



JULY 2024

VISITORS FROM CHINA

Yet again our students have excelled themselves in engaging with the opportunities available to them at school and it has been great to celebrate the many successes of this year with you all. Our Sport College Presentation Evening was incredibly well attended and recognised the achievements of not only those that excel in sport, but also those that actively participate. And our Year 11 Prom at Percy Park was a hugely enjoyable occasion!

None of this is possible without the commitment of our staff and it has been great to see them jumping at the chance to arrange trips and provide high quality experiences. I would like to express my thanks to them for their efforts.

As ever, our newsletter just gives a flavour of what we have got up to this term and I hope that you enjoy reading about it all.

I hope you all have an enjoyable and relaxing summer break.

Jonathan Heath  
Headteacher

As you'll see later in the newsletter, Mrs Winder visited China in March, along with Maisie and Lilly from year 10. They had an incredible experience, and last week, got to return the favour by welcoming a group to the UK. Seven students and two members of staff from Hebei Province in the North East of China spent two days with us, touring the local area and sampling some lessons in school.

Day one involved making a traditional British classic, scones in Food technology, followed by a session on the physics behind how fire works, and finally creating some famous British faces in art. Once our visitors had sampled some bangers and mash in the dining hall, it was off to the coast where they visited Tynemouth priory and Tynemouth aquarium. The highlight of the day was another British institution, fish and chips, which they thoroughly enjoyed!

The second day of the visit saw the students go to Newcastle where they visited St James's park for some photographs, before heading down to the Great North Museum. The trip was a great success and we hope to build on UK- China school relations over the coming years.



## Year 7

Year 7 have enjoyed a fantastic start to their life at John Spence and it has been a joy to see them grow in confidence, they have brought so much to the school community since arriving in September. I made it very clear in my first assembly that every single pupil in the year group was part of the 'Year 7 Team' and they were responsible for their part in making sure the team is as successful as it can be, and as a year group, I wanted to be recognised for our excellent contributions to every aspect of school life. I am proud of the efforts they have made in making the most of what John Spence has to offer and making such a positive first impression which I now hope continues as they make their way further up the school. Pupils have well and truly bought into the ethos of the school and this cannot be more evident by the sheer amount of positive points pupils have gained on class charts throughout the year. A special mention goes to the Top 3 in the year group this year: 1) Poppy 2) Abigail 3) Carly. Class charts has been heavily involved in the form class competition throughout the year. This terms winners were 7SCw for the 2nd term in a row. The competition promotes the importance of attendance, homework and behaviour all of which pupils are accountable for. The year group has shown they can promote high standards of all, which fills me with great confidence.

At the beginning of the year I encouraged pupils to get involved in as many extra-curricular opportunities as possible and I am amazed by how many have listened and got stuck into all that is on offer. A number of the year group were involved in the recent Matilda production which received acclaim from parents, families and staff. Prominent roles in the show, Matilda and Lavender were played superbly by Year 7s own Anna and Abigail. I must congratulate each and every pupil who played a role in the performance, they were fantastic and a credit to our school. To see them perform with such confidence and composure at such a young age gives me a massive sense of pride and admiration.

As a PE teacher, commitment to sport is an integral part of my ethos within the Year group. It has been great to see so many team and individual achievements within the first year at John Spence. We have had some excellent team results in Rugby, Girls Football, Netball and Rounders but also some excellent individual performances throughout the athletics season with a number of Year 7s representing North Tyneside at Gateshead Stadium last month. At the recent Sports Celebration evening I was again amazed by the number of Year 7 that achieved awards. Sport is a major part of a child's development and I would love to see more pupils gain recognition in year 8 and I encourage parents and carers to promote sport during the summer holidays with a hope to see everyone in our year group attend at least one of the many activities our fantastic PE staff provide next year. Notable mentions go to; Lacy, Shelayne, Evie, Mya, Alisha and Charlie who are already in the schools 'Hall of Fame' due to their involvement in high level sport outside of school. A massive well done to them and to all who received awards on the evening! Alongside celebrating achievements we were treated to a variety of dance performances on the evening. What was extremely pleasing to see was the high number of Year 7s involved in this and their confidence to perform in front of a massive audience.

Finally, it was an absolute pleasure to spend 3 days with a large proportion of the year group at Ford Castle and to see the children in a different setting. Building relationships is not just based in classrooms and I was so happy to see many of them overcome some of their fears and face challenges head on. There are so many different personalities in our year group, but what was very evident throughout the trip is that they are a caring and considerate group, and was a perfect example of Year 7 buying into the message of being one big team.

