

Principal's Newsletter: Spring Term

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come to the end of another busy term at NGA. Students have been working hard and we have had excellent attendance by Year 11 students at our after school revision sessions. The main messages to Y11 students with regards to exam preparation over the Easter holiday are:

1. Most students have started revising out of school hours (despite what some may say) - **if you haven't started, you're in the minority.**
2. Take every opportunity. **Attend all holiday sessions** you are invited to.
3. Revise **little and often each day**. Intense cramming won't work and leads to unnecessary stress.
4. Build in some relaxation time by reading, doing some exercise, seeing friends or getting some fresh air. It's normal to feel stressed in the lead up to exams so make sure you look after your own mental health or seek support if you need to.

School Meal update

Following the Easter holidays the school meal price will be rising from £2.25 to £2.40. This will bring us in line with the rest of the schools in North Tyneside who have been charging £2.40 since September 2022. The Free School Meal price will be adjusted to correspond with this. Individual items available at break and lunch will also be increasing, I have attached below an updated tariff.

I would like to also remind parents about school meal payment arrangements. School meal accounts must be topped up before your child attempts to purchase items in the dining hall. We ask parents to ensure that accounts are topped up no later than **10am** if you want your child to access the dining hall that day for break or lunch, to avoid any embarrassment at the till. As with any cash transfer, the payment is not always instant and can take some time to come through to the till so it is important that the payment is made in advance and not at the time of attempted purchase.

If you are having any problems paying for your child's meals, or you would like to discuss anything further, please contact the school office on admin@northgosforth.co.uk or 0191 236 1700.

We would also like to remind parents that all students are entitled to a free breakfast between 8-8.30am when we have bagels, fruit juice and a selection of cereals available.

Uniform & students' personal appearance

We are proud of our academy and ask that our students wear their uniform with pride. Uniform is compulsory and must be worn by students at all times in school.

As a reminder, the following uniform must be worn daily whilst at North Gosforth Academy:

Note: The school reserves the right to determine whether an item of clothing abides by the uniform policy.



White Polo Shirt
Embroidered with North Gosforth Academy Logo



Navy Sweatshirt
Embroidered with North Gosforth Academy Logo



Black Trousers
Traditional black formal dress trousers



Skirt
Plain black skirt – knee length and tailored (none stretch/skin tight)



Shoes
Plain black formal polishable school shoes



Suitable Bag
An appropriate bag for carrying equipment (to fit an A4 ring binder)

The following uniform must be worn for PE whilst at North Gosforth Academy:



Royal Blue PE Sweatshirt
Embroidered with North Gosforth Academy Logo



Sky Blue PE Polo Shirt
Embroidered with North Gosforth Academy Logo



Plain Navy/black Shorts
No markings or logos



Navy/black
Tracksuit Bottoms
No markings or logos



Sports Trainers
Not to be worn as school shoes



Football Boots

Key Points for Uniform

1. **Trousers:** School trousers should be traditional formal black dress trousers. They should not be denim, leggings, linen or cargo-type. Likewise they should not be skin tight and should not resemble jeans. The school is aware that some shops are now advertising and selling 'school uniform' trousers that do not match our definition of formal dress trousers. We ask that parents/carers check this carefully before making purchases.
2. **Skirts:** Skirts must be knee-length and tailored. No stretch material or skin-tight material is permitted. Students must wear black, plain tights with skirts.
3. **Footwear:** Students are required to wear smart, plain black, formal school shoes/ankle shoes. Shoes must be polishable over their entire surface with a traditional sole and be plain black and carry no logos. Black trainers that have the appearance of school shoes are not acceptable. Trainers are not permitted unless there is medical exemption from a doctor. The school reserves the right to determine what shoes are acceptable designs. Parents/carers should be aware that many retailers advertise school shoes which are not in line with the school's expectations on footwear. We ask that parents/carers check this carefully before making purchases.

Uniform is checked by staff on a daily basis. If your child attends school in non-uniform items without suitable explanation from a parent/carers (by telephone/letter) sanctions will be imposed.

