

THE DUCHESS'S COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, ALNWICK



# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2019

A large, vibrant watercolor illustration of various flowers is the central focus. It includes several large roses in shades of pink, orange, and purple, along with smaller blue and yellow flowers. The flowers are surrounded by green leaves and stems.

## ALNWICK IN BLOOM PAINTING COMPETITION

SEE PAGE 15

Amelia Walton

## Headteacher's Report

Welcome to our Summer Term Newsletter...and what amazing stories it provides! As a community we should take pride and perhaps shout louder about all the wonderful things our young people have been up to both in and out of school. We need to appreciate how very special our young people are.



As the only secondary school we can, on occasions, take the brunt of any negativity from a small number in our community about some of our students, including the inevitable 'what is that school doing about them.....'. For those doubters I will always say... contact us, book a time to come and have a look around, any day of the year, and see what great things our students are up to.

Our summer term Newsletter always goes out to those families who will be starting with us in September. My colleagues have visited all of our Primary Schools over the last few weeks as well as providing a variety of experiences for our Year 6s in our school. They all tell me what an impressive set of young people we can expect to see come September; so much talent and so much desire to grow. As always if any incoming parent has concerns or questions please get in touch. Nobody should be worrying over the summer break.

Our Year 11 and 13 year groups have now finished their exams and we wish them all the best for their results and their future adult lives. As we all get older we become more and more reliant on what the next generation will bring to our world.

Next academic year we believe that we need to make further decisions around key aspects of how the school will operate on a daily basis. There will be some changes to

how we deliver our teaching and learning so that more of our students make rapid progress in our school. There will also be changes to our Positive Behaviour structures so that we can all work together in a harmonious and respectful environment. More about these when we return to school in September. There are however two areas that I have already written to you about.

One is about uniform. We believe that we must place more emphasis on the importance of our school uniform and that all our students respect the requests we make about it. We will be making more of an issue of any shortfalls in how our students conform to our rules regarding uniform.

The second one is about the use of mobile phones. Having taken on board a wide range of views and research that has included yourselves, my colleagues, Ofsted and what other secondary schools are doing in Northumberland we have made the decision that mobile phones, for Years 7 to 11, will not be allowed to be seen or used while students are on the school site. We accept, because of the rurality of our catchment and the number of extras that our students are involved in after school that students may have them in their bags..... but, as I have said, they must not be seen, or used, during the school day. If students want to contact parents or parents contact their children... they should go

through the school system.

Fundamentally it is about making things easier and simpler for all of us so our young people can concentrate on the key reason for being in school – learning, growing and dare I say it, face to face conversations.

Finally, a question for us all. I have concerns that sometimes we can be considered too 'Alnwickcentric' and families that live in other areas of our catchment do not get the same attention. I would like to discuss this further with willing parents to see how we can develop a greater presence in the other key villages/towns in our local community. I believe there is much more we can do as a community school to support all of our catchment and celebrate what a great place North Northumberland is to live and grow up in.

Hope everyone has a fantastic summer.

Maurice Hall  
Headteacher

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# FOOD ALLERGIES

We have a growing number of students in school with severe nut allergies (covering a whole range from peanuts to pistachios). Some of these allergies are very serious and rapid in their reaction. Please be mindful of this if you are preparing packed lunches or snacks for students, and, where possible, avoid including nut products (or, if necessary, place in a sealed container).

Whilst this is difficult to police we ask for your help and cooperation to ensure minimum impact on students' welfare. Please discuss with your child the potential impact of what is bought by students from shops and cafes and brought into school.

Our school kitchen does not use any nuts in the preparation of meals and snacks. School also delivers assemblies to all year groups regarding anaphylaxis to raise awareness and understanding.





## Oracy Celebration Event 2019

As part of an 18 month project, that has been running in school, two Year 8 pupils attended a competition at the Grand Hotel, Gosforth Park. The Voice North of the Tyne project involves a number of schools from North Tyneside, Newcastle and Northumberland. Students gave speeches which they prepared and then delivered in front of an audience. To begin with this was to pupils from the other schools and then the final was in front of this audience along with senior staff from those schools.

Faith Barron 8JMR and Alisha Fairgrieve 8JMR were the selected students and were fantastic on the day. Their confidence and enthusiasm was brilliant. It

was a well fought competition with some formidable orators. They delivered speeches on interesting topics which were equality and mental health. Alisha made it through to the final receiving a £20 Amazon

voucher.

This linked to the Protest unit studied by Year 8 and was an opportunity to practice the skills gained in oracy in front of an audience.

***Well done to both the girls!***



### REMINDER - protocol for dropping off and picking up children by car.



As I am sure you will agree our primary concern is to ensure the safety of our students. We now have over 20 coaches/minibuses and numerous private taxis dropping off and collecting students in the morning and evening; it is incredibly busy.

In order to support us we request that any drop offs and collections take place in the Willowburn Leisure Centre car park. Please do not use our car park to drop students off unless they have mobility issues or other issues that we have been made aware of. Please also do not park on either Willowburn Avenue or on Taylor Drive as this leads to unsafe crossings for students and also prevents the school transport from getting onto the site. Taylor Drive is now marked with double yellow lines.

If there is a particular reason why you need access to the car park please do contact us.

## Environmental Awareness Update

### GALAPAGOS TRIP

**We are getting ever closer to our trip to the Galapagos next year. Students on the trip have been organising a 'Big clean up Alnwick day on the 7th July' where they will be out and about litter picking in and around the town with the support of local businesses in the town who have sponsored them.**

We also have just recently held a successful car boot sale in the school car park on Saturday 15th June. Mrs Doctor worked closely with Alnwick Lions to make this possible. We had 20 cars arrive on the day and it was great to see many people (students, parents and



colleagues) attached to school supporting the event.

The money raised from this event has been put in the Galapagos fundraising pot to support the students. Individual students have also been doing their own fundraising as the

year has been going on such as dog walking, cake sales and cleaning cars.

We also have been given the opportunity in the Autumn term to do a bag pack at Morrisons. Date to be confirmed.

### CONSERVATION CLUB

The Conservation club this term have been working hard on planting up and looking after a couple of raised beds at the front of the school. They are currently growing both flowers and edible foods. Other Gardening projects are also ongoing around the school, which are being managed by Mrs Darby.

They have also created some posters on Recycling, Reusing and Reducing which are going up on notice boards in classrooms around the school.

They are in the process of conducting a questionnaire with staff and students around the school to try to understand where we are as a school with Recycling, Reducing and Reusing materials so that suggestions can be put forward to improve what we already do.

Finally they are in the planning stages of working towards a John Muir Award. It is hoped that they may be able to complete some of the challenges towards this award before the summer holidays. It is anticipated that students who are going on

the Galapagos trip will also achieve a John Muir Award.



## Music Updates



So much has happened since our last update, it is difficult to know where to begin.



**Ebony Scroogette** was a huge success and saw us do many things for the first time. Fantastic effort by everyone involved with a lot of money raised for the Playhouse.



The **Rotary Young Musician competition** saw two of our students take part in the regional finals of a tough competition. **Palesa Thompson** and **Gregory Brewis** both took part in Glasgow and demonstrated their fantastic musical ability.



Two brave bands took part in our annual involvement in the Battle of the Bands event at RGS in Newcastle. Sixth form band **Psych (Gordon Rae, Molly Wilson, Bethany Kirkley, Palesa Thompson)** proved to be a huge hit with the judges and came away with first prize. They have won some consultancy time with a music management firm. Our second band **Sacroscopic** made up of Y10's **Gregory Brewis, Ben Carter** and **Stewart Oxley** also competed and were fantastic representatives for the school.



Our extra-curricular involvement has not stopped since then, with us taking part in more events in and around the Alnwick area. We have played at **Feltonbury** and **Taste of the North**, and all our bands have regular events and gigs coming up over the summer. One such band is last year's Battle of the Bands runners-up **Runners (Jack Clements, Ruairi Ryan, Gordon Rae** and ex-student **Alex Rae)** who have started to make inroads into the music industry releasing an album and playing bigger venues in Newcastle and beyond. We wish them every success for the future.