It has been a privilege to support the year group through their first full year at John Spence. I look forward to seeing what exciting opportunities and moments that Year 8 brings as we tackle it together! I do hope that each child, and their families enjoy a restful, but exciting summer break and I urge you all to spend time together, doing what you all like to do in your free time. I know me and the form tutors will do the same and we look forward to seeing you all back in September.

Mr Betts  
Head of Year 7

Year 8 have enjoyed another fantastic year at school with so many activities and opportunities for the cohort to enjoy and participate in. There have been so many highlights which began at the beginning of the school year with a day trip to Cragside Hall, Northumberland. The day was a wonderful experience for all the children with a tour of the grounds in their form classes and the chance for them to develop their skills and knowledge of the environment and wildlife.

There have been numerous visitors in school speaking to and educating the pupils in a varied capacity from looking at their futures, to learning about internet and online safety and even the chance to host guest pupils and staff who visited from China on two occasions.

Mr Fullard was instrumental in both whole year group trips and our second trip took the pupils to the Simonside Hills. Again, these were amazing days for our pupils to experience the great outdoors and learn skills and make memories they will keep for the rest of their lives. Some of our pupils even caught a glimpse of an adder; the only poisonous snake on British soil. A massive thank you to Mr Fullard for his hard work for getting these trips organised and continuing to support the children with his positive attitude to making sure pupils get these opportunities.

From a sporting point of view it has been great to see so many of our pupils taking part and competing in a range of sports with varying degrees of success. The girls have shone in rugby, netball and rounders in particular, and the boys football and rugby teams have certainly improved and continue to represent the school with pride and respect. I am proud of the pupils for their time and efforts and a thank you must also go to the PE staff who dedicate so much of their own time to ensure pupils have the best opportunities at school.

Finally, I must mention the recent school production of 'Matilda' which included so many of our year group as cast members and production team. I was blown away by the confidence they have shown, their ability to handle extremely tense and stressful situations, and more importantly the talent they possess. I am looking forward to what Mrs Patrick and Mr McGuire have in store for 2025, and would like to also thank them both for their amazing dedication and commitment in supporting the pupils.

I do hope that all families enjoy their time together over the Summer holidays and the pupils come back in September fully recharged for a very important year in their education. The pupils will choose their direction of study for Key Stage 4 in February/March 2025 and it is important they are focussed on learning, improving and achieving their full potential.

Thank you to parents, carers and family members for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Mr Burnip  
Head of Year 8



With the Year 9 Options feeling like a distant memory, the summer term got off to a flying start in April with Kaylum's successful application to join the Northumbria Police Cadets. They only take on a small number of cadets with each intake and so this was a fantastic achievement on his behalf. 11 students took advantage of the 'Future Focus' event organised by Ms Haswell and 13 more represented the school down at the Old Low Lights visitor centre on the Fish Quay where, under the guidance of Mrs Martin, they helped to plan an event to recognise the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RNLI.

May brought a first for the whole school when Aoki achieved her Silver 'Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award' – the first of that standard that the school has ever had. Aoki put in hours of work towards this award and should be justly proud of her achievements. Another group of over 40 students were literally taking their first steps towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards. They spent two days up around Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland and had to endure soakings all day and midges all night. Challenging conditions but all made it showing skills and resilience in bucket loads!

In contrast, our female cricketers had to cope with the threat of sunburn when they attended the U14/15 Cricket Festival at the start of June. This was followed up by a lovely email from Mrs McLeod who wrote to tell me about how much her PE girls had brightened up her day – Emily seemed to think Mrs McLeod had 'gone mad' because of the way they were being chased around!

Theatrical events took centre stage in June with two minibuses going to Sunderland Empire Theatre to see Macbeth and our own students putting the final touches to this year's production, 'Matilda'. Once again, Year 9 students were heavily involved. I would like to mention Dylan who overcame her nerves to perform and sing beautifully supported by Frankie who had the high-pressure responsibility of cueing every sound effect and piece of music (one wrong 'click' of the mouse and it could have been chaos)! Every member of the cast contributed to make the show the best yet!

As the term moved on, the winner of our first 'Healthy eating Week' across the whole school was Leilani and the year group were well represented in our first Varsity Sports event with a number of students taking part in a range of events.



Sporting success and endeavours were recognised across the year at the Sports Celebration Evening this week with special congratulations to Daniel and Sophie M (Year 9 Sports Personalities 2024). One of the top two awards was also picked up by Sophie A who picked up this year's 'Helen Blair' award in recognition of Sophie's positive attitude and resilience throughout the year.