In addition to the above, the following infringements may also result in your child receiving sanctions:

- Inappropriate hair colour/haircut. The school reserve the right to determine what is considered "inappropriate";
- Nail extensions/false nails;
- Excessive make up. Subtle make up is acceptable and should be natural in colour. False eyelashes and false tan are not allowed. Excessive make up must be removed;
- Jewellery. The only jewellery allowed to be worn in school is a watch and one plain ear stud in each earlobe only. For obvious reasons of safety and risk of personal loss, jewellery other than these should not be worn to school. Should a student choose to wear items of jewellery the school will confiscate these items, parents/carers will be expected to collect these from school.

We have a uniform recycle scheme at the academy and ask parents to donate any unwanted uniform to us so that it can be redistributed to families who may need it.

Spring Half Term News

Murder in the Library!

The new term started with the shock discovery that there had been a Murder in the Library, this spawned a three-week investigation where students solved clues and used their imaginations to come up with a Murderer, a Victim and a Motive. We had several winners, Alex McCutcheon, Rosie Salmon, Esme Baah, Samantha Kilty and Ella Cuthbertson. The Killer was Mr Ayre who murdered Mr Graham in a crime against humanities.



Spanish Spelling Bee

This half term our Year 7 and 8 students competed in our 2nd annual Spanish Spelling Bee. Students were given a list of grammatical terms and Spanish vocabulary to learn in their own time and we completed some practice using the Spanish alphabet in lessons. Round 1 was

conducted in lessons during the first week of the half term and students got into groups to compete against their classmates. The winning team from each class then went through to the Final which was held in our Theatre in front of a panel of judges and the other winning teams.

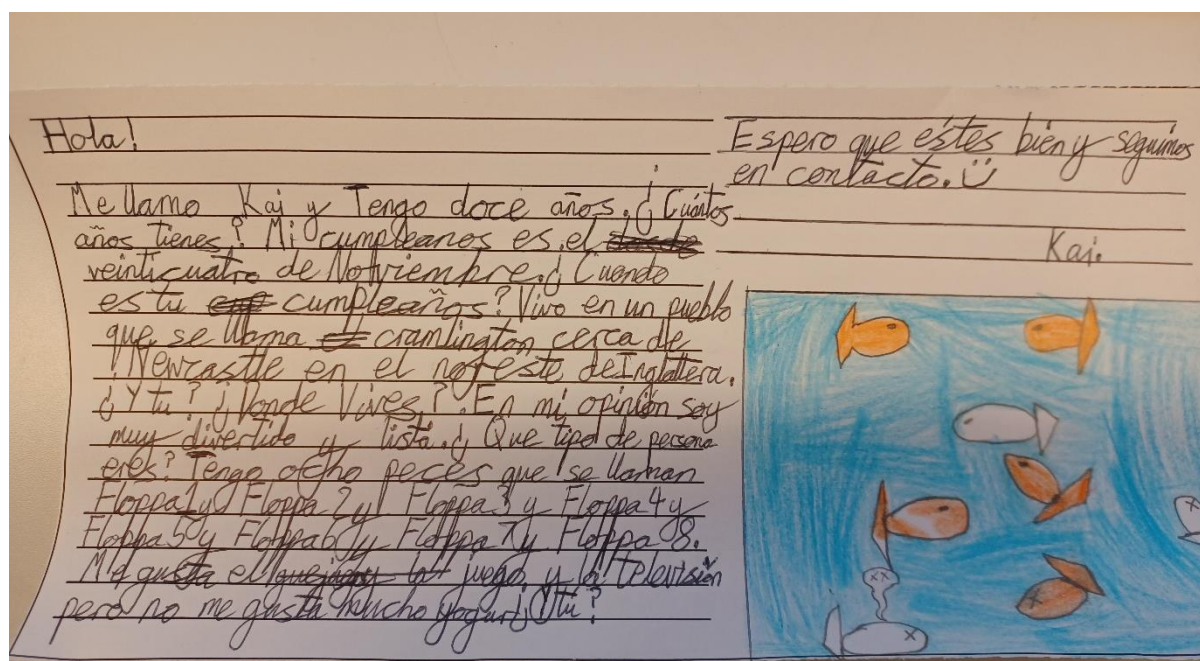
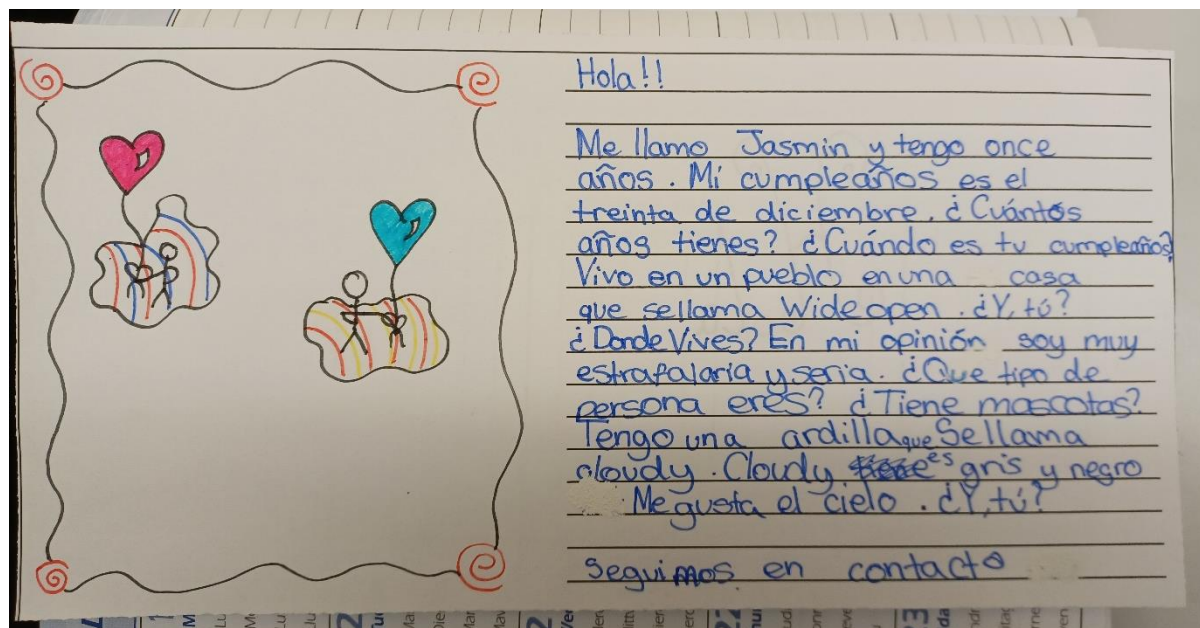
We were blown away by the level of effort students put into this and everyone gave it their all. The standard of spelling, pronunciation and translation was absolutely brilliant. We are so proud of all of the students for taking part and want to say a huge congratulations to our winning teams. Students were then awarded a prize and got to take some photos with the Spelling Bee trophy.