To all the students who are involved in our extra-curricular music, you have been amazing this year. Well done to everyone passing music examinations this year. Thank you to our fantastic peripatetic teachers and to all the parents for your continued support this year.



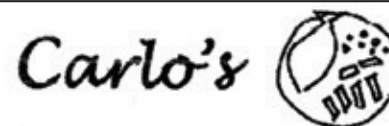
### School Dinners

We will be implementing a small increase, across the board, on school meals in September.

Full details of costs will be on our website in due course.

**The cost of a 2 course dinner will be £2.50**

We are currently consulting with students on our current offer and what they would like to see on the menu.



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### Education Welfare Service Child Employment

#### Did you know that?

All children from the age of 13 years and who are working must be registered with the Local Authority and be issued with a work permit.

It is an offence for an employer to employ children without registering with the local authority first.

The numbers of hours you can work whilst attending school are restricted. Children must not work before 7am and after 7pm.

Any children working without a permit is not covered by their employer's liability insurance.

More information and application forms can be obtained from:

Education Welfare  
Virtual Schools

Education and Wellbeing Service  
Wellbeing and Community Health Service  
Brunel Building, 64 Regent Street  
Blyth,  
Northumberland  
NE24 1LT

Tel: 01670 622800



# Duchess's Community High School Magistrates



**Duchess's Community High School Magistrates team celebrate a thrilling Third place in the National Final at the Royal Courts of Justice.**



**Shaun Wallace**

Northumberland Estates hosted a tea party for the Duchess's Community High School's Magistrates Team and their parents and sponsors who came together to celebrate an astounding third place in the national final of the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial competition which was held in the Royal Courts of Justice on Saturday 15th June. The team had travelled to London to take on 16 schools from across the country after success in the local and regional heats. The party was held at Alnwick Castle where the girls shared a short presentation of their hard work and thanked the sponsors of the team. At the end of the party, there was a special video

message from The Chase's Legal Eagle, Barrister Shaun Wallace and their teachers.

The 12 girls began their journey in March when they took part in the local heats of the competition at Newcastle Crown Court. Having spent weeks preparing their case, they were up against 16 schools from



across the County. Their hard work and weeks of rehearsals paid off and they emerged as winners, earning a place in the regional heats against schools from Durham, Teeside and Cumbria.

The team had just under 4 weeks to prepare a new case for the regional final. Once again, they worked hard and raised the bar even higher to win a place in the national final in London. The challenge for them now was to prepare 2 cases for the final and to plan a trip to the nation's capital. It was agreed to travel down early to take in the sights and prepare for their day in court.

With only a £150 travel bursary available, the team was faced with an additional financial challenge. They reached out to the local community for support and were met with a fantastic response from Councillor Gordon Castle, Northumberland Estates, The Rotary Club of Alnwick and the Mayor and Town Council of Alnwick.

As news spread of the team's success, they were invited to BBC Radio Newcastle to talk about their work. Abigail, Izzy and Pandora spent the afternoon being interviewed and exploring the BBC studios. Their interviews were broadcast on the radio throughout the day of the final.

The Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition is part of the Young Citizens 'citizenship experiences' and helps to improve young people's life skills, their understanding of the justice system and the legal



system, and helps them to understand that the law touches every aspect of their lives. It has been running since 1994 and annually involves over 4,000 students from over 270 schools across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The students, aged 12-14, take part in mock trials inside magistrates' courts and crown courts using specially written cases, in the roles of magistrates, defendants, witnesses, lawyers, legal advisers and ushers, giving them a unique opportunity to gain knowledge and awareness

of the legal system and how it works. As well as learning about different aspects of the law, the team have also gained skills in public speaking, critical thinking and team work. Throughout the competition, they have supported each other so well and have been a credit to the school, their parents and the community. When we were out and about in London, we lost count of the times that members of the public praised them for their excellent behaviour and accomplished social skills.



## **Congratulations to the team**

**Pandora Barnes, Beth Carragher, Izzy Darby-Burn, Abigail Inglis-Jones, Poppy Harris-Jones, Amy Knight, Katy Knight, Mia Lamb, Bethan Powell, Elana Purkins, Caitin Taylor and Hannah van Loon**



## Author visit for Year Eight Students

Earlier this term, the author Dan Smith came into school to deliver an inspirational talk to our Year Eight students. He also conducted a book signing which was open to all students in the school.

Dan is an award winning author and his exciting and interactive workshop session was centred around his inspiration for writing. Dan has written several books for teenagers and adults, including *Below Zero*, *X Boy* and his new novel *She Wolf*.

Students and staff alike thoroughly enjoyed this event - one student asked hopefully, "could we do this all day, not just for an hour?" Should you be interested, you can find out more about Dan and his work at [www.dansmithsbooks.com](http://www.dansmithsbooks.com)



## 8CR visit to Weavers Court Residential Home



**In the week before our Easter holidays our form class 8CR went back to Weavers Court to hold a second quiz after our successful Christmas one. It was another great experience, the atmosphere was lovely, all the students really enjoyed themselves as did the residents.**

We had 4 or 5 students mixed in each team with the residents and our quiz covered questions for all ages. We were given refreshments while we were there and it was great fun. The residents really seem to enjoy our company and each team had good conversation

with each other. Our team won which was great and we had some really competitive residents on it. We came second at Christmas so it was nice to win this one.

We have invited the residents for a tour around school during this summer term and we will take them round in small groups and host them with some refreshments. They also want us to go back for a summer quiz in July.

Our form tutor Mr Routledge spoke to some of the residents and they told him it is great for them to mix with youngsters and to be challenged in a quiz with them. It helps to bring our two communities together.

*By Spencer Cooke 8CR*

## Healthy Eating Week

**From the 10-14 June it was our annual Healthy Eating Week across whole school. Each year the national event is hosted by the British Nutrition Foundation and over 4500 schools and nurseries take part, including DCHS! Each day students and staff embraced five daily challenges and took part in a range of activities aimed at promoting healthy eating and active lifestyles.**



On **Monday** Year 9 competed to win breakfast vouchers and looked at the importance of HAVING BREAKFAST.

**Tuesday** focused on the health benefits of getting our 5 A DAY, all of Year 8 received free fruit to start them off, kindly donated by Morrison's!

On **Wednesday** we

challenged Year 7 to DRINK PLENTY and provided them with free bottled water (thanks to Bookers of Morpeth) as an incentive to re-fill and stay hydrated.

**Thursday** was our GET ACTIVE day. Year 10's competed for prizes in their assembly and there was a break time Keepy Uppy challenge.

Finally on **Friday**, we drew the week to a close by looking at our sleep patterns and discussing the importance of SLEEPING WELL and how to get a good nights sleep.

We've been supported by local businesses including **Macdonald's, Morrison's, Sportsworld, Booker's** and the **Co-op** who have donated breakfast items, fruit, water and sports equipment.

We'd like to thank **Margaret Kerr at Morrison's** in particular who kindly invited 15 of our Year 7's to go to Morrison's on the Friday afternoon for a Shopkeepers Tour of the fresh produce dept. They learnt about a range of fruits and



carried out some taste testing. Margaret told us afterwards that the duty manager in store commented on how "they all were well behaved and seemed to be enjoying themselves, other members of staff also commented on how well behaved they were." She also added that "they were a pleasure to have in store and I could not have asked for a better group for my first shop tour." We hope to be able to continue to visit our local supermarkets with students to learn more about different foods and where they come from.

The aim of the week, as ever, is to make students more aware of the health benefits of eating well and being active. Hopefully, everyone felt inspired to make a small change that might benefit their lifestyle positively, both at school and at home.



### ADVERTISING IN THE NEWSLETTER

If you wish to advertise in the Newsletter please contact Karen Gregory at [Admin@dchs-alnwick.org](mailto:Admin@dchs-alnwick.org)



# Poetry Club

The Duchess's Poetry Club has gone from strength to strength this year. We now have between 15-20 students writing poetry each week, and both Mr Dunford and Mr Rowley are club members. We've had a really exciting year, welcoming visiting poets, hearing poets read, and winning some prizes along the way.