Students from across the four year groups who have maintained a 98% or better attendance record this year were rewarded with a session on an inflatable assault course on Thursday 11th July. The rain Gods smiled on us and everyone stayed dry as they made the most of an hour of races back and forth across the obstacles. Some impressive times were made. The photo shows Paige and Amelia in full 'Superman' mode

Finally, the year will be coming to a close with the annual Elite Athletics event; The Challenge walk and a revamped 'activity day' with, for the top 30 Class Charts points students, a few games at the 'Gutterball Bowling Alley' thrown in too.

Phew! Now we all get to enjoy a well-deserved summer holiday and then we do it all again in September... This time as the new Year 10!

Mr Crowe (Head of Year 9)

## Year 10

It is hard to believe that we have now completed the first year of KS4. Year 10 on the whole performed very well during their mock exams. After a few blips to begin with they quickly got used to the systems and policies in place and behaviour was excellent. This is a really important process to get all students ready for their real GCSE exams next academic year.

We have had some individual student successes also this term with H.E being nominated for an NTLT Star Award for Resilience and making the final. H.E was invited to attend the awards ceremony on Thursday 11th July at St James Park. Well done H.E ! Josh has been selected to trial for the U16 Great Britain ice hockey team taking place on the 16/17th July in Sheffield; this is the highest level he can compete in the junior level and it's a fantastic achievement to be asked to take part, we are very proud of him! He is one step closer to playing for Atlantic Coast America next Summer.

I also want to congratulate the Top 30 students in the year group that were selected on the back of their class charts points to go bowling on Wednesday 17th July. Their total points reflect their Skill, Resilience and Consideration, true role models for the rest of the year group. Keep up the great work, it is noticed! Also, a massive well done to those students with 98% and above attendance. We know that there is a correlation with attendance and academic progress and results. These students are putting themselves in the best position to achieve their potential at the end of Year 11. Well done! I know that you enjoyed your reward on the inflatables on Thursday 11th July.

Thank you to all of you that attended our Year 10 parents evening on Tuesday 9th July. It was wonderful to see so many of you there. I cannot emphasise enough how important regular communication is between home, school and students. I hope you know that I am always available to discuss any concerns that you may have. So please do not hesitate to get in touch, particularly, as we head into such an important year for your child.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful summer. I hope Year 10 have a great break and come back ready and refreshed for Year 11 in September. In the meantime, thank you so much for all of your support this year.

Mrs Wyllie  
Head of Year 10



It is with a tinge of sadness that I write this final newsletter for Y11, I still cannot quite believe they have gone, said their final farewells to John Spence and are now ready to start their next chapters. However, outweighing this is a feeling of immense pride for the year group who, in this final year, have really knuckled down and grown from those spirited, chatty and eager little Year 7s into some of the most resilient and considerate young people I have ever had the pleasure to work with. The way they conducted themselves during the exam session was outstanding, with the external invigilators commenting that they were the best students they have ever had the privilege of invigilating GCSE exams for.

When I think back, the year group have not had it easy over the years due to the initial disruption in their schooling in Year 7 and 8 due to Covid, They did not get the feel of a full year in high school until Year 9 when it was time to choose their GCSE options. Despite this they have simply got on and matured in to a really lovely bunch of young adults who are absolutely bursting with character and really are quite lovely!

As we entered in to this final stage of John Spence, I can honesty say we have had an absolute blast, starting with our leavers assembly which was held on 11th June and kicked off with the annual shirt signing before we moved on to the awards, which for me was the absolute highlight. Firstly, Charley S was recognised for never missing a day of school ever! 100% attendance for the full 5 years she was with us which is remarkable. Alice F got the award for being the best coffee maker ever, Jack B for always being an absolute gentleman and Molly Y for just being an absolute all round star. We then moved on to Mrs Brown's special awards, where little mementos and dress up costumes were handed out to a variety of pupils to thank them for the memories they have given me, and while these were not always "sensible" they were all gladly accepted, in good fun worn in good spirit and gave everyone in the room a good laugh and a fun filled final day!

Following this, was the highly anticipated staff vs student football match seeing the Y11 boys securing a 3-2 win, against the staff team. The game was played in great spirits, watched and cheered on by a large crowd. As ever, Mr Gibson did his post match write up which was enjoyed by all. The Team of the Year award won by the Y11 boys team at the Sports celebration evening is a testament to their commitment to the school team since its formation. Well done lads!

