



ASHINGTON
Academy

NEWSLETTER

APR
2023

SPRING

This term, we were absolutely delighted to welcome students, parents and carers, and members of the wider Ashington community into school to watch our incredibly talented cast perform 'Back to the 80s'!

We hosted a full day of activities to celebrate 'World Book Day' including a 'golden ticket' afternoon tea as well as challenges for all students to participate in around the academy and in their lessons. Earlier this month, students from Years 7 - 13 attended our annual Careers Fair where they were able to visit over 40 different employers and universities.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students continue to work extremely hard as they move ever closer to their final GCSE and A Level examinations. There are lots of revision sessions taking place in school over the Easter holidays for both year groups, so we look forward to welcoming the students to these bespoke sessions to really boost their chances of success in the summer. Look out for reminders of the dates and times of the sessions on our social media channels!

As the weather continues to brighten, I really look forward to seeing the achievements of our incredible students in the summer term. Wishing you all a happy, safe and restful Easter break.

Yvonne Weston

Yvonne Weston, Head of School

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Careers Fair

In preparation for National Careers Week, students in Years 7 - 13 took part in our annual Careers Fair.



Back to the 80s

For the first time since the pandemic, a school musical was back on the cards...



Sporting success

See what our talented students have been achieving this term on the back page.



Celebrating World Book Day



Once again, we celebrated World Book Day in style, with a focus this year on the works of Roald Dahl. On the day, our wonderful catering team served up a Roald Dahl inspired feast. From The Twits' Wormy Spaghetti to Bruce Bogtrotter's Chocolate Cake – in the words of Dahl himself, it was a 'scrumptious spectacle'!

30 lucky golden ticket winners were invited to an extraordinary afternoon tea in Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory – their eyes lit up at the sight of sweets galore! Each student was given a Wonka chocolate bar and Emma in Year 8 was fortunate enough to find a golden ticket inside to win an extra prize.

Throughout the day, students took part in various activities in their lessons, including designing Roald Dahl characters in art, creating new revolting rhymes in English and George's marvellous experiments in science – it was a truly spectacular day!

Back to the 80s

A huge well done to all our incredible cast who performed in 'Back to the 80s' this term! Our dazzling production retold the story of the senior class of William Ocean High School that graduated in the 1980s, as remembered through the eyes of narrator, Corey Palmer.

The main hall was packed out on both evenings and our audiences enjoyed musical hits from the 1980s, romance and jokes, all accompanied by retro refreshments from our Bistro. We're very proud of our tremendously talented students and the staff who directed and supported the production, and in awe of their efforts in rehearsing and producing the show. We also want to say a huge thank you to parents /carers for supporting us throughout.

We are all now so excited to set the stage once more for next year's performance...watch this space...



British Science Week

Our annual celebrations of British Science Week never fail to impress and this year we once more enjoyed a diverse range of activities.

We welcomed the Living Eggs project back into school, enabling Year 7 students to care for a brood of beautiful, fluffy chicks as they hatched and developed. We also welcomed astronomers from Kielder Observatory who brought their mobile Planetarium back into school to teach students about the wonders of the night sky. The astronomers also hosted a fascinating lecture on cosmology for some of our Year 10 students.

Throughout the week students also took part in science competitions, a science careers themed assembly, and scientific registration activities for all.



Speedy sixth form interviews

Our Year 12 students and many of our Year 13 students, took part in a speed interview event in February.

Visitors from our partners Northumbria University, AkzoNobel, Merit Holdings, Northumberland County Council and Northumbria Healthcare joined us for a busy morning of 10-minute interviews in quick succession.

Students had to produce a CV in advance and were asked questions about their strengths, weaknesses and future aspirations. Whilst some were nervous to begin with, all students did themselves proud with some even returning for a second or third interview!

Our visitors were really impressed with how polite, confident and focused our NE6 students were, and are excited about working with us in the future. Some students even have additional interviews lined up for future job prospects.



Easter careers



Let's take a look at some career paths that really flourish at Easter time...

Chocolate Research and Development Scientist

This career involves developing new prototypes and products as well as improving quality of existing chocolate products. But it's not just about the taste test! A chocolate scientist needs to provide technical reports and guidance too. Having qualifications in food chemistry and nutrition can lead to becoming a chocolate scientist.

Florist

Did you know that florists are busiest during the Easter period? A college course in floristry on average takes around two years to complete. You may also choose to open your own florist shop!

Allergist

During the spring, allergists see almost 30% of their patients for the whole year. After completing training, the average salary of an Allergist is £29,384 - £34,012. At the level of a Consultant, this can rise to £114,003!



Careers fair

In preparation for National Careers Week, all students in Years 7 - 13 took part in our annual Careers Fair earlier this term.

We welcomed over 40 different visitors to school, including universities, employers and members of the armed forces and uniformed services.

Students had time in advance to think about who they wanted to speak to and what they would ask, then plenty of time to speak to our exhibitors and learn about the range of opportunities in our region and beyond.

It was wonderful to have representation from so many businesses and institutions in our community. Many parents generously offered their time to represent their workplaces as well as student alumni from previous years who came back to share opportunities and learning with the current students - what a tremendous day!



Hej, Year 12!

Our Year 12 product design class recently ventured out to IKEA in Gateshead to spend a day learning about the design and production process, as well as working with staff in an exciting design challenge.

A huge well done to the winners of the challenge, Abi, Abbie and Ashton!



Go Eagles!

Our PE department took 50 students to watch the Newcastle Eagles' basketball match against Bristol Flyers at the Ventu Arena in Newcastle.

Students enjoyed an excellent game and were engrossed as play went end-to-end for the full duration of the match.

