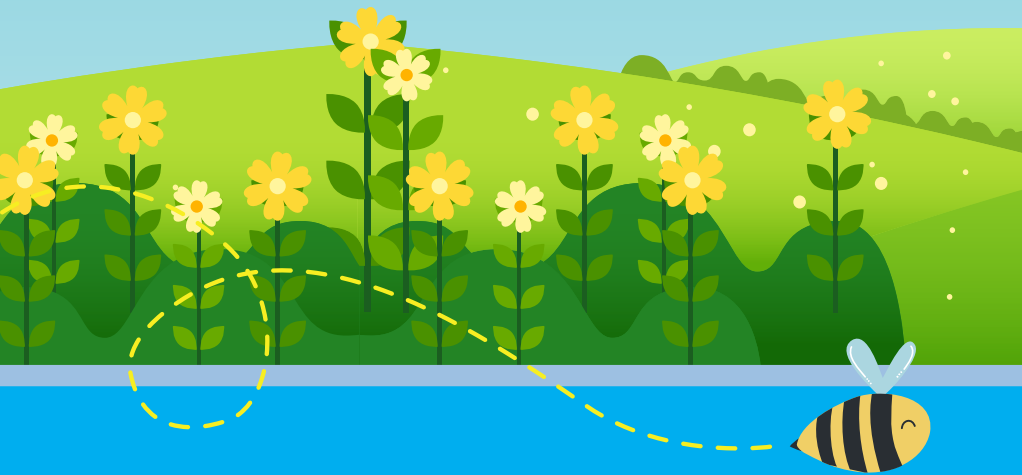




**ASHINGTON**  
Academy

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

July 2022



## WELCOME to our summer newsletter

As we come to the end of another busy academic year, we are so proud to report on a wide range of achievements across our whole school community.

We were thrilled to receive a 'Good' rating from school inspectors Ofsted this term which you can read about in more detail in this newsletter.

We have also been incredibly impressed by our Year 11 and Year 13 students' efforts in their GCSE and A Level examinations, and we have felt proud to celebrate with them and wish them the best of luck in their next chapters.

All other year groups have also been hard at work completing their mock examinations and

summer assessments, as well as continuing with their busy extra-curricular activities around school.

We are also absolutely delighted to have been awarded the Green Flag from Eco-schools, in recognition of the efforts our school community are making to become more sustainable.

All that remains is to wish you all a very well-deserved, restful and peaceful summer break; I look forward to welcoming you back to school in September.

*Yvonne Weston*

Yvonne Weston  
**Head of School**

**Ofsted**

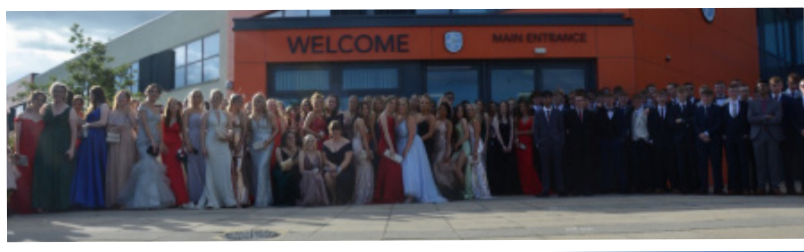
### A 'Good' rating from Ofsted

**This term we were absolutely delighted to receive a 'Good' rating after our recent Ofsted inspection.**

We recently welcomed Ian Lavery, MP for Wansbeck, back to our school to celebrate our excellent inspection and the improvements that have recently been made to our buildings and site.

As a long-term supporter of the work undertaken in our academy, Mr Lavery praised the tremendous hard work and efforts of both students and staff, describing the turnaround achieved in our school as "remarkable" in a relatively short space of time.

During his visit, Mr Lavery praised our achievements as "a reminder that through hard work and determination, things can be improved against the odds" and commended our school for serving as a positive story in the community. He also thanked staff for providing a "safe, thriving community for children in Ashington to get a quality education and pursue their extra-curricular activities."