Spanish Pen Pals

We currently have a Penpal link to a school in Spain and before the Christmas holidays our students in Year 7 wrote a post card to some Spanish students all about themselves. Students also worked on creating questions to ask our Spanish pen pals. The Spanish school students have now replied with an individual letter or fact file addressed to each of our Year 7 students. Our

Year 7's are really excited to have received a letter back and we will continue this link throughout the rest of the year and into the next term. Year 7 will be replying to their letters after the Easter holidays.



Careers News

This term at North Gosforth academy we celebrated National Careers Week by hosting our world of work careers fair, alongside careers learning in subject areas. It was an opportunity for our students to engage with careers learning and see where their subjects can take them, to raise aspirations, and help our students to identify the steps that they need to take on their educational and career path.

We have been particularly proud of the way that pupils in Year 9 and 11 engaged with our guests during the careers fair. We had vast array of employers, universities, and colleges represented

at the event, and it was wonderful to see students engaging with our visitors, asking questions, and making plans for their futures. We are very proud of the way that our students conducted themselves, and we hope that students take on board the advice and guidance so that they aim to achieve the best grades possible in all of their subjects.

Thanks to all companies that attended, we look forward to an even bigger event next year!

NHS-Perinatal mental health,
Waterstons IT Consultancy
Newcastle College
BL Training Academy
Travel Counsellor
Newcastle Building Society
Newcastle United Foundation
Alexandra McQueen 6th form college
South Shields Marine School
Tyne Met College
Newcastle University
Gateshead College
NHS Manual Apprenticeship's
NHS Northumberland & Tyne and Wear Trust
NTG Construction
NAWIC (women's construction)
NUW Construction Recruitment
GMI Construction
Altitude Technology Foundation
CNTW Academy NHS Nursing Apprenticