



ASHINGTON
Academy

NEWSLETTER

JULY
2023



A message from our headteacher...

We recently bid a very fond farewell to our Year 11 and Year 13 students after their tremendous efforts in their GCSE and A Level examinations. Yet again, we have been delighted by our students' determination, commitment and resilience in preparing for their final assessments. We felt so proud to celebrate with them at their respective leavers' events and wish them the very best of luck in their exciting new chapters. All other year groups have also worked hard to complete mock examinations and summer assessments this term.

Our students have also been incredibly busy outside of the classroom, enjoying a wide range of school trips, including our first trip to Paris since 2019. 'Destinations Days', saw all our Year 10 students experience a taster of a range of further and higher education settings, and a very exciting Duke of Edinburgh expedition!

Our Year 10 and Year 12 students have also completed work experience placements, and our Key Stage 3 students have thoroughly enjoyed our annual Activities Week!

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Magic of the Musicals

Students raised the roof at Sage Gateshead this term as part of the NELT summer concert!



What Would David Do?

This term saw the launch of our new eco campaign where we recently named our first winners!



Ashington adventurers

Students from Year 9 and Year 12 took on an exciting expedition as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award this term.



Goodbye Year 11 and 13

As another school year ends, we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 11 and 13s.

Farewell Year 11

Earlier this term, we bid a very fond farewell to our wonderful Year 11 students. We celebrated their incredible efforts over the exam period and their time at Ashington Academy with afternoon tea, awards and rewards, postcards and our traditional Leavers' Assembly. We also celebrated in style with a wonderful prom night featuring a lovely meal, party games and lots of dancing!

We thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to come together and celebrate the end of the GCSE examinations, to reflect and of course, to remember some of our cohort's best moments.

We wish you all the very best of luck for the future and in your exciting next chapters!



Sporting stars

We have so many sporting superstars here at Ashington Academy – here's a summary of just some of the successes we've seen this term...

In June, we hosted the first ever Ash-Pont varsity which saw Ponteland High School visiting Ashington Academy and over 140 pupils competing in seven sports. Students had the opportunity to participate in:

- Year 7/8 Footgolf
- Year 7/8/9 Girls' Football
- Year 7/8 Boys' Rugby
- Year 7/8 and 9 Netball
- Year 10 Table Tennis
- Year 10/11 Badminton

All fixtures were played with fantastic determination, dedication, and enthusiasm. It was incredible to see so many pupils from all different year groups involved in a range of sports making the evening even more special.



Head's message continued...

Our young people have been an absolute credit to themselves, their families, their school and their local community when competing in regional and national competitions, or representing the academy at external events; there are far too many success stories to mention here, but our social media channels and the contents of this newsletter will tell the full story.

This half term has also seen the beginning of the latest phase of our building improvements and upgrades with a multi-million-pound refurbishment of our science department. We cannot wait to share the finished project with you in our next edition.

As always, I would like to thank all parents and carers for your ongoing support throughout the academic year. I wish you and your families a happy, restful and peaceful summer break.

See you in September!

Yvonne Weston

Yvonne Weston
Head of School



Ashington adventurers

Students in Year 9 and Year 12 recently took part in an exciting Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition over the course of two days and one night in Alwinton, Northumberland.

During the expedition, students became fully self-reliant, setting up their own tents, cooking their own meals and carrying everything that they required over the course of the weekend. Our students were absolutely phenomenal throughout and have completed the final part of their Bronze Award. Huge congratulations to all involved!



Goodbye Year 13

We've also recently bid a very fond farewell to our wonderful Year 13 students.

Earlier this term, we had an absolutely fantastic afternoon, with Ms Bell and Mr Laidlaw leading awards assemblies at both Ashington Academy and Bedlington Academy before all students joined together for a final celebration in the Bistro. Students chose to celebrate with an American style feast featuring curly fries, burgers, hot dogs, cream soda and cherryade.

Jack, co-chair of the Student Executive, spoke during the leavers' assembly and shared some moving reflections: "Through collaboration, mutual encouragement and a helping hand, our friendships have propelled us forwards... friendships have flourished, making memories that will be etched into the tapestry of our lives." Jack closed wishing "heartfelt gratitude to our friends, families and teachers who have supported us through our toughest moments and been with us for our greatest successes."

It was a truly lovely event with lots of gift giving, card signing, photographs and hugs.

We will miss you, Year 13, and wish you the very best of luck in your exciting new chapters!



Bonjour, la France!

A group of 42 Year 7 and Year 8 students, and five members of staff recently enjoyed a wonderful trip to France. The group spent two days in Paris participating in lots of activities, including: enjoying panoramic views of the city from the top of the Montparnasse Tower, a leisurely cruise on the river Seine on a bateau parisien, a visit to the military museum and Napoleon's tomb at Les Invalides followed by a guided tour of the sights of the capital and shopping on the Champs Elysées!

Students were regular visitors to the pool to cool down after sightseeing, and on the third day, they all enjoyed a trip to Disneyland Paris. We're so delighted you all had such a fantastic time



Summer careers

Let's take a look at some careers that really come into focus during the summer months.

Pilot: A newly qualified captain can earn between £54,000 and £75,000. For experienced captains, this can rise up to £140,000. Before you can fly a plane, you must gain an Airline Transport Pilot Licence by completing a modular or integrated course.

Coastguard: The busiest time of year for Coastguards is during summer. A Coastguard sends out weather and tidal reports, responds to emergency distress calls, offers navigational advice along certain stretches of sea, monitors radio and satellite communications and gives information about coastal and sea safety.

Visiting university

Our Year 12 chemists recently enjoyed a day at Newcastle University to experience what it is really like to study chemistry at undergraduate level.

Their day began with a lecture from Dr Peter Hoare on NMR Spectroscopy and then a small group tutorial followed. Next up, they attended another lecture on bonding and energy with questions posed to challenge students' thinking beyond the A-Level specification.

The afternoon sessions gave students the opportunity to use the state-of-the-art university laboratories to synthesise and purify an ester - a compound that smells like pear drops. Our students had a fantastic day and really enjoyed the insight into life as an undergraduate.

The big NELT debate is back

We were absolutely delighted to celebrate the success of the Ashington Academy Debate Team in the annual NELT debate competition earlier this term.

Three of our brilliant Year 10 students took to the floor and faced competition from six other secondary schools from across the Trust. Crafting a sophisticated stance on the topic 'Should all cars be electric?', Emily, Emma and Molly argued that although electric cars would be preferable, in their current state they are not ready to be implemented country-wide due to issues of cost, risk, feasibility and convenience.

Throughout the debate, we were incredibly impressed by the flair, eloquence, and maturity of our students, and they performed like seasoned professionals.

We also extend congratulations to Emily, who received an individual award for her fantastic performance as speaker.



DATES

For your diary

20 JUL - Break up for summer

05 SEP - Back to school

27 OCT - Break up for half term

06 NOV - Back to school

24 NOV - INSET day - school closed to students



Ashington in bloom

Thanks to our wonderful Bee-ology Club, the Ashington Academy garden is in full bloom once again with varied plants and flowers including lupins, poppies and even apples this year.

Our students love attending this extra-curricular activity and feel proud that they've brought joy to the whole school community and enabled all students to see the flowers grow!

Well done to all involved.



Year 9 Contemplate: Who Am I?

Earlier this term, Year 9 enjoyed a visit from Humanutopia and took part in their motivational course 'Who Am I?'. The course was split into three sessions: the comfort zone, the stretch zone and the panic zone. Students were encouraged to reflect on their past and think about how they became the person they are, then to consider how the present could be different if each person behaved differently and finally to imagine who they could be in future..., discussing their dreams, hopes, goals and ambitions.

As the day came to a close, each student identified and committed to making three positive changes to improve their future. Great work, Year 9!

Fighting climate change

This year, members of Ashington Academy Eco-School have focused on reducing plastic pollution in school by using Ecobricks to clean up the yard and reuse litter to make sculptures rather than sending plastic waste to landfill. Sometimes, plastic waste is burnt, giving off toxic fumes. Sometimes, plastic waste ends up in the ocean. The group's creative team decided to use the Ecobricks to make ocean sculptures to highlight this problem.

Ecobricks are plastic bottles that students have filled with wrappers and other rubbish collected to be more environmentally friendly with waste. Out of these bottles, students have made many structures, such as Tillulah, a sea turtle, to spread awareness of the topic of global warming.

We're so impressed by our students' commitment to clean up our school environment and to using the litter to help in the fight against climate change and the effects it has on our world. Very well done to all members of our Eco-School.

Summer traditions - UK and beyond

UK - Wimbledon is the oldest and arguably the most famous tennis tournament to exist. It made history in 1967 as the first broadcast to be televised in colour and is the only remaining 'grand slam' to be played on actual grass.

UK - Cheese rolling: Have you heard of the annual Gloucester Cheese Rolling event? People gather in their thousands to watch as competitors chase gigantic rolls of Gloucester cheese down some very bumpy hills!

Spain - La Tomatina: On the last Wednesday of every August, over 20,000 people gather in Buñol, Spain, to celebrate La Tomatina where hundreds of tomatoes are thrown at each other in the street just for the fun of it. The tradition began in 1945 and approximately 40 metric tonnes of tomatoes are used - that's a lot of tomatoes!

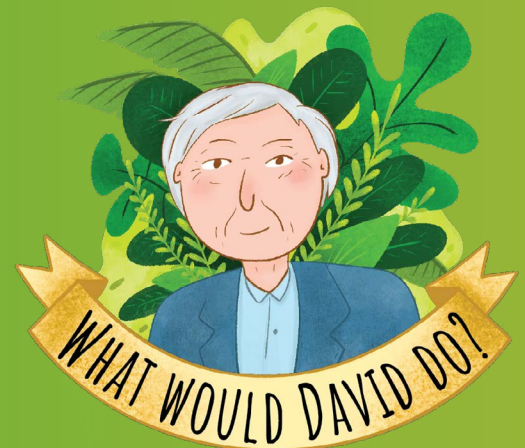
Japan- Aomori Nebuta Matsuri Festival: During August, vibrant lanterns showing gods and mythical characters are paraded through the streets of Japan as drummers and dancers bring the parade to life!