In the autumn, **Antonia Johnson** in Year 10 was runner-up in the AONB Coastal Writing Competition with her poem 'Warkworth Sands'. We were asked to perform at the prize-giving event at Ellingham Hall. We read poems inspired by the sea and showed a number of film poems. It was a great way to start the year.



**Antonia Johnson**

In the Spring term we welcomed Professor **Tony Williams** from Northumbria University. He gave a really interesting workshop based on poems that he loved, and also talked to us about studying creative writing at Northumbria. He was



**Tony Williams**

very impressed with the standard of our students' writing, and hopes that some will go on to further study.



**Amy Palmer** from Year 10 was one of the winners of the Schools North East poetry competition. Her poem was displayed as a table centrepiece at the official black tie dinner.



**Christy Ducker** from Newcastle University also visited us in the Spring, and gave two fantastic workshops on the theme of 'transformations'. She helped us to write poems for the inaugural **Newcastle Poetry Festival**.

We also welcomed poet, publisher, and academic **Lisa Matthews**. Lisa is an expert on prose poems, and we presented her with a prose poem pamphlet we had written in response to a poem that she had sent us earlier in the year. Lisa helped us to make very unusual 3D poems, which we hope we are going to display electronically in school. She also gave every student two books!



**Lisa Matthews**

In the summer term, some of the poetry club students went to the **Northern Poetry Library** in Morpeth to take part in a Read Regional workshop with poet **Linda France**, and to hear **Clare Shaw** read from her collection. Clare answered some of our questions about poetry and signed copies of her book.



**Clare Shaw**



**Dorit Greene**

We finished the year in style, with two poetry club members winning the **Newcastle Poetry Competition!** **Dorit Greene** and **Izzy Hamer** were two of 12 winners, picked from over 170 entries from all over the UK. Dorit was very brave and read out both poems at the prize-giving event, which was held at the North ern Stage as part of the Newcastle Poetry Festival.



## Creative Arts update

### Science Meets Art

This year as part of British Science Week the Art Department had some fun experimenting with a range of materials and mixed media to create a series of 'cells' inspired by patterns in nature.

Students got to play around and mix PVA glue with ink in petri dishes, marbled paper with milk, created monoprints and microscopic drawings as well as some beautiful felted textile pieces created by Year 7s. The cells have been strung together and are awaiting installation in the LRC, where they will no doubt look brilliant and bring a pop of colour to J corridor. Oh and not forgetting the Science corridor!!

*Thanks to all students involved & hope you enjoyed experimenting.*



### Holocaust Installation

Every year DCHS takes part in a national initiative which commemorates the Holocaust.

The theme for the Holocaust Memorial 2019, is 'Torn From Home'. Students from 9CSN & 9HEE have created an installation of 3D houses which represent the dispossessed, displaced and the persecuted; a result of discrimination, religious beliefs, race and war. Collage was used and included in this were sample letters written by Year 9 History students.

*Another successful cross curricular project. Looking forward to next year's already...*



### Alnwick In Bloom 2019

This year we had a good number of KS3 students enter the yearly Alnwick in Bloom Painting Competition. The theme is predominantly flowers but this year they had a secondary theme of The Seaside.

Years  
7 & 8



Tanya Lamb 8AHR



Ruby Waugh 8CR



Elana Purkins 8RB



Iona Revell  
7NCB

Years 9 and 10



Amelia Walton 9CSN



*A huge congratulations to all of the winners & all other students who entered. There were some fantastic entries!!*

*The presentation was held at Alnwick Gardens Pavilion.*

Around Christmas time, Alnwick Harriers got in touch to ask us if our students could design a T-Shirt for the 40th Anniversary of an event to be held in July.

### Harriers T-Shirt Competition

The committee came to a final design but it was a close run thing as there were two designs that stood out, which both managed to include all they had asked for and were a bit of fun, but also just great designs!!

They would like to thank all those students on behalf of Alnwick Harriers Committee, who put time into the design, they were overwhelmed by the standard and skills involved.

*The design stays a secret until the event later in July but I'm happy to say the winner is Mia Porter-McNee, 7KEB with a close runner up in Dan Bradley, 8LHB. Well done to both!!*



## Careers: Thinking about the future and Aiming High

As the summer term draws to a close it is a good opportunity to reflect on another successful year as we continue to work towards providing our students with an excellent series of experiences that focused on careers, and to look forward to the next academic year and the continuing careers work we are developing.

Back in the autumn term we were delighted with the joint Year 7 & 8 'Inspire Me' event that we developed with Pathfinder/Northern Rights which helped our students at the beginning of their life in school with understanding what university and apprenticeships are and for our students to work with Northumberland College Forensic Science and Zoo Team, Northumberland Estates and Air Cadets. We were also delighted with the excellent 'Duck Production' enterprise event for Year 7 organised by Mrs Eggleston in the summer term where students had a wonderful experience of working on their own duck company development! We were also impressed as the year developed with the opportunities for some of our students in Year 10 to do some work shadowing with local companies like Blackshaws, Pure Fishing, Lionheart Garage, Tiger Lifting & Swansfield School to develop employability skills and to experience what a working environment could be like.

We were also delighted that a number of our students across Years 9, 11 and 6th form had the opportunity to take part in impartial careers interviews that produced individual student action plans to move them forward towards considering different careers or to prepare for apprenticeship applications, job applications or their future at university and beyond.

In addition to this we were also delighted to help students with apprenticeship or college applications as well as continuing to run our external business forums where local businesses have come into school to share career experiences and stories about the jobs that are available and that young people might aspire to! Some of the highlights this year saw a broad mix of Global, Regional and local businesses

supporting including DXC (digital technology, project management, leadership), Nexus (Passenger Transport), Pure Fishing (factory work, Engineering, Finance), NHS Healthcare, Northern Clothing Company (owning your own business, working in an SME) and Re-heat (Biomass energy specialists).

We were also excited to take a group of Year 10 Engineer students to the Tolent site where they are developing the new retail area courtesy of the Northumberland Estates Education team. We enjoyed a wet and windy trip seeing the different types of trades that might be available and to see the new outlets being built. We have also seen many local businesses contacting us directly when they have jobs either seasonal or more permanent through apprenticeships for potential employees in our student body. We have successfully placed students in conjunction with businesses this year. We actively encourage employers to contact us if they have opportunities in their work places as we think we have many potentially excellent employees in our school community!

Looking forwards into the next academic year we are continuing to expand and further develop our careers provision. Some highlights to watch out for in addition to our current work is the development of a DCHS Careers Alumni where we will be asking the local community and a variety of ex students from across the years to share stories about their careers for publication on our website as case studies and inspiration for our current students. We are very excited to develop this part of our careers programme. So if you have a story to share we would be

delighted to hear from you! In addition we are looking to continue to develop work with Northumberland Estates and to offer CV workshops and Mock Interview opportunities for students on the verge of leaving education to be fully prepared for their next steps and we want to involve parents more in the types of careers offer we have in the school so that you can help us to continue to improve our services.

We are delighted to continue to work with Northernrights/Pathfinders and local businesses to give our students as much information on the Local Labour Market information and to engage with the opportunities that exist within our community.

It is an exciting time to be involved in careers and the positive talks we are encouraging for our young people as they think about their futures.