Next was the party (prom and party) at Percy Park Rugby club to celebrate 5 years at John Spence and what can I say other than what a fab night it was. Everyone looked absolutely stunning and we had the best time. The evening kicked off with awards as voted by staff and students as well as the crowning of our very own prom king and queen (Lexie C and Jack B) before being followed by some good food and non stop dancing, even after the music was off and the lights were on!

I want to take this opportunity to thank parent and carers for your support over the last 5 years and thank the children for giving me memories forever, memories that I really will cherish. As much I am sad to see them go (and yes, I have shed more than one tear as no doubt they will tell you) I am also so proud of each and everyone of them and really hope that results day gives all of them what I know they are capable of and what they deserve. I wish you all so much luck for what I know will be very bright futures ahead!

Yours forever grateful, Mrs Brown and the Y11 Form teachers.

Photo's on the next page!

Mrs Brown  
Head of Year 11







# BIKE AMNESTY



This term we reached out to the school and local community to support our mission of collecting, repairing, and delivering useable bikes to a local charity close to our heart. We were overwhelmed by the response.

In total, we collected and received over 23 bikes which were all used to maintain, repair, or use as parts to enhance the number of bikes we could donate. During Refugee Week, we used our pupils to ride the refurbished bikes 10 miles to the charities centre in Wallsend.

**Walking With North Tyneside** provides a service to help those who come to the centre to feel less isolated, more confident, and more able to adjust to a new life in the UK.

They provide a welcoming safe environment for all who attend the centre, and welcome, befriend, support, and empower, clients by providing education and resources to all who use the services.

The bikes will be used to help people attend appointments, seek employment, and navigate themselves around the North Tyneside areas. The cyclists were rewarded for their hard work with an amazing Nigerian meal consisting of special fried rice and chicken, served at the centre as a thank you from the staff and people there.

As a School of Sanctuary we do a lot of work with Walking With and to find out more please visit: <https://walkingwith.co.uk/about-us/>





## CAREERS

### INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT ATTENDANTS DAY

The MFL department hosted a virtual careers event on Tuesday 4th June from 11am to 12pm for all students who currently study a language at GCSE.

The project was run by 'Inspiring the Future' and the virtual activity was 'Exploring Aviation: International Flight Attendants Day'. Students had the exciting opportunity to hear directly from flight attendants and project managers about the highs of working in the aviation sector which offers a dynamic and exciting range of opportunities.



## SPARX

### READER

At the start of July, we reached the end of the Sparx Reader programme for this academic year. This was our first full year and we hope you agree that the impact has been excellent. Our students have completed 2123 books on Sparx Reader this year. They have read collectively for over 10,500 hours and it hasn't been daydream reading either; the questions that are posed at the end of each section of text ensures that the reading is careful and precise. Our students have really risen to the challenge that we have set.

Our top students have performed phenomenally. From Year 10, Anisha has managed a stupendous 45,000 SRP. A student who met a minimum weekly expectation of 300 SRP for the full thirty weeks of the programme would be on 9000 by the end. Anisha has done five times that. It's so impressive. Then, from Year 9, Aoki has gained 35,000 SRP and she's only been here for twelve weeks of the programme. Wow, that is unbelievable. Emma, from Year 11, accrued 30,000 SRP whilst Niamh, Year 10, hit 25,000. Ellie led the way from Year 7 with 24,000 whilst Sophie and Ruby, Year 9 and 10 respectively, managed well over 21,000. The top Year 8 student was Lena at 20,000 SRP. Those students that are still here have been rewarded with Amazon Vouchers that celebrate their achievement.

We look forward to next year, enjoying reading and developing our skills. Well done to everyone who has taken part in the Sparx Reader programme this year.

# Sparx Maths

## Sparx Maths for Half Term 5

The best maths classes in each year group were:

7x/Ma1  
8x/Ma3  
9xy/Ma4  
10y/Ma5

These amazing classes will receive a FIFA and film lesson.

The best form classes in each year group were:

7NBR  
8BTO  
9JDO  
10NBE

These amazing forms will receive some sweet treats. Every pupil who completes a piece of work BEFORE the Friday of the week it is set is entered into a draw for a £10 Amazon voucher.

**This term's winner is:**

Riley 7JAR

39 pupils completed ALL their homework early so were entered into a draw to win £40 Amazon vouchers.

**The winner was:**

Ellie 7JFA

## Sparx Maths for Half Term 6

The best maths classes in each year group were:

7x/Ma1  
8x/Ma3  
9xy/Ma7  
10y/Ma5

These amazing classes will receive a FIFA and film lesson.