Between the shouts of 'defence' and 'let's go Eagles' students also enjoyed the in-match entertainment.

A special mention to Will in Year 9 for his enthusiasm when cheering with foam fingers and giant flags, and to Isla in Year 9 for embracing her competitiveness during the 'chuck a duck' competition!

Our students' behaviour was exemplary and there have already been requests for a return trip... watch this space for the next exciting opportunity!

DATES

FOR YOUR DIARY

31 MAR	Break up for Easter
17 APR	Back to school
01 MAY	Bank holiday
08 MAY	Bank holiday

Did you know?

In 2021, the UK spent £299 million on Easter eggs! While we give gifts of chocolately eggs at Easter time in England, other countries mark Easter in very different ways...

In Italy, people often gather for firework displays, dating back 350 years.

In the city of Antigua Guatemala, locals cover the streets in colourful carpets to prepare for the Good Friday procession through the city.

Show the love

Our Beeology Club have created a display of green hearts as part of the #showthelove campaign.

The campaign asks people to make pledges to complete tasks that will fight climate change and take care of our planet. The club's pledge is to support biodiversity within our school grounds including planting plants for pollinators and building a bug hotel.

A display of green hearts and pledges has been installed in the Crossroads Coffee Shop in Ashington showcasing photos of flowers the club have planted in the school garden, and some bees enjoying the flowers!



Faith at spring time

As a predominantly Christian country, the UK celebrates **Easter** during the spring time to mark the resurrection of Jesus after his crucifixion. Each year, Easter Sunday takes place on a different date - the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox.

Passover, a spring holiday in the Jewish calendar, also takes place in spring. Passover celebrates the Biblical story of the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt. It is tradition to eat a special bread that does not contain yeast (unleavened bread) called matzo. You must have speed on your side when making matzo as the bread begins to rise after 18 minutes!

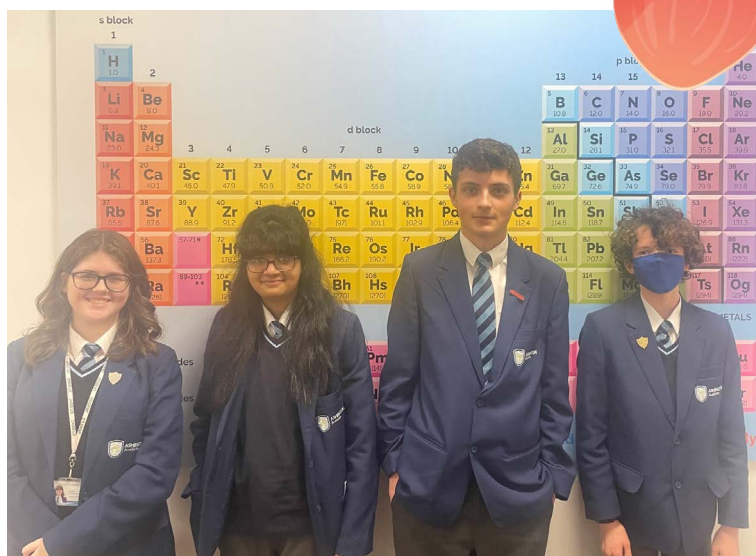
Ramadan is celebrated by those who follow Islam and this year it's from the end of March to the end of April. Those who celebrate Ramadan practice fasting, prayer, reflection and celebrating community. Food can only be eaten after sunset or just before dawn, meaning many families create plentiful feasts to enjoy after daylight hours.



Top of the Bench

Congratulations to our team of four students who took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry's 'Top of the Bench' competition.

Lorien, James, Hareem and Alex answered questions on a variety of chemistry topics including colour chemistry, chemical measurements and equipment, and famous chemists. The team swept past the competition from schools across the region to achieve this win and have just returned from the national finals in London. A massive well done from us!



Sporting successes

This term has seen some great achievements from our students.

Our Year 7 boys' sporthall athletics team were crowned county champions after performing brilliantly in the finals.

A group of Year 7 and 8 students had earlier competed in another athletics competition where they competed fiercely against other schools in the Ashington, Coquet and Cramlington areas in a range of track and field events.

Our Under 15s football team restarted their league campaign with a 3-1 win, leaving them 2nd in the league, three points off top spot.



Election success

We're absolutely delighted to announce that Bailey in Year 9 has been elected to the Youth Cabinet. With an impressive 437 votes, Bailey will join four other elected students to represent the views of young people across Northumberland. We're so proud of Bailey and look forward to hearing how he influences change in the upcoming months.





WHAT WOULD DAVID DO?

Is your child an eco champion? We're launching a new eco-campaign in school to encourage all students to join our exclusive What Would David Do? (WWDD) club, where membership is reserved for our most eager energy experts, resolute recyclers and superior species savers.



←
MERCH!

Your child is in with a chance of bagging this year's must-have uniform embellishment if they can prove that they have worked hard to save energy, reduce waste and improve the environment around school and at home.

Students (even sixth formers!) across the North East Learning Trust will be sent one of our limited edition pins and certificates at the end of each term if they can prove that they are an eco champion.

Is there anything you can do at home to help them bag one of our recycled wooden David Attenborough pins?

HOW TO WIN A BADGE:

START AN ECO INITIATIVE

SHOW PROOF OF YOUR ENERGY SAVING

SHARE ECO IDEAS OR PROJECTS + MORE

How to apply:

Your child will need to download an application form and fill it in (including a signature from their teacher) before sending it to NELT Head Office. At the end of term our eco champions will be decided and their place in the WWDD club confirmed with the delivery of their certificate and pin.

Visit: nelt.co.uk/WWDD



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