If you believe that you have some ideas or could offer a contribution to our growing careers service please contact Mr Martin Allenby at the school on [martin.allenby@dchs-alnwick.uk](mailto:martin.allenby@dchs-alnwick.uk) or Mrs Gill Barrett of Pathfinders on [gbarrett@northernrights.org.uk](mailto:gbarrett@northernrights.org.uk)





**Mondays**  
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## Our Relationship With Rotary

**The Duchess's Community High School enjoys a very close and meaningful relationship with Rotarians in Alnwick Rotary Club which supports and helps our school community in a wide variety of ways.**

This support impacts on students of all ages through the school, from the early years through to the sixth form. Alnwick Rotarians help to run and sponsor Rotakids Clubs in both St Michael's and Swansfield Park Schools. Through the activities of these Clubs, members aged 12 and under are helped to develop citizenship and leadership skills through taking responsibility for real life situations and problems within their local community and indeed globally. Upon entering The Duchess's School, Rotakids make the transition to the Interact Club which caters for young people aged 12 to 18. Through the auspices of Interact, student members gain an understanding of the Rotary values of 'Service Above Self' and continue to engage in activities which are of benefit to those less fortunate than themselves as well as developing confidence and leadership skills.



**Rotary YOUNG MUSICIAN**

Turning to support for students throughout the school, various competitions and activities sponsored by Rotarians are open for all who wish to enter. These include Rotary Youth Leadership Awards and Rotary Youth Competitions. This year Alnwick Rotary Club has worked with school staff to stage 4 competitions, namely Young Writers, Young Photographer, Young Musician and Young Chef. We received 26 entries for Young Writer and an amazing 46 for Young Photographer. We offer warmest congratulations to Emilia Galecka who won the Young Writer first prize and Teyha Belisle who was runner up. Emilia progressed to the



**Rotary YOUNG CHEF**

District level of the competition and was awarded the runner up prize. In the Young Photography competition, congratulations go to Intermediate age winner Harris Hall and senior age winner, Hannah Fleming. This competition was judged by members of Alnwick and District Camera Club and the judges commented on the impressively high standard of the entries in general. Turning to the Young Musician competition, 9 young musicians, 6 vocalists and 3 instrumentalists, performed with inspirational talent and great skill for the audience and judges, with winning



**Rotary YOUNG CHEF**

performances being awarded to Gregory Brewis on electric guitar and vocalists Ruby Faulke and Palesa Thompson. Greg and Palesa went on to perform extremely well in the Regional Final held in Glasgow. Finally, we had eleven entries for the Young Chef competition, for which students cooked superb three course meals. We offer warmest congratulations to first prize winner, Kayleigh Ramshaw and runner up Daniel Bradley. Kayleigh went on to cook another superb meal in the Regional Final of the competition that was held in East Kilbride.

Alnwick Rotary Club provides judges, prizes and administrative support for all of these competitions in addition to giving prizes for the School Prize-giving event.

It has also been the great pleasure of the Rotary Club to be a sponsor for the finalists of the Magistrate in the Community Mock Trials competition who travelled to London for this event where they came third in the national finals. What an amazing achievement and warmest congratulation from all Rotarians.

Last but certainly not least, our relationship with Rotary extends to academic support for our sixth form. A Rotarian spends significant time conducting mock university interviews with sixth form students applying for university early

entrance and providing appropriate feedback and advice.

So, Alnwick Rotarians are welcomed into The Duchess's High School on a regular basis in connection with these many and various youth activities. Yet the 'comings and goings' are not solely in one direction. The school choir performs at the Rotary Club's Christmas lunch and students are invited from time as guest speakers at the Club.

Our year of a splendid relationship with Rotary culminated in a gathering on June 14th which was a celebration of the Rotary Club's support for young people in the community. This was attended by Rotarians, teachers and students who had been involved in the various aspects of our work with the school. All enjoyed the evening which involved presentations about our collaboration, performances by the winning Young Musicians, a display of the entries for the photography competition and a buffet supper.

Alnwick Rotarians regard their support for the young people of our town as fundamental to their programme of activities. We are delighted to have such a warm and supportive relationship and we look forward so much to next year!

**Joy Palmer Cooper,**  
**President-elect Alnwick Rotary Club**

## School Uniform

Our School Uniform is available from the following providers:

**Border Embroideries – online**

**Emblematic Ltd – online**

**MA Tailoring**

**Bow Alley, Alnwick**

**Sportsworld**

**Market Street, Alnwick**

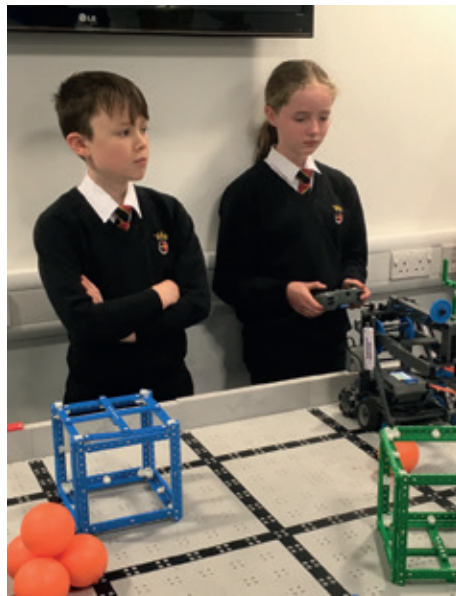
Please refer to our website for our uniform requirements:

**[www.dchs-alnwick.org/uniform/](http://www.dchs-alnwick.org/uniform/)**



## Team DCHS VEX Robotics - regional winners again

On Tuesday 7th May, Team DCHS VEX took part in the North East season finale of the international VEX IQ Robotics challenge at Nissan, Sunderland. This competition involves designing and building a multi-purpose robot that can be driven to perform a range of different tasks and also be programmed to solve challenges autonomously.



Throughout the day the team battled through a series of heats and were firmly placed at the top of the leaderboard after 10 rounds. Teams from 8 regional schools competed with partner schools from across the north east to score points in a number of challenges. **Team DCHS VEX won the overall Team Challenge and the Driver Skills challenge** (including programming tasks).

The team of year 7 students included **Kathryn Ball, Ben Allan, Louis Mascall, Joe Bottomer** and **Will Thompson** were a hugely positive reflection of our students at DCHS and worked professionally with the teams they were competing with on the day, developing winning strategies and training their partner teams to use the technology accordingly. Core skills for DT and their futures!

The team are now preparing to work alongside the next generation of roboteers and our feeder primary schools following the successful award of more robotics kits from

the Royal Academy of Engineering and are looking forward to competing again in the 2019-20 season alongside them. The team will be demonstrating their robotics skills at the Wonderdome event in July.

### Engineers at Tolent

On Wednesday 12th June our year 10 BTEC Engineering students took part in a site visit to experience how engineering skills are used in the design and construction of the new retail development at the Willowburn site in Alnwick. Torrential rain did not dampen their enthusiasm and students were able to meet with site engineers, project managers and architects to discuss career opportunities and experience the types of skills being used and the expectations of employers. They were surprised to hear about the short design life some of the prefabricated units will have - less than the time that they will spend at DCHS, and also the significant investment being made by retailers on the site.

### Greenpower electric race car team - the next generation

**Team DCHS Greenpower** have been busy behind the scenes fundraising to enable them to buy a students self-build kit car that will be usable by student teams for the foreseeable future. Their target is to reach £3000. The team has created a range of products that they can design, customise, make and sell in school using the DT department's laser cutter and have approached local businesses to help sell the products. The team have also been selling these items and other technological

gadgets and toys at their STEM shop and have also developed a website to promote their cause and enable orders to be placed on line. The team are contacting local businesses directly and writing funding bids so are developing important skills for their futures. Future events will include a supermarket bag pack, the Wonderdome STEM shop (at the event in July open to the community so please book a ticket) and other exciting activities yet to be announced. The Greenpower team currently consists of a range of year 8 and year 9 students and are keen to hear from anyone in a position to sponsor the team!

### Lego Robotics - preparing for 2020

The regional final winning team have been working hard to refine and improve their designs since their success in the Spring at the Tomorrows Engineers regional competition. The team is keen to compete again next year and have been fundraising with some of the best cakes ever seen in school to raise money in order to buy further LEGO mindstorms equipment for the new year 7 students when they join us in September. One of their goals is to mentor the new team and are motivated to improve on their overall result from this year with two DCHS teams competing for places at the national Big Bang science fair in 2020. Team members are **Claudia Ilderton, Milly Jackson, Hermione Lewis, Gabi Stirling, Molly Weatherill, Jamie Davison, Fred Williams, Edwin Vea, Louis Mascall, Chris Straughan** and **Kieron Miller**. The team will be demonstrating their robotics skills at the Wonderdome event in July.



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The Duchess's Community High School Charitable Trust, in association with the Tyne and Wear & Northumberland Community Foundation's Envirefund, proudly invites local primary school students (from year 4-6) to visit the Wonderdome on the **15th July and 16th July.**

The Wonderdome is a fascinating, fun and interactive School Mobile Planetarium which takes the learners on a journey through the Milky Way. The use of the completely dark inflatable planetarium makes for an amazing 360-degree immersive experience which is awe inspiring.

The event will take place between 16:30 and 18:00, every child will have a 30 minute experience inside the dome (unfortunately parents have to wait outside.) We ask that each child provides a donation of £1.50 towards the cost of hosting the dome.

To find out more go to the DCHS website and look for Welcome to the Wonderdome or go the the following website to book your space <https://sites.google.com/dchs-alnwick.uk/wonderdome>.



## Gardening at DCHS

At the Duchess's High we have extensive grounds around the building so there are lots of opportunities for a spot of gardening. Some students are already taking up the trowels, and we are hoping that many more will do so in the year to come.



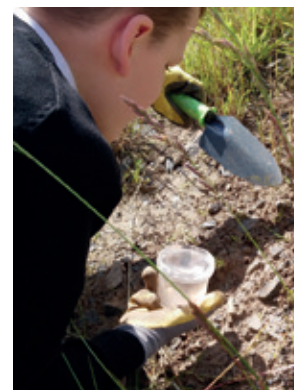
native violas, primroses, stock, honesty, sweet rocket, lupins ... the list goes on. As well as being pleasing on the eye we are hoping that we can increase biodiversity by providing nectar sources for bees and other mini-beasts, which some of our students enjoy collecting for closer inspection.

Outside the school reception we are also lucky to have a series of raised beds. We are lucky

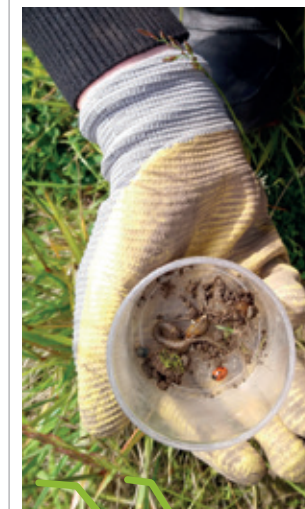
to have enough capacity for there to be beds for different groups of students to look after, including the science department, the conservation club and nurture groups at lunchtime. Students are learning to care for onions, bank up potatoes and of course there are constant weeding and litter picking

to keep the area tidy and well presented.

In the Autumn, gardening at DCHS will be reaching for the sky with the arrival of over 400 trees, donated from the Woodland Trust. We hope for a parents' and local business' planting event in which groups and individuals will be able to sponsor a tree. We hope that you will be able to contribute with a donation for a plaque next to your tree, or simply by turning up with your wellies and a spade. Watch out for details around November time!



There are two main projects currently underway. Around the buildings we have steep banks with a long meadow that is being left uncut. Staff and students are growing on flower seedlings and planting them out in the hope that they naturalise and fill our views with colour. We have tall ox-eye daisies, aquilgia, big orange calendula, tiny





## Full of Pride

**On Tuesday 21st May, staff and students at The Duchess's Community High School got together to show their support for Northumberland Pride, an event held in Alnwick on June 1st.**

Students were given the opportunity to contribute to a public art installation, dubbed the 'Rainbow Window', during the school day. Staff and student helpers from the sixth-form manned the large window area just above the main atrium and provided colourful chalk pens for students to use on the glass.

The students were invited to contribute their thoughts and feelings in response to sentence starters such as 'Pride is...' and 'I feel pride for...' in the pattern of a rainbow.

Around an estimated 300 students wrote comments on the rainbow which started out rather bare, but soon looked bright and colourful as more words were added.

"We wanted to show our support for the LGBTQ+ community, and to celebrate what makes us all unique and feel proud," said Bex Makamure, one of the staff members involved in the project.

Rosie Bush, another teacher, added, "We're lucky enough to host Northumberland Pride in Alnwick and wanted to help our students see that

it's about being positive and loving."

Comments written on the window were overwhelmingly mature and quite moving. Many students wrote that they felt pride for their family and friends, and some penned advice such as "Be proud of being you" and "Don't let others change you".

The art installation helped students and staff continue the dialogue about the Pride message and created a real buzz around the school, as well as a bit of colour!



## Community Work



**Throughout the year the Duchess Community Developers, a group of year 8 and 9 students, have been working with Community@NE66 on a community based project funded by the Nineveh Charitable Trust and Community@NE66 Charitable Trust with some materials gifted by MKM.**

DCD have shown a great deal of enthusiasm and have learned lots of new skills while contributing to the local community. In particular, they have worked tirelessly to transform the garden at Alnwick Community Centre, which is used by lots of different community groups.

The boys were given the brief to create a sensory garden that was fun for all. After researching and sourcing materials they set to work creating a sensory path, sound board, fidget board, herb gardens and much more.

They have shown immense grit and determination and have worked hard despite what the great British weather has thrown at them! DCD are keen to add more to the garden over the coming weeks and the youth workers have already received great feedback from the community groups using the garden.

As well as the garden the students have painted parts of the Community Centre, made planters for Hospice Care North Northumberland and have completed litter picks at several locations throughout the community.

They have also enjoyed trips to Clarty Commandos at Howick Hall Gardens which have provided great learning experiences for the group. The group have demonstrated responsibility and achievement when learning new bushcraft and survival skills, including axe throwing, fire lighting and cooking on an open fire.



# Mortal Fools

In April the Creative Arts Department was fortunate enough to secure funding of £1500 through the Community Foundation and Culture Bridge North East, to develop a pilot project with Theatre Company, **Mortal Fools** to work specifically with a group of Year 8 boys.

The focus of the project was to build confidence, sustain focus and to develop creative ways of learning and partnership. The project was designed as part of a developing programme of Creative Learning, as part of our Art Mark Gold and Cultural development within DCHS, to give a voice, sense of place and platform for creativity to our young people.

Mortal Fools are a Theatre, Drama and Cultural organisation based in Prudhoe, Northumberland. This was a



Do more  
Learn more  
Become more

partnership long in the planning but one which was greatly anticipated by the Creative Arts Team.

At the start of this adventure, one of the boys informed me that he would not be doing any performing of any sort, and was not going to be on stage...little did he know!

The six boys who participated in the workshops were understandably nervous as to what they had been signed up to but I think the novelty of 4 days off timetable over 2 weeks was enough incentive to begin with! The trust they placed in each other and in the actors / directors from the moment they met Helen, Sian and Rachael was incredible. It would be fair to say that for some of the boys involved, Drama simply wasn't 'their thing'. However



from the moment they warmed up, through to improvisation, concept development and then the proudest moment for all of us...the creation of a piece of work to perform...to an audience!



On the final day, the boys created a short piece of drama, working together to create characters, scenarios, roles etc, but choreographed the lighting, sound and set to bring their drama to life. That in itself was an amazing leap forward for many, but the real test was to come...the performance. They performed with confidence and with professionalism and left a profound impact on all those who watched the performance.



All the boys developed a portfolio of evidence in support of their Arts Award Explore qualification, which will hopefully be awarded later this summer.

The biggest challenge for many of our young men is lack of confidence and self belief - at some point all six boys questioned this. However what they learnt about teamwork, listening, articulation of personal thoughts and ideas, being able to listen without judgement to conflicting opinions and being able to work together to create a successful production.

Staff who came along to watch the performance were really struck by the collaborative and mature nature of the boys, their willingness and resilience of performing their work and their bravery speaking in front of an audience.