## Bidding goodbye...

With the final GCSE examinations complete, we have said our goodbyes to Year 11 at Ashington Academy, though we know that for many students, it's actually a 'see you soon' as they prepare to return to our NE6 Sixth Form!

It has been a pleasure to teach our Year 11 students and watch them grow into the wonderful young adults they have become. It hasn't been the easiest of years, but we are so proud and impressed with how they have approached their GCSE year.

We have celebrated both in school and at prom. On the students' final day of school, we celebrated with a fantastic brunch, memories of the class of 2022's journey through school and our leavers' assembly, including

some very well-deserved student and teacher awards! Our students also donned their finest attire to enjoy a very special prom and celebrate their hard work and of course, the friendships created over the last five years. We were delighted to see so many smiles on the evening and so many students on the dancefloor! We wish you the very best of luck in your next steps Year 11 and we hope that you will keep in touch. We will see you on results day in August...



## We're social!



Follow our social media accounts to stay up to date with all of the latest news from around the Academy!



@ashingtonacad



@ashingtonacademy

## IMPORTANT DATES for your diary

06 SEP - Back to school

21 OCT - Break up for half term

31 OCT - Back to school

Please keep checking our website and social media channels for the latest updates.

## Summer fun list

How many activities can you complete on our summer top 20...

1. Try out a new sport
2. Make and fly a kite
3. Plant some seeds
4. Swim at your local public pool
5. Camp out in the garden
6. Run a 5K
7. Go to the beach
8. Be a tourist in your own town
9. Have a photoshoot with your friends
10. Play chess
11. No screens for a full day
12. Go for a hike
13. Start a journal
14. Visit a museum
15. Go for a bike ride
16. Make a zine
17. Learn to cook something tricky
18. Make a summer playlist
19. Teach yourself some new dance moves
20. Do something kind for someone—a neighbour, a family member, or a complete stranger

# Hello to our new Year 7 students!

**We have been so excited to invite and welcome our new Year 7 students into school this term.**

Through our 'Moving Up' and 'Meet the Tutor' evenings, as well as our transition day, all our staff and

students have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and getting to know the pupils that will be joining us in September.

We hope you'll all have a fantastic summer and we can't wait to welcome you back to begin your new chapter in secondary school!



## Sustainable fashion

**Continuing our environmental focus this term, Miss Machin has been working with students in Year 7 and Year 8 in Sustainable Fashion Club to create functional and stylish bags out of old denim!**

Students have undertaken pattern cutting and sewing to make the bags, taking their recycling efforts to the next level! We are sure you will be as impressed as we are with the final outcomes!

## Maths challenge

Students in Year 7 and 8 recently completed the UK Maths Challenge - a competition that is open to students across the UK. Yet again, our students experienced high levels of success and triumphed with an incredible 30 bronze and silver awards. An enormous well done to all students involved - we are so proud of your accomplishments!



## Fond farewells to Year 13

**After a tumultuous and difficult couple of years, we have bid our fond farewells and good luck wishes to our resilient and determined Year 13 students as they embark upon their next steps to university and apprenticeships.**

After the final A Level examination we breathed a collective sigh of relief and celebrated our students' tremendous efforts with a delicious afternoon tea in our NE6 Bistro.

We also enjoyed a fabulous NE6 prom at St James' Park with great food, fantastic company and lots of dancing! There were many awards for both students and teachers, and we crowned Prom King and Queen of Ashington Academy!

We wish our Year 13 students the very best of luck as they begin their next chapters and we hope you will keep us updated on how you are getting on. We look forward to seeing you all on results day in August!







## We're officially an Eco School

Eco-Schools is an educational programme that was founded in 1994, operating in 70 countries and engaging with 19.5 million young people globally.

This year we started an Eco-School group that was led by Kieron, Year 10 with help from James, Year 8 and a range of students from Year 7 to the sixth form. Our focus was initially on solving litter issues around school. Students collected plastic bottles which were used to create Christmas trees for the geography Christmas display in December. This was to highlight the mountain of plastic pollution that is created during the Christmas period. We also began collecting crisp packets with the aim of creating waterproof blankets for homeless people. Throughout the year, some of our group have worked with Mrs Keech's Bee-ology group, encouraging biodiversity in our school grounds. We also collaborated with other teachers who are showing care for the environment including Miss Machin's Sustainable Fashion group who used old denim to create brilliant bags!

***"With Eco-schools, you are constantly busy. It has improved my leadership skills and I look forward to continuing next year." - James, Year 8***

We were officially awarded the Green Flag from Eco-schools on the 24 June 2022. The Eco-Schools awarding committee praised our application stating: "Your efforts are a great example of the collaborative citizenship approach we will all need to adopt to combat pollution in the environment - your application made us feel really positive for the future! We also thought your Eco-Code was well thought through and inclusive! It was relevant, colourful, eye-catching and thoughtful - and it was great that it set out tangible and accessible calls to action that your whole school can get behind!"

Next year, we will continue our efforts to ensure our school has an excellent environment both inside and out. If you are a student and would like to get involved, please pop into room 56 to see Mrs Douglas. If you are a parent/carer and have some recycling ideas that would help the group, please email Mrs Douglas to get involved from September: [vikki.douglas@ashingtonacademy.co.uk](mailto:vikki.douglas@ashingtonacademy.co.uk)

## Ready, steady, cook!

Our catering students in Year 9 and Year 10 were recently given a brilliant opportunity to work alongside two Royal Navy chefs in a 'Ready Steady Cook' challenge!

This unique opportunity was part of a careers event where they also learnt about various training opportunities and job roles within the Royal Navy. For their challenge, students were given a box of ingredients and 1 hour 20 minutes to produce a main meal and a dessert, which they had to present for the judges to taste. The students who took part thoroughly enjoyed the experience and impressed the chefs with their culinary skills. Very well done to all our students for creating such mouth-watering and delectable dishes!



## Cricket champions

**Ashington Academy's Under 15 Cricket Team have experienced great success this season.**

They reached the semi-final of the County Cup after beating Ponteland with astonishing success and only missed out on reaching the final when they faced Dame Allan's in the next stage of the competition. Our players were strong in the field with noticeable bowling performances from a number of students - a huge well done to our brilliant team and players!



# Amazing athletics

A talented group of Year 7 and 8 students were selected to represent Ashington Academy at the Area Athletics Championships this term, after successful trials in their chosen event. The sun was shining and the students were delighted with the perfect conditions in which to compete...

The level of competition at the championships was fierce, so our students threw their all into it, competing in sprint and middle-distance track events - including a very exciting relay at the end of the day - as well as field events including shot put, javelin, discus and long jump.

A big thank you to our NE6 students who provided invaluable support on the day; your help was very much appreciated!

A huge well done to all competitors; we are so very proud of your efforts and how fantastically you represented our school, both on and off the track! Outstanding performances of the day included:

**Max** threw the javelin a whopping 18.81 metres and qualified for the county championships! Well done, Max!

**Shania** ran a rapid 32.84s 200m, narrowly missing a qualification place in the final by 0.09 seconds! Well done, Shania!

## Fresh water ecology

This term saw our Year 12 geographers take up some fieldwork at Carlisle Park.

The group delved into some local freshwater ecology and collected samples from two different sites at the park, identifying the species they found and using the data to carry out calculations to compare the biodiversity of the two sites.



## STEM fest

Sixty of our Year 7 and Year 8 students recently attended the STEM Fest net zero event at St James' Park where they were able to get involved with interactive and hands on sessions relating to climate change.

Students were able to meet with nearly 50 North East STEM businesses including Dogger Bank Wind Farm, Balfour Beatty, Nissan and Newcastle Airport. Activities included demonstrations with robots, virtual reality headsets, games, quizzes,

problem solving and building challenges. Our students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to engage with local businesses, learnt lots about the drive towards net zero and also had a lot of fun participating in the activities!