What Would David Do?

After launching our new eco initiative, What Would David Do? this term, we recently presented our first winners with their certificates and eco friendly pins.

As part of the campaign, we asked our students to tell us what they do to save the planet and we were overwhelmed by some amazing applications. Our first set of winners were Levi, Reagan and Ruby. From litter picks to growing fruit and veg in allotments - our winners are really going the extra mile both in school and home.

If you missed out on a certificate and pin badge this term, don't worry! We'd love for you to apply next term. Find out more at: www.nelt.co.uk/wwdd



Students take to the stage!

WOW, what a night! As the term came to a close, our students came together with children from across the North East Learning Trust for the fantastic NELT annual summer concert at Sage Gateshead where they blew the audience away!

The atmosphere was electric as our students performed the hit songs, Teacher's Pet and You're in the Band, from the much-loved musical School of Rock. Our superstars' talent and enthusiasm shone throughout the evening, resulting in a roaring applause and standing ovation as they took to the stage together for their final bows.

A huge congratulations to everyone who performed and a massive thank you to all those who organised and supported the incredible evening.



Amazing athletics

A fantastic group of Year 7 and Year 8 students travelled to Monkton Stadium in June to compete in the Area Athletics Competition! After their success at school level trials, 21 students hit the track and field to fiercely compete against other athletes that were also representing their schools in Northumberland. Ashington Academy students were an absolute credit to themselves and the school, showing each other encouragement and support throughout.

Some special mentions from the day, include:

- The Year 7 boys relay team blazed to victory during the 4 x 100m relay finishing 1st.
- Gabrielle, Year 8, ran an impressive and well-paced 1500m and finished 2nd overall.
- James, Year 7, finished first in both shot putt and discus, throwing a massive 21.45m in the discus and 9.2m in the shot putt!
- Aiden, Year 7 and Poppy, Year 8, were on rapid form in the heats and both qualified for the 100m final race.
- Jamie, Year 7, channelled his inner cheetah and sprinted his way into the 200m final race where he finished 3rd overall.
- Eloise, Year 7, threw the javelin a whopping 13.25m and the discus 13.06m and finished in 2nd place in both events.
- Aiden, Year 7, threw the javelin a HUGE 22.5m and finished in 1st place beating 2nd place by over 5m.
- Lennon, Year 7, threw the discus 13.56m and finished in 2nd place overall.

Well done all, on such impressive achievements!



Creative corner

Our students are a creative bunch here at Ashington Academy! From creative writing to collage, they've been doing it all this term. Check out some of their pieces below...

Year 8 creative writing

Year 8 students have wowed us with their descriptions of summer scenes and we hope that they will transport you to faraway shores, as well!

Welcome to Golden Bay, where the sun always shines. Children play on the crispy sand in the metallic gold sun. Calmly, tourists lie on sunbeds, enjoying the sun that is staring down on them. Every now and then, clouds drift over the beach like planes cruising after take-off. The sandy shore is dotted with sporadic palm trees. The sapphire blue sea is an ice bath, cooling every animal or human that enters it. Quietly and slowly, the cool breeze makes the leaves of the towering trees rustle. Sighing with relief, the sunbathing tourists are kept cool by the shade of the trees.

Now, we go under the waves; lots of fish swim around in their schools like they have received the best news of their life. Voluminous manta rays glide calmly alongside an abundance of turtles. This happiness in the sea continues for miles, filling the underwater world with joy. Every mile or so, there is great white shark, and they too are happy.

Harris, Year 8

High in the cyan sky, the sun smiled down on the beautiful island. Palm trees swayed with the gentle breeze, waves arrived and then departed from the surface of the shore and sea turtles crawled further into the deep blue ocean. The golden sands sprawled across the island, glistening in the sun. Seashells, strung like pearlescent necklaces, reflected beams of the sun's light as if they came from the Gods.

The palm trees reached out with their limbs as if trying to touch the sky. As they swayed, coconuts fell onto the hot sands. On the edges of the island, the sea was clear like glass, and you could see fish for miles. Suddenly, a dolphin flew past majestically as the fish swam in patterns. At the bottom of the deep blue sea, rainbow coral lay. The dolphin inhaled and exhaled as it danced along the waves.

Joel, Year 8

Descending slowly, the sun disappeared leaving an indigo sky in its wake. Automatically, the lights in the city turned on, bathing the buildings in light. Tall and glowing, the skyscrapers looked out at the horizon that was slowly vanishing. Finally, the moon rose and the sky was covered by a star-dotted curtain of darkness.

Lilly, Year 8

Year 7 artists