*"Seeing them excited to perform in front of an audience was a joy. Hearing them talk*

**The boys were simply outstanding!**



*with such pride about their work was absolutely wonderful. For [the] boys, the opportunity to showcase work that they are so proud of has been invaluable"* **DCHS Staff**

When asked to reflect on what they would take away from the project, the boys said:

*"Knowing I have the skills to concentrate"*

*"It has helped me become*

*more confident in speaking in front of others"*

*"It has helped me work with others, improve my social skills and to make friends more easily."*

*"I'm proud to have earned my Arts Award qualification"*

We hope that this is the start of a long partnership with Mortal Fools.

If you would like further information about the project or about Arts Award / Arts Mark, please contact [ruth.brown@dchs-alnwick.uk](mailto:ruth.brown@dchs-alnwick.uk) (Head of Creative Arts).

## Tell us about medical needs and medication!

We keep records in school of information supplied to us by parents/ carers to enable us to support students with medical conditions. Details of the full policy, Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions, is on our website as well as copies of forms to complete should your child need medication while at school. Please read the information and complete the relevant forms if your child has a condition we should be aware of. It is your responsibility to inform us of any condition, change to a condition or medication for your child.





## Together for Tea!

Our Year 9 students have been busy preparing and hosting afternoon tea for members of our local community in later adulthood. The aim of this event was to bring "together for tea" the two life stages to gain a positive view of each other and give our students the opportunity to demonstrate the skills they have developed in Food, Health and Well-being over the past year.

The Duchess's Community High School has invited members of our community to our 'Together for Tea' event as part of our year 9 Health & Well-being course.

Guests were treated to delightful snacks and entertainment by our very talented chefs and born entertainers. We hosted this

event as we would like to bring people of all ages together for the well known British tradition of afternoon tea.

This event is particularly important to the school as it bridges the gap between age groups. From this event we plan to gain a greater understanding of what we can learn from

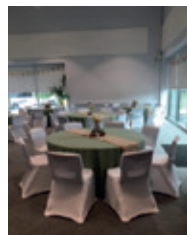
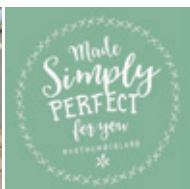
each other and create a mutual respect for one another to move forward as a community. We have shared some interesting stories together and have taken away some life lessons from this.

In these difficult times you can always rely on a cup of tea and a piece of cake.

Liam Genouw 9HEE



Local company **Made Simply Perfect** kindly offered to support the students and have dressed the function room in preparation for our guests on each of the four dates.



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## Year 9 Safer Environments Day

Some of our year 9 students took part in a Safer Environments event organised by groups from our community. The focus on the event was to support our students in staying safe, and making safe choices, in and out of school. The event was a great success with students getting involved in the activities.



During the event students took part in a range of workshops -

### Staying Safe Online

Contagious/ Community@NE66/ NCC Youth Service

### Safe Spaces Initiative

SpLinter RAP/ Woman's Workshop

### Plastics and Climate Change

Alnwick Friends of the Earth

### Safer Relationships

Community@NE66

### Mocktail Activity (Dangers of alcohol)

Gallery Youth

### Safe Routes to School

Alnwick Town Council

### Spray Art Activity

Gallery Youth





# The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme 2019

**The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme encourages students to take part in volunteering, physical activities, learning new skills and going on expeditions as teams in a non-competitive environment. It provides a challenge for the students, and a great sense of achievement. It also is extremely valuable when applying for jobs and places in further education.**

This year we have had 40 students working towards their Bronze DofE, and 7 towards their Gold. They have been working all year towards their Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections, and have been away with Adventure Northumberland training and taking part in their expeditions.

The Bronze teams attended a training weekend in the



Ingram Valley learning first aid, basic navigation, route planning and camping skills, culminating in a day's training hike to give them confidence for the assessed expeditions. The evenings were spent cooking on expedition stoves and toasting marshmallows around the campfire. The assessed expeditions took place along the Coquet and Northumbrian Coast, hiking full pack with remote supervision.

Every student completed their expeditions successfully, with some great projects on route such as photography and art and one team collected litter along the whole route. They all camped at the beautiful Walkmill Campsite where as part of their expedition they cooked their evening meal on camping stoves. They all demonstrated great camping and navigation skills, and fabulous team work. Notably, one team came to



the rescue of an elderly lady in Warkworth who had taken a fall, and offered first aid and stayed with her until help arrived.

The Gold team completed a five day training course and practice expedition in the Cheviots. The training included detailed navigation including walking on bearings, triangulation, modelling contours in clay and emergency scenarios. Their practice expedition included wild camping (camping with no facilities such as water taps

and toilets) and the ascent of Hedgehope. A challenging route which the students did incredibly well on, reaching the summit well ahead of schedule. The team is now planning



their assessed expedition, and also looking forward to their Residential experiences with students traveling as far as Tanzania.

## ADVENTURE NORTHUMBERLAND

**Adventure Northumberland will be running Bronze, Silver and Gold DofE next year, and will run assemblies in September to introduce the scheme to students who would like to join the adventure and set themselves new challenges for the year ahead.**





# Public Services Course! That's not a real school course, is it?

The Public Services Course has been running since 2004. It was introduced to give students the opportunity to work on life skills. The brainchild of deputy head, Steve Handley, who believed that students needed to prepare themselves for the workplace. In the early days, there were no qualifications, just pure experiences. However it has developed and we are now delivering BTEC qualifications at levels 1, 2 and 3.

The course has always set out to make students informed individuals and to teach them the skills they need to leave school, get a job and to be successful. Teachers such as Richard Wood (Ex 202 Squadron Pilot) Sue Forrest (Outdoor Activity Instructor), Darren Drummond (Ex Fighter Controller Officer) and Neale Brown (RAF Regiment NCO) have brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the course over the years.

Our students spend time working on team and communication skills, looking at the process of getting a job, and developing other skills and qualities they need when they leave school. They research the various public services, the careers available and the academic qualifications required for certain roles. This gives impetus to students to realise their potential in other subjects.

Fitness plays a massive part in the lessons with runs and PT sessions. Students are introduced to battlefield PT, box sessions, mud runs, beach runs and the dreaded Bearpit. Discipline is set at a high standard and instead of detentions, press-ups are given. Our aim is to teach personal discipline with each student aiming to set their standards high.

The success of courses such as ours relies

heavily on assistance from the different services around Northumberland and we have been really lucky to have had support from various organisations.

Visits to different Public Service establishments have been frequent, especially to military bases who were keen to show students exactly what service life was really like. Royal Air Force Boulmer has been exceptional with their assistance and has hosted our course on many occasions, providing training in fire fighting, team building, military training, fitness, visits to 202 Squadron, the school of Fighter Control, Fire Section and the Regiment Section. Albemarle Barracks, near Hexham, have run assault courses, team activities and demonstrations. Our courses have visited Acklington Prison to find out what life in prison is like for both staff and inmates. We have had visits by the Northumbria police dog section, presentations from North East Ambulance and Northumbria Fire and Rescue Services have taken time to show what exactly it means to be a Fire Fighter with visits to their HQ at Cramlington.

Over the years we have given our student's so many experiences such as camouflage



concealment in the pastures, anti-ambush drills in the school minibus, casualty evacuation and first aid just to name a few. Lessons are certainly not the run of the mill, we even have been known to skin rabbits and cook them on improvised stoves. Our students have explored Simonside and Thrunton woods practising their map reading skills, planned and completed Orienteering courses in Hulne Park, Druridge Bay and Plessey Woods. We have canoed and kayaked all of the region's main rivers and both Blyth and Amble Harbours. Our students have climbed all of the major crags in the area (Coby Crags, Kyloe and Bowden) and have visited High and Low ropes courses.

For the last 14 years, we have run expeditions to paddle Scottish rivers and lochs, normally taking 20 students from Year 10, wild camping and cooking for themselves along the way. This has proved to be very popular and has given the students an experience that they will definitely not forget. One student said "The expedition was one of the best experiences I've ever been on. It was a real testing experience and I've come out a stronger person". Another said "The people we went with were so lovely and I've done things I never thought I could do. I would 100% like to do it again".