The best form classes in each year group were:

7SCW  
8BTO  
9JDO  
10JWI

These amazing forms will receive some sweet treats. Every pupil who completes a piece of work BEFORE the Friday of the week it is set is entered into a draw for a £10 Amazon voucher.

**This term's winner is:**

Millie 8BTO

42 pupils completed ALL their homework early so were entered into a draw to win £40 Amazon vouchers.

**The winner was:**

Gracie 8LGR



# YEAR 8 MATHS CHALLENGE



The 8X1 and 8Y1 Maths classes have recently received their results for the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge. The students completed a 60 minute, multiple choice online challenge which encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve difficult problems.

A big congratulations to the following students who all achieved a Silver Certificate:

Alfie A  
Charlie A  
Isa H  
Felix B  
Kaiden B  
Riley H and  
Eryn H



And a big congratulations to the following students who all achieved a Bronze Certificate:

Lathan H  
Jeremy S  
Sophie H  
Jamie S  
Millie M  
Callum O  
Nathan C  
Kieron P  
Marky N

The best results we have received for quite a few years. Well done to all of those who took part as it took a lot of resilience to even attempt the challenge!



# OUR TRIP TO CHINA

In March, we were granted the rare opportunity to journey to China. This was an amazing educational experience that we were lucky enough to be chosen for.

## What did we do?

In China we travelled into different cities almost everyday to visit schools throughout the country. We were fascinated with the culture and the love we were shown from everyone we met. The schools were huge and exceeded our expectations by a mile. One school had over 20,000 students in it, and for us, coming from a school with just shy of a thousand pupils, it was a major shock. Every school we went to was incredible, by the end of the week we thought that not a lot could surprise us but we were wrong. We were given a series of activities to participate in like paper-cutting, calligraphy, traditional Chinese cooking, dancing and so much more.



In this picture, we were welcomed with lovely hospitality and a brilliant performance by the children who were so young, we were shocked throughout the trip by how talented and skilled the kids were.

One of our favourite parts was seeing the sights and trying the culture's food. Everyday we tasted so many different foods that we find it hard to remember them all.

We sat at dinner with government officials and enjoyed delicious banquets with food we had never tried. The sights that we saw were bucket-list material. The great wall of China was surreal and an experience.

Our purpose for going to China was to present our lives and our schools to these people. It was an honour to be able to share ourselves with the children and everyone we met and we won't be forgetting it anytime soon.



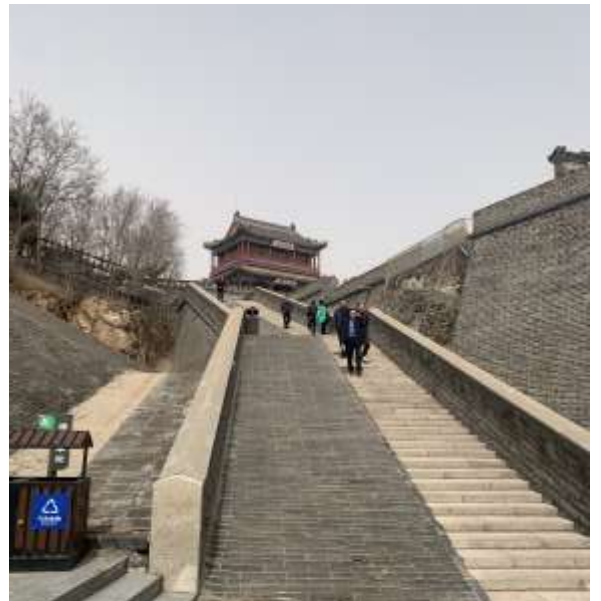


# OUR TRIP TO CHINA





# OUR TRIP TO CHINA





# TRIPS

## YEAR 7—FORD CASTLE



We are thrilled to share the fantastic experiences of our recent school trip to Ford Castle. This year, Year 7 embarked on an adventure-filled journey that combined learning, teamwork, and a lot of fun!

The trip began with a warm welcome at Ford Castle, where students were greeted by our friendly and knowledgeable leaders Josh and Alex, who throughout our time there were incredibly helpful and made us feel right at home. After

settling into their surroundings, pupils dove straight into all of the exciting activities planned.

### Activities

#### **Trapeze and Bridge Abseiling**

Pupils encountered an exhilarating Trapeze session. Students challenged themselves to swing high above the ground, testing their courage and agility. It was amazing to see everyone cheering each other on and conquering their fears.

