



ASHINGTON
Academy

SPRING NEWSLETTER

April 2022



WELCOME to our spring newsletter

It's been another exciting and busy term at Ashington Academy with a wide range of events and activities taking place right across school.

We're also very proud of our students' achievements both in class and in their extra-curricular activities. The Creative Writing club have been penning a range of original writing, mathematicians have participated in the nationwide UKMT challenge and one of our Year 12 students was elected to represent both Northumberland and Ashington Academy in the Youth Parliament!

Our Year 11 students also continue to work incredibly hard as they edge ever closer to their final GCSE examinations. They continue to pick up Year 11 Revision Star of the Week postcards and collect stamps

on their Passports to Success. We look forward to welcoming students to in school revision sessions over the Easter holiday to really boost their chances of success in the summer; look out for reminders of the dates and times of sessions on our social media channels.

As ever, I'd like to thank parents and carers for their ongoing support; I really look forward to what the summer term brings for our wonderful students.

Wishing you all a happy, safe and restful Easter break,

Yvonne Weston
Head of School

Bee-ology!

Bee-ology club members, as part of the eco-school project, have been trying their hands at some woodwork!

The team have worked together with the DT department to create bird and bug houses - teamwork at its best!

The new animal habitats have been fitted to trees within the school grounds and we hope that the wildlife will move in very soon! We would like to say thank you to Azko-Nobel for their donation of outdoor paint which was used to decorate the bird boxes.

We are also delighted to see the crocuses and daffodils that we planted in autumn beginning to pop up through the grass, and we are looking forward to seeing the planters we filled burst into colour very soon.

Our next plan is to start working on a new school garden...



A *magical* World Book Day!

We never do things by halves here at Ashington and World Book Day was no different!

Reading is so integral to everything we do here at Ashington Academy, so it was only right that we celebrated for an entire week!

Due to popular demand, we chose a truly magical theme - Harry Potter! As usual, we went BIG all week as Year 7 were enchanted by Harry Potter-based lessons, building on last half term's descriptive writing by designing and describing their very own magical creatures. We were delighted by their imagination and creativity!

Years 8 and 9 engaged in lessons looking at witches and wizards, feeding their later studies of Shakespeare plays. Even Year 10 got involved, looking specifically at non-fiction centred around views on witchcraft. What's more, our extra-curricular creative writing workshops took us on wondrous journeys, transporting us through 'spell-binding' language to Diagon Alley and the Leaky Cauldron.

On World Book Day itself, we utilised our powers of transfiguration too and transformed the school into Hogwarts itself, filled with our very own muggles and Potter characters! The dining hall became the Great Hall and our resident witches and wizards enjoyed tucking into a Harry Potter-themed menu, ranging from 'Great Feast Platters' to 'Canary Creams' and Dudley Dursley's much favoured 'Knickerbocker Glory'! Furthermore, 20 Year 7 and 8 students who have shown dedication in terms of attitude, progress, homework and Pupil Passport completion, received their very own scrolls, inviting them to High Tea at lunch, sampling our hand-made chocolate frogs and wands! It was truly 'wand'erful to see!

Overall, another 'spellar' performance from Ashington Academy staff and students!

IMPORTANT DATES

for your diary

25 APR - Back to school

02 MAY - Bank holiday

27 MAY - Break up for half term

06 JUN - Back to school

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



The votes are in!

This term we were absolutely delighted that Year 12 student, Jack, was selected to represent Northumberland and Ashington Academy in the Youth Parliament!

With a resounding 1532 votes in the recent Youth Parliament elections, Jack will now use his elected voice to bring about social change through campaigning! Very well done once again, Jack!



Creative writing club!

The Creative Writing club have been working on pieces inspired by a variety of stimulus this term and two long term members, Ella, Year 10 and Elise, Year 9 have entered some poetry and fiction into our first competition: the Young Northern Writers' Awards.

We are very excited to see how they do! Meanwhile, we continue to build our portfolios and work towards creating an anthology of our best work by the end of the summer.

As always, we welcome new writers of any ability to come along and share their creative flair in any form that interests you: prose, poetry, rap and spoken word, journalism and non-fiction writing or any other format that inspires! We meet on Mondays in room 22 after school.

An astronomical success!

This term, we were delighted to welcome two astronomers from Kielder Observatory to our school for an activity-packed week of space physics fun!

★ All students experienced exciting workshops that expanded their understanding of space and the impact it can have on our planet.

Students took part in a wide range of workshops with Adam and Naz over the course of the week, including the opportunity to explore meteorites and handle real life moon rock; the chance to investigate the electromagnetic spectrum; looking at the wonders of the unseen world, gravity simulations and they even created space landers to safely carry an egg back down to Earth!

★ Our budding A level physicists were excited to engage in lectures on exoplanets and cosmology!

Our students had a fantastic time - here's what Daniyal had to say about it...

"The lecture was very interesting and inspired me to learn more about astronomy in my free time. The fact that there is an unknown force accelerating the expansion of the universe is very intriguing!"



Were social!

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



@ashingtonacad



@ashingtonacademy



Parliamentary matters

In February, we were pleased to be joined by Gillian Bell - a senior education and engagement officer to the UK Parliament.

Gillian spent the entire day meeting our students and delivering assemblies to all students about what it means to live in a democratic society. Gillian's assembly also explained how the UK government and parliament operates, and her presentation

even included a personalised message to our students from their local MP, Ian Lavery, who has strong connections to our school! Gillian also was interviewed by Ella in Year 10 and met Youth Parliament member, Jack, in Year 12.

'Chick' this out!

We went BIG when celebrating British Science Week this year, with lots of exciting activities going on in school.

The theme this year was 'growth', so we were delighted to welcome the Living Eggs back into school. They started to hatch within 48 hours of arriving and we soon had a gorgeous bunch of fluffy chicks to take care of. We were able to observe them growing and developing by the day!

In addition to this we had a daily problem-solving challenge, with form classes in each year group racing against each other to crack a code that opened a padlocked box full of delicious treats, hidden somewhere different every day – our students love a bit of friendly competition!

Our Key Stage 3 students carried out a scientific investigation into the energy stored in different types of snacks and the week of fun ended on a high with an amazing 'Mad Scientists Tea Party' in the Bistro, for our most hard-working scientists – complete with colourful drinks, delicious food, a fair bit of $C_6H_{12}O_6$, lots of smiles and glow-sticks to demonstrate a cool chemical reaction!



Careers day success!

After two years of disruption due to Covid, we were delighted to finally host our annual Careers Event in March for all students across Years 7 – 13!

We were proud to open our doors and give a huge range of exhibitors a real Ashington welcome! As a part of this event, we hosted a range of local, national and international companies, including powerhouses such as AkzoNobel (producers of Dulux paint etc.), Equinor (a Norwegian energy company) and even our much-loved NHS!

However, that wasn't all the day had to offer. Students also benefitted from careers information, advice and guidance from companies offering apprenticeships, local and national universities and colleges including Northumbria, Durham, Leeds, Newcastle universities, Northumberland College,

the Emergency Services, the Armed Forces and National Citizen Services.

Our wonderful students soaked it all in asking questions, participating in the activities at individual stalls and completing their information sheets. Exhibitors were blown away with their polite, respectful manners and enthusiasm and, as ever, we are very proud of them! Students themselves loved the event, with some reconsidering their current careers choices and aspirations! In turn, we look forward to watching and supporting them take the next steps towards realising their dreams.