All our students are taught how to write a letter, a basic CV, complete an application form, and take part in mock interviews. As well as this, all students have a basic understanding of First Aid. Some of our students have coaching qualifications or leadership awards but mainly they are all informed individuals who have looked at different options open to them. They walk away from the course as mature, confident young adults. We have past students who have joined the military, Fire and Rescue and Ambulance services. I constantly bump into students who have gone into careers in the local area and further afield, all look back on this course with fondness and assure me that they did learn something, but more importantly they had fun doing it!

We are constantly being asked to show results for what we do, I can honestly say that the students who have taken part in the Duchess's High School Public Services can do that. I'm proud to be part of their life journey.

**Neale Brown**  
Public Services Course Leader

## What some ex-students say...



### Joe Pope writes

Traditional subjects in Education play a big part in preparation for working life, however, for those wanting to pursue a life in the military, it is important that they are given the opportunity to develop the key skills required in Her Majesty's Armed Forces. At a young age, I decided that I was always going to pursue a career in The Armed Forces, and ultimately I joined The Royal Navy in 2012 on completion of Sixth Form education at The Duchess Community High School. The Uniformed Services course not only provided me with an insight into my future career but also acted as the platform to develop the core values required to serve within the Royal Navy; Courage, Commitment, Discipline, Respect, Integrity, and Loyalty, these are the values in which the Royal Navy prides itself on. The Uniformed Services course gave me the opportunity to interact with serving members of the Armed Forces and Public Services, which provided me with a better understanding of the leap of faith I was about to take. The transition from civilian to military life is never easy, however, with the support and tuition I received from Neale Brown, it made the move a lot less stressful and daunting. Not only does the course provide preparation for those pursuing careers in the Uniformed Services, but it also develops Leadership, Teamwork and Time Management skills, valuable qualities which are important in all walks of life. After 7 years of service in The Royal Navy, I owe it to The Duchess Community High School, and in particular, the Uniformed Services Course for the support and preparation received prior to joining The Royal Navy. This set me up in good stead to pass my basic training and to progress through the ranks within the service. As an ex-service-man, Neale Brown had a wealth of knowledge in the subject, this was evident throughout lessons and made learning enjoyable as it gave students better understanding of the careers available within the forces and public services. The Uniformed Services course bettered me as an individual and gave me the tools to prepare myself for the biggest decision of my life to date, joining The Royal Navy.



**Jessica Conroy writes** - Morning sir, not sure if you use your school email during the holidays but hopefully, you'll see this when you get back. Just wanted to let you know I've passed selection and moving on to phase 1 training ASAP. Finished on a run time of 13:30 so wasn't too bad but ached the Jerry can and power bag lift, just think two months ago I couldn't even lift the Jerry cans! Thanks so much for the support you gave us in our lessons because I think it really did help, the team activities especially! Regards, Jess

**John Gray writes** - I loved completing my level 1 in Uniformed Services. The course suited my learning style with a more practical based syllabus. It also helped me develop key life skills such as teamwork, communication and leadership which have served me well in my working life as a manager at Sainsbury's. The delivery of teaching was outstanding, with teachers always looking to adapt their style to cater for all. My favourite memory has to be competing against other schools on an Army Assault course at Catterick Garrison. It was brutal but so much fun.

**Sam Jarockyi writes** - It gave me that steppingstone to be able to connect with the forces world. From this, I've been able to make a successful career by joining the Army, Royal Engineers, now serving as a Corporal after eight and a half years. Would never have truly done it without visits that you used to put on for us. 110% worth it! Best memories was the exped in Scotland and the PT session with the Marines.

**Laura Atkinson writes** - Only thing I liked in school was the Uniformed Services course and without it I definitely wouldn't have been able to join the Army.

## Girls' Sport

### ATHLETICS

We have had a very successful athletics season - highlights being the inter (Y9 & 10) team taking 3rd place at the Regional Finals of the Schools' Cup and one girl gaining a place at the National Finals in shot put.

#### Area – Y9/10/11

Over 40 girls represented the school at the area competition in Morpeth.

Top performances at this competition meant the following 21 girls were selected to compete for North Northumberland at the County Championships at Hexham on June 8th.

#### Junior Y9

**Millie Breese** - 1500m & High Jump,  
**Eve Lewington** - Long Jump,  
**Hannah Johnston** - 800m,  
**Sam Potts-Marshall** - 800m & 100m,  
**Lauren Brown** - 1500m & High Jump,  
**Holly Love** - Hurdles,  
**Millie Willcox** - 200m,  
**Ava McDougall** - Discus,  
**Talia Thompson** - Shot & Hammer  
**Hannah Armstrong** - Shot Put.

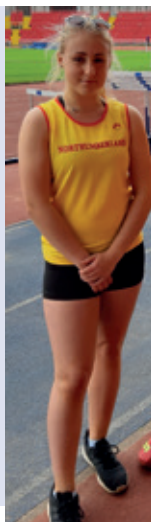
#### Inters

**Megan Sprout** - 200m & Shot  
**Emma Jackson** - 300m & Triple Jump  
**Harriet Robson** - Discus  
**Maddi Hall** - Discus & Hammer  
**Issy Forsyth** - Shot & Javelin  
**Ailsa Batley** - Javelin  
**Antje Hall** - Javelin  
**Lucy Forrester** - Long Jump  
**Jodie Kemp** - High Jump  
**Sophie Greene** - Triple Jump  
**Lydia Smith** - 100m

**Talia Thompson** came 1st in both Shot and Hammer and represented Northumberland at the Inter Counties where she became North East Champion in Shot and runner up in Hammer.

Her performance in shot qualifies her to compete in the English Schools Finals In July at Birmingham.

An outstanding achievement.



#### Area – Y7/8

20 girls represented the school at the area competition in Wooler. Top performances at this competition meant the following girls were selected to compete for North Northumberland at the County Championships at Gateshead on June 22nd June.

#### Y7

**Chloe Givens** - 800m  
**Lilia Purvis** - 1500m & High Jump- new PB

#### Y8

**Charlotte Hughes** - 300m  
**Katy Knight** - 800m  
**Sophie Burn** - 1500m & High Jump  
**Beth Carragher** - 1500m  
**Olivia Temple** - Long Jump (new PB)  
**Emma Walsingham** - Javelin

#### English Schools' Cup - Inters 9/10

This is a team event of 12 athletes who must compete in 1 track and 1 field event. This is a test of true versatility. The competition is won on team points rather than individual placings in events. The better you do the more points you gain.



Junior Athletes at English Schools Cup

First round was held at Gateshead on 14th May with schools from all over the region competing. **We came 3rd with only RGS and NHSG beating us.**

This meant we qualified for the **Regional Finals** at Middlesbrough on 17th June.

**We came 3rd again** but our points this time were not enough to qualify for the national finals. Fantastic results!

#### Team

**Issy Forsyth** - 200m & Shot  
**Sophie Green** - 800m & Long Jump  
**Antje Hall** - 300m & Javelin  
**Maddi Hall** - Hammer & Relay  
**Hannah Johnston** - 800m & Long Jump  
**Emma Jackson** - 300m & Relay  
**Lauren Brown** - 1500m & High Jump  
**Millie Breese** - 1500m & High Jump  
**Sam Potts-Marshall** - 100m & Relay  
**Lydia Smith** - 100m & Javelin  
**Megan Sprout** - 200m & discus  
**Talia Thompson** - Shot & Relay  
**Eve Lewington** - Reserve/200m

#### Tyne & Wear Schools' championship

Due to torrential rain this very popular athletics event was postponed.

At time of writing we don't have a new date.

### ROUNDERS

League matches and tournaments are arranged throughout the summer term. They are very popular and competitive! Y9/10 have only lost 1 match out of 6 so far. We are representing North Northumberland in The Northumberland School Games at Cramlington on 27th June. (Y7/8 will combine with 4 Y10s as the squad is decimated due to Y9/10 mock exams.)

