



**ASHINGTON**  
Academy

# SPRING NEWSLETTER

March 2021



## WELCOME to our spring newsletter

**First and foremost, we have been absolutely delighted to welcome all students back to Ashington Academy for the final weeks of the Spring term.**

Once more, we have been so incredibly proud of the efforts of both students and staff as they have adjusted to remote learning and then back to in class learning again. Whilst we have been online for a significant portion of the term, we have been very busy with wonderful achievements, challenges and activities galore!

Earlier in the month, we celebrated World Book Day with The Masked Reader, and alongside our studies, we have spent time focusing on our

health and wellbeing through our KS3 'Screen Free Day' and the 'Mile a Day Challenge'. There has been an enormous amount of high-quality work produced during virtual school and we have loved celebrating students' achievements and our stars of the week!

Once again, I would like to thank parents and carers for all of your support during a challenging term. I really look forward to seeing our students continuing to thrive in the summer term.

Wishing you all a safe and peaceful Easter break,

*Yvonne Weston*

**Yvonne Weston**  
Head of School

## World Book Day 2021

**We didn't let the Covid restrictions hold us back and we celebrated World Book Day in style this term with a number of activities taking place remotely during the week.**

We started with a bumper book quiz for all students across the Academy, serving as a timely reminder of how amazing books can be in transporting us to different times and places. This was a fantastic opportunity to launch our fortnightly book recommendations through our social media pages - we would love students to share their own book recommendations too by submitting their ideas to Miss King.

This year also saw the launch of 'The Masked Reader' with staff from across the school recording the opening lines from a range of children's books, whilst remaining hidden behind a mask, challenging students and staff to identify the book and the member of staff.



# A mile a day!

What started as an idea to keep our students active during lockdown, quickly morphed into something magnificent...

At the beginning of February, the 'Mile a Day Challenge' was launched. The challenge was simple - we asked staff and students if they could run or walk one mile every single day in February. Sounds easy enough, right? However, who could have predicted that on only the second day of the challenge the conditions would take a turn for the worse, bringing what can only be described as every possible example of extreme winter weather!

Just as the PE department started to worry, the submissions of daily mile evidence started to flurry in thick and fast from our wonderful students and staff at Ashington Academy. Through the wind, rain, hail, snow (actual blizzards) and ice, involvement from determined and resilient individuals was rewarded, and finally somewhere towards the end of the second week we were blessed with some warmer, drier and much more friendly conditions. By this point we had a hardcore group of students and staff that were in it until the end.

What we found so special about this challenge is that everyone had their own motivation for taking part. Focusing on being physically active every day, beating your own one mile personal best, an opportunity to switch off and step away from the computer screen, spending some quality time together as a

household, or in fact, just some much needed alone time to listen to some music and enjoy the scenery. Whatever the reason, the challenge was met!

We are now in the process of collating how many miles were completed by everyone who took part. We can't wait to share this with you and celebrate everyone's efforts! Well done!

## Here are some thoughts from students and staff who got involved...

"I enjoyed going to Newbiggin on sunny days and I like going to the business park and feeding the ducks. Even though the month is over, we are going to keep going for nice walks." *Josh, Year 7*

"I completed all 28 days, some with my dog. It has been fun and I might continue it for the rest of the year." *Lucy, Year 11*

"I completed 37 miles over 18 days." *Kieron, Year 9*

"I completed all 28 days with a mixture of running, cycling and walking with my mam and dog, Burt. I really enjoyed doing it, especially after a day online doing my school work. It has kept me fit too." *Harry, Year 7*

## IMPORTANT DATES for your diary

12 APR - Back to school

03 MAY - Bank holiday

28 MAY - Break up for half term

07 JUN - Back to school

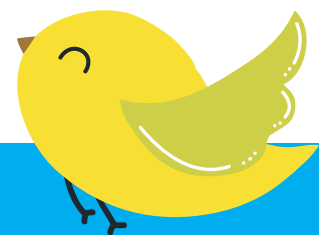
**Please keep checking our website and social media channels for the latest updates.**

"This month I have really enjoyed the mile a day challenge and, despite not being able to do it all due to an injury, I have improved my mile time by 58 seconds and I will be continuing to run in the months to come." *Kayleigh, Year 10*

"Thank you for sending all those emails throughout the day. I'm still running every day and hope to do so for as long as school and work allow me. I just wanted you to know how cool the challenge was and what a genuine impact it had." *Rachel, Year 12*

"I took it up a notch and pushed myself to run 5K a day. I'm now on Day 7 of 5K a day. So, my Mile a Day challenge has morphed into a 5K a day challenge for March!" *Mr Boyce*

"I have really enjoyed the walking challenge. I am an assistant beaver leader so it inspired me to get the beavers involved. For the last couple of weeks I have been doing an indoor walking step challenge over Zoom!" *Mrs Messenger*



## 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



# Creative clay!

**Grace, Year 10, has used lockdown to develop her creative skills.**

Tasked by her Grandad to make a gnome for the garden, we are amazed by Grace's new-found skills with clay. We are particularly impressed with Baby Yoda - well done, Grace!

## Cambridge offer for Jessica!

**University offers from far and wide continue to roll in for our wonderful Year 13 students and we are so proud of them all.**

Jessica Thomas secured an interview at Clare College, Cambridge and we are thrilled to hear that she has been offered a place to study Modern and Medieval Languages in September! Félicitations, Jessica!

## Talks with the Mayor

**Three of our fantastic NE6 Year 12 students, Lauren, Sophie and Erin, recently took the opportunity to speak with the Mayor of the North of Tyne about a range of political issues in Northumberland.**

Our students discussed wide reaching topics such as the impact of Covid-19 on their education and their aspirations for the future.