Students harnessed up and took turns abseiling down a nearby bridge. It was incredible to see the students overcome their initial fears and take on this challenge with enthusiasm. The experience not only boosted their confidence but also taught them the importance of trust and encouragement within the group.



#### **Raft Building**

Students worked in teams to design and construct rafts using barrels, planks, and ropes. Once the rafts were built, it was time to put them to the test on the water. There were a few splashes and plenty of laughter as students paddled their creations across the water, learning the importance of cooperation and problem-solving along the way. No one stayed particularly dry. Mr Betts certainly didn't, as he soon found himself on the end of a tidal wave of splashes from pupils brave enough to get their own back on a year of nagging!

#### **Axe Throwing and Rifle Shooting,**

Activities that required concentration, precision, and a steady hand. Under expert supervision, students learned proper techniques and safety protocols. It was impressive to see how quickly they improved their skills and accuracy and both these activities were very popular with all pupils.

#### **Survival Skills and Problem Solving**

Students were taught essential skills such as building shelters, starting fires without matches, and finding food in the wild. These activities not only educated them about wilderness survival but also fostered a sense of resilience and self-reliance. Pupils also found themselves completing Problem Solving challenges. These tasks required them to think creatively and work collaboratively to find solutions. The problem-solving sessions were a huge success, with students displaying excellent teamwork and critical thinking.

# TRIPS

## YEAR 7—FORD CASTLE



### Watching the England match!

Alongside the thrilling activities and educational experiences, our students had the unforgettable opportunity to watch an England football game together, creating a memorable moment of camaraderie and national pride. As the evening approached, students gathered in the common room, donning their England shirts. The atmosphere was electric with excitement and team spirit. When the game began, the room was filled with cheers, chants, and collective gasps as everyone watched intently and fortunately we all got the result we wanted too!

### Evenings

As the sun began to set, the excitement ramped up with our evening activities. Students had an exhilarating time playing laser tag, navigating through the castle grounds and working in teams to outsmart their opponents. The strategic gameplay not only provided a rush of adrenaline but also encouraged collaboration and quick thinking.



Simultaneously, another group of students engaged in multi-sports games. The variety of sports ensured that everyone found something they enjoyed. These activities fostered a spirit of friendly competition and camaraderie among the pupils.

After the action-packed evening, students had some free time to unwind and socialize. As the evening came to a close, students headed to their dorms, where the day's excitement naturally transitioned into quieter moments of bonding. Laughter and conversations filled the halls as new friendships were formed, setting the foundation for a more connected and supportive school community. These informal moments were crucial in

building friendships, as students laughed, shared stories, and learned more about one another.

### Reflection

Students had the opportunity to reflect on their experiences and share their favourite moments from the trip. It was heart-warming to hear stories of newfound friendships, personal achievements, and the fun they had throughout their stay at Ford Castle. As we headed back to John Spence, it was clear that this trip had a profound impact on our students. They returned with a sense of accomplishment, new skills, a deeper sense of community as well as memories that will last a lifetime.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the staff at Ford Castle for providing such a rich and rewarding experience. A big thank you also goes to John Spence staff who took time away from their own families to make the trip so rewarding for the pupils. A huge thank you to Mr Fullard for all of his hard work. Especially doing a lot of work behind the scenes! Their commitment and support made this trip possible.





# TRIPS

## MACBETH



On Friday 7th June, we took a selection of year 9 and 10 students to see a production of Shakespeare's tragedy Macbeth at Sunderland Empire Theatre.

The purpose of the trip was to enhance their understanding of key characters and themes as they begin to prepare for the GCSE specification. A good time had by all, despite a bit of rain. All students were absolutely amazing, and a pleasure to take out to the theatre.

## YEAR 8 WALKS



The Year 8 walks to Simonside this term have been a huge success again! The majority of students took the opportunity to have a day out of school to enjoy the countryside and made the most of the fresh air and amazing views. We had a mixed bag of weather, including dense fog, rain showers and sunshine, but nothing to stop us from climbing up to a height of 450 meters and then down Simonside Crag for lunch at the bottom, before heading through the woods back to the minibuses. Everybody who went on a walk completed the challenge - including Ralph and various dogs owned by staff - and all arrived safely back at school in time for the scholars' - exhausted but satisfied! A special mention to Mr Black's mum, who we met quite coincidentally at the picnic spot!