Good experience for the younger ones.  
**Y7/8** - have won all their matches so far.

### BEACH RUGBY

One touch rugby team travelled to Tynemouth Long Sands on 21st June to compete in the Northumberland and Tyne and Wear Festival. (again numbers restricted due to Y9 and 10 mock exams). They won 2 games and lost 3. Fantastic rugby and attitude with an ice cream stop on the way home to round off a great day!

### FOOTBALL

**U13 county league** - 4th place despite playing 3 less matches than all other teams.  
**U13 Berry Cup** - semi-final lost 2-1 to Ovingham Middle.

### CRICKET

**Harriet Robson Y10** - Regional Academy U21. County U15/17 and women's full squad.  
**Emma Walsingham Y8** - County U13/15  
**Coaching** - Tom Vickers, the County Development Officer, will be working with a group of girls over 4 hours to develop their coaching/leading in cricket. They will use their new skills to help lead in Primary School Festivals in the area.



# Interschool Hockey Competition 2019

On Thursday 4th April DCHS hosted a primary inter school Hockey competition for Felton, Hipsburn, Shilbottle and Swarland Primary Schools. Over 80 children arrived to compete for their school from Year 3 to Year 6. The children really enjoy the opportunity to visit the high school and especially for the Year 6 pupils who will be starting there in September!

The Year 3 / 4 competition had four teams fighting for the title. Each team was made up of 6 players with at least two girls playing at all times. Every game was played with much enthusiasm and determination to score as many goals as possible. Every player fought for the ball and showed some great hockey skills despite their lack of match experience. All four teams did their schools proud with the eventual winners being the "Swarland Eagles".

The Year 5 / 6 competition had a bigger entry with six teams competing. For some of the players it was their third year coming up to DCHS to challenge for the title. The games were fast and furious with the children now showing great dribbling and passing skills and good levels of attacking and defensive game play. Their experience was definitely evident and the matches were both competitive and hard fought. Many of the matches were close and there were a lot of goals being scored with great enthusiasm and determination!

There were a lot of parents and siblings watching on the side lines shouting words of encouragement and adding to the electric atmosphere. After 28 matches we had two teams who could potentially win the competition. With the overall winner being decided by the last two remaining matches we had a real nail biting finish to the competition. After over an hour of match play we had our winner and the title went to "Hipsburn All Stars".

This event could not have run without the help of the umpires. Mrs Steele again came to my rescue and organised for 6 young ladies to give up their time and umpire all the matches. So a big thank you goes to Emma Walsingham, Delilah Bassi, Eve Dixon, Frances Maxwell, Hannah Taylor and Jess Crossman. They were great with the children and a credit to the school.

I would like to thank Mr Hall for allowing me to use DCHS facilities to run the competition and giving the children the fantastic opportunity to come to their local high school. It is especially great for the current Year 6's who will be starting there in September. Hopfully they will go on to represent DCHS in many future sporting events. I would also like to give a big thank you to Mrs Steele for helping me organise a number of events throughout the year. I could not run them without her help and time.

*Jean Burrows, Specialist Teacher for Primary Partnership*



## Boys' Sport

### CRICKET



Duchess's U12 student **Jamie Armstrong** pictured above bowling against NSB



Duchess's U13 cricket team

### Under 14s

Duchess's U14s were drawn against tough opponents (NSB) in the county cup. Duchess's batted first setting a total of 85. **James Taylor** finished on 33 not out and **Ryan Driver** 21 not out. In reply, NSB were too strong for the Duchess's attack with the winning runs being hit the 11th over.



Duchess's U14 cricket team

### Under 15s



Duchess's U15 cricket team

Duchess's U15s have had a very successful season so far which has seen the team progress to the semi-final of the county cup against RGS. KEVI were the first opponents which resulted in Duchess winning by 10 wickets. KEVI batted first and were restricted to 63 as a result of some disciplined bowling from the Duchess's attack. **Declan Mark** and **James Taylor** both claimed 2 wickets each alongside **Cameron Nicholls**, **Harriet Robson**, **Jude Hall** and **Laurie Blackburn** all claiming 1 wicket a piece. In reply, Duchess's opening batsmen **Matty Stewart** and **Robbie**



**Burn** surpassed the total of 63 without losing a wicket. **Matty** and **Robbie** both finished not out on 26 and 30 respectively.

### Duchess High School Cricket Leaders



Duchess High School Cricket Leaders

Duchess's cricket leaders from year 10 successfully officiated at a kwik cricket festival which was held at Alnwick Cricket Club. Numerous primary school students competed against each other and the Duchess's leaders officiated in games displaying excellent leadership skills. The festival was a huge success for all students who participated and officiated.

## ATHLETICS

### Year 9 and 10 Athletics

On the 16th of May a group of year 9 and 10 boys took part in the Inter-Area Athletics at King Edward VI School in Morpeth. There were some notable performances on the day with 17 pupils finishing in the top two of their event to qualify for the Northumberland County Championships on June 7th. From year 9 **Findlay Cross** ran well to qualify in first

place in the 100m sprint and **Gregor Batley** threw well in the discus and javelin. **James Taylor** and **Finlay Wilde** also did very well to qualify. In year 10 **Matthew Park**, **James Carragher** **Thomas Davison**, **Matthew Whiteley** and **Joe Godden** all performed particularly well in their events to progress to the next round of the competition. **Ollie Telfer** and **Ben Murray John** from year 11 also managed to qualify using their PBs as they were unable to attend the event as they were in the middle of their GCSE exams.

At the County Championships a number of the boys who qualified and made it to the event came up against some very strong opposition. **Matthew Whiteley** threw well in the shot, finding himself well placed before a representative for Great Britain stepped up to throw over 13 metres! A special mention must go to **Joe Godden** for his performance in the high jump. Joe managed to jump 1.55 metres to finish third in the whole of Northumberland; a fantastic achievement. **Ollie Telfer** competed in the intermediate steeplechase, finishing 2nd. He also managed a 4th place finish in the 1500 metres which was an excellent result! Well done to all the boys who took part in these events.



Joe Godden with his 3rd place certificate



Ollie Telfer

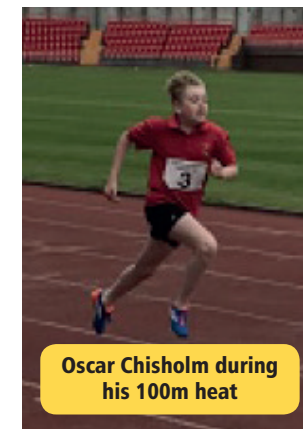
### Year 7 and 8 Athletics

A group of year 7 and 8 boys took part in the Inter-Area Athletics on Monday 17th June (having had the original event cancelled due to inclement weather!). A total of 16 boys represented the school and performed well. Nine of the boys managed to qualify for the County Championships on Saturday 22nd June; a fantastic achievement. We also had an excellent result in the year 7 boys relay. **Oscar Chisholm**, **Harry Parkinson**, **Ed Brown**

and **Jamie Armstrong** ran well as a team to finish first. Unfortunately a couple of the team were unable to make the finals on Saturday, but we have high hopes for this group in future years.

At the County Championships our qualifiers again performed well and did the school proud. **Harris Hall** in particular did superbly and finished first in the county at javelin, throwing an impressive 24.58 metres. Our other qualifiers were a credit to the school on the day.

They were **Oscar Chisholm**, **Cameron Cullen** and **Max Murray John**.



Oscar Chisholm during his 100m heat

### Harris Hall with his first place certificate



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# Calendar for September



**September**  
**2**  
**MONDAY**

Training Day  
(no students  
in school)



**September**  
**3**  
**TUESDAY**

Training Day  
(no students  
in school)



**September**  
**4**  
**WEDNESDAY**

Years 7 and 10  
in school

Year 12 in school  
for the morning  
only, returning  
Friday



**September**  
**5**  
**THURSDAY**

Years 7, 8, 9, 10,  
11 and 13  
in school



**September**  
**6**  
**FRIDAY**

Normal  
School Day for  
everyone