The students were thanked for their suggestions and their feedback was written down. We are very proud of these students ensuring that voices from Ashington have been heard.

## Going screen-free!

**In early March, our Year 7 and 8 students took part in our 'Off Screen Day' to promote the importance of looking after our health and wellbeing, especially after the increase in screen time during online learning.**

The day provided an opportunity to have a break from the screens and remind students of all the different things they could do to make themselves feel good. Moving forward, we hope students will continue to build these types of activities into their everyday lives.

The photos and videos that students submitted really brightened up the Key Stage 3 team's day. We would like to say a huge thank you to all the students and families who supported this day and benefited from 'being active, being creative and being kind'.

We have awarded some prizes for the students and class that provided some of the best contributions. It was so difficult to choose but the winners of the Screen Free Day are **Year 7:** Lucy Johnson, Sam Phillips, Emma Appleby, William Redpath, Molly Blench, Cameron Cryer, Alex Howard. **Year 8:** Andrew Seely, James Redpath, Joseph Waldock, Riley Askew, Lauren Whitehead, Alesha Sample, Hannah Riddell. **Winning classes:** 7LPA and 7CL

*Here are some thoughts from our students...*

"I have enjoyed sharing my activities with my siblings the

most because I love them so much and I want them, when they are older to be kind, loving and sharing too. I loved being creative when I made my art and put funny faces on them. I also liked how I was creative when I made some activities so I could stay active."

"I enjoyed being away from my devices because I had time to just relax and enjoy a calm day. It was a very different experience to being on calls all day and I think that it would be a great way for at least once a week after school to stay off your device and calm down."

"I loved the Challenge Day! It got me away from my phone for the day. Me and my little sister choreographed a dance a while back and practised it for the first time as one of the activities. I helped her with her schoolwork and that helped my mam a lot too. I made my mam a cup of tea while she was working which was good because she didn't have to stop to make one. I got out for some fresh air when I did one of the photo challenges in the afternoon which was quite nice. My mam, my sister and I loved the Challenge Day. It was very fun!"

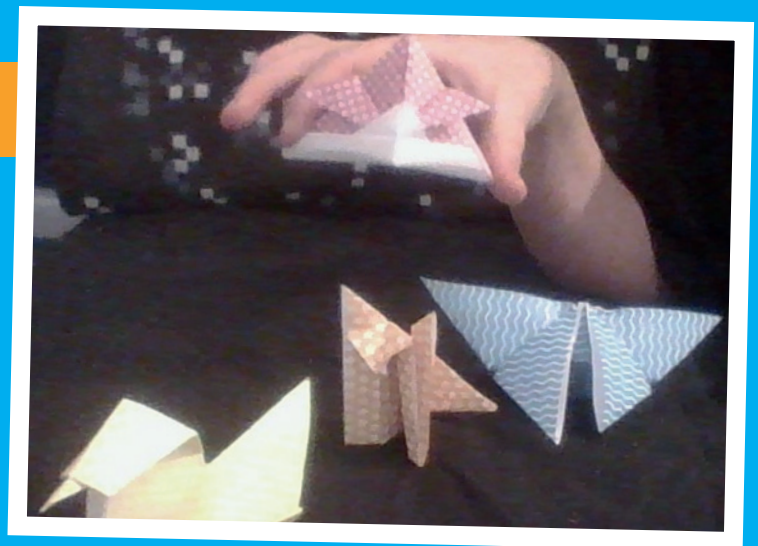
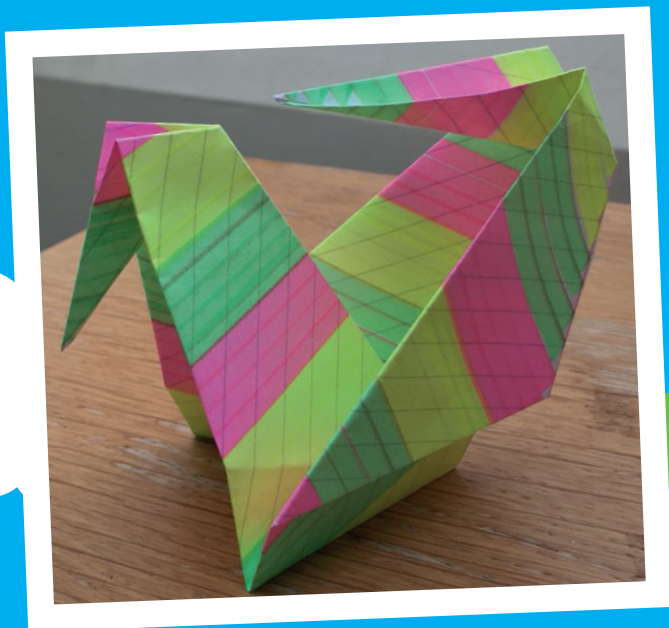
# Children's Mental Health Week 2021

February began with Children's Mental Health Week with the theme of 'Express Yourself'. Expressing yourself is all about finding ways to share feelings, thoughts or ideas by creative means. This could be through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, the list goes on!

In our Monday morning assembly, Mrs Douglas set students the challenge of making a duck... not just any duck, but an origami duck! In Japan, origami is a popular art form that is commonly integrated into the curriculum to help children develop patience and spatial skills, as well as enhancing memory and concentration. The challenge certainly provided a wonderful opportunity to quieten our minds and start the day on the right foot; have a look at some of the amazing creations!



*Jed, Year 10*



*Miss Caine*



*Ms Patterson*



*Jessica, Year 7*