# TRIPS

## GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK TRIP



Year 10 geography students had an exciting trip down to Byker, the Quayside and Gosforth at the end of June. We went to these parts of Newcastle for our primary human data collection to fill out environmental quality surveys and land use maps. We had criteria to explore with a focus on the litter score of the place, the noise score, pollution, roof quality, garden size and parking score. We had to give them a score out of 5 with 5 being the poorest quality and 1 being the better quality.

As we went from Byker to the Quayside and Gosforth, we realised there was an increase in the quality of the housing and the garden sizes. Better standards were apparent. We realised this when the scores went

from 3, 4 and 5 to practically all 1. It was very interesting and informative.

We got to these places by a coach which was only a ten to fifteen minute drive from North Shields. We went with our three geography teachers: Mrs Pilkington, Miss Howard and Mr Langlely. We all got split into groups of three, with about ten of us in each group. Our teachers helped us get safely to these places and it was actually quite good fun.

After we visited the sites and filled out our environmental surveys, we went to the Boating Lake in Tynemouth to have a half an hour break to sit and enjoy our lunch. After that, we walked down to Long Sands beach to conduct our physical primary data collection. We wrote a field sketch title and outlined the main features of the landscape with a pencil and then added details to the sketch to give more information about the landscape. After we did that, we went onto the sand and did a wave count. We did this by setting a timer of one minute and measuring the waves. If there were 10-15 then they were destructive waves and if there were 6-9 then they were constructive waves. We did this five times to see if there were any anomalies but every time it was a destructive wave pattern. This tells us that Longsands does need sea defences to protect it from the waves.



Finally, we measured and recorded a beach profile. We did this by selecting sample points for the beach profile across the width of the beach. At each sample, we used a gun clinometer to measure the steepness of the beach. Bearings were taken from the eye level of one of us of a similar height then we measured the distance along the ground and recorded this information alongside the slope angle.



All in all, it was a busy day and we were tired but we did feel as though we had accomplished a lot. This was very satisfying.

By Poppy - Year 10



# SUMMER SHOW

## MATILDA



For two nights only, the drama studio was transformed into Crunchem Hall Primary School as our students took to the stage and whisked the audience into Matilda Wormwood's world.



Around 50 students were involved in the production from designing the set and props to advertising the event and selling tickets. The production told the story of Matilda Wormwood, a gifted girl, forced to put up with a crude,



distant Father and Mother. When Matilda attends her new school she meets Agatha Trunchbull, the evil principal, who is a terrifyingly strict bully. However, when Matilda realises she has the power of telekinesis, she begins to defend her friends from the Trunchbull's wrath and fight back against her unkind parents.

All parents and staff were amazed by the complexity of the roles and songs the students had learned.



The students had worked incredibly hard to create such a professional performance and we were thrilled that we had two sold out

shows. Matilda was a real hit! A huge well done to everyone involved!

Mrs Patrick.  
Drama Teacher





# CLUBS

## STEM CLUB



STEM club returned this term after our break for GCSE revision and we've got involved with some excellent activities. Of course our students were excellent ambassadors for the school as usual, proactive and enthusiastic in all they do. Here are our highlights from this term;

In May we saw the return of Zante Fox and friends with the amazing Steve Lucock. Steve runs an animal sanctuary from his home and brings some of his animals out to schools so that students can find out more about their behaviours, habitats and conservation. The show is super interactive and our students had fun holding the animals which included

a snake, dove, owl, rat and of course the fantastic Zante fox! We look forward to Steve returning with his animals next year.



Next up was our trip to New York Primary School to hold an interactive activity table for pupils and parents at New York's annual STEM fayre. As always our students were lovely with the younger students and a huge help to us in delivering the activities. They also enjoyed playing on the excellent facilities in the grounds of New York!

Last but not least a big thanks to external forest school organisers OASES for running a STEM club survival day for us at Chopwell Woods. This saw students doing some survival games, bug hunting and shelter building which we all enjoyed immensely! The day was also run by an ex John Spence student who was excited to be able to share her skills and knowledge with the new generation! STEM club has ran for 15 years and we are proud to say we are in a position to offer all of our activities for free to dedicated students with good attendance to the weekly club. This runs on Thursdays after school and all are welcome.

Just see Mrs Owens for more details.





# SPORT

## NATIONAL SCHOOL SPORTS WEEK



National School Sports Week was held between Monday 17th June and Friday 21st June 2024.

Every year at John Spence we embrace the week promoted by the Youth Sport Trust and supported by thousands of schools across the country.

This year we had an Opening Assembly on Monday which educated the Key Stage 3 pupils on the theme for this year which was 'Mantra'. We worked out what it meant and shared some examples of how famous people had lived their lives by their mantras or others. Inspirational figures such as Russ Cook, Jasmin Paris, and Rob Burrow played a focal point in outlining what we

wanted the pupils to focus on during the week.

After the opening ceremony, we welcomed over 600 pupils from our feeder schools to complete our annual fun run, one of over 12 events planned for the week.

The main feature of the week was the Varsity Cup. Following on from last year's Potential event, we welcomed 150 pupils from each of our fellow PELE Trust High Schools to compete in an afternoon of sport. 12 events occurred across the whole school site, with every sporting facility being used for competitive fixtures against Ponteland and Duchess High Schools. It was a brilliant afternoon with Ponteland edging us out to receive the IPro Varsity Cup 2024. We hope to make this event an annual one across the PELE Trust schools.

The closing assembly on Friday was a celebration of the things that had happened and we also had our special guest, Amanda Coulson (Head of Boxing UK) to talk about her mantras and how they guided her throughout her career.

Following on from the week, we welcomed an old friend John Craggs back to school to produce some Artwork on the PE container, bringing it to life with colour, design, and most importantly, some of the best-selected mantras from the week, produced by the pupils.



# SPORT

## SPORTS CELEBRATION EVENING



For the 21st time, we held the Sports Celebration Evening on Monday 8th July at 7pm in the sports hall. Over 700 people were in attendance including special guests from the community, parents, and award winners.

We were lucky to welcome back Olivia Meldrum (North Shields Women) and Jessica Brown (Pro Footballer) who are both ex-students to help present the awards.

We also had some amazing performances complementing the evening from our Dance Academy (choreographed by Sofi Condliffe) and the amazing cast of our Summer production Matilda producing their rendition of Smell of Rebellion.

A range of awards were given out on the night including:

- Engagement Award
- Outstanding Commitment Award
- Representative Award
- Hall of Fame Award

Certificates were presented to those pupils who completed the GOALS initiative and the Year 9 Multi-Sport Leaders collected recognition.

The major awards on the night were:

- Most Improved
- Sports Personality of the Year
- Team of the Year Helen Blair Award
- Bobby Graham Award

It was such a special and inspirational evening and one that played a huge role in the celebration of our pupil's sporting attendance and achievements. We valued everyone's support and efforts on the night and can't wait to welcome you all back next year!

To download the evening's programme and receive more information please use the following QR code:







Sports School **2024**  
**SUMMER**  
**HOLIDAY CAMP**  
**AT JOHN SPENCE**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**  
 AGES 5 TO 14 YEARS

FROM ONLY  
**£24** PER DAY  
 SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS WHEN  
 PAYING BY CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

**EXCITING MULTI-SPORTS CHILDCARE  
 DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

Sports School childcare sessions offer children of all abilities the opportunity to take part in Ofsted registered sports courses during School Holidays in a fun, safe and controlled environment.

Come along and enjoy our extensive programme of activities including:

**Aerobics American Football Athletics Baseball Basketball Chess Colouring Fencing Cricket Dance Drawing Dodgeball Football Gymnastics Golf Hockey Longball Netball Rounders Rugby Softball Table Tennis Team Building Games Tennis Swimming (depending on pool availability) Trampoline Under 8's Games Urban Surf Volleyball Quizzes Games and many more...**

SESSIONS AVAILABLE | **8.30AM - 5.25PM**

**ALSO WITH VENUES AT**

**Jesmond Park Academy**  
 (formerly Heaton Manor)

**Newcastle High School for Girls**  
 (boys and girls welcome)

To book, simply visit:  
**www.sportschools.co.uk**



**WEEK ONE**

Monday 22nd July  
 to Friday 26th July

**WEEK TWO**

Monday 29th July  
 to Friday 2nd August

**WEEK THREE**

Monday 5th August  
 to Friday 9th August

**WEEK FOUR**

Monday 12th August  
 to Friday 16th August

**WEEK FIVE**

Monday 19th August  
 to Friday 23rd August



For more information, email:  
**info@sportschools.co.uk**

All the Sports School team are highly motivated Teachers, Nursery Nurses, Sport Coaches and Childcare professionals who are DBS checked.



## Calling all alumni!



**Did you go to school at John Spence?**

**If so, we'd love for you to get involved in a Careers event in January, where you will discuss your career path with some of our younger students.**

**If you like to be part of this event, please contact**

**[kate.winder@johnspence.org.uk](mailto:kate.winder@johnspence.org.uk)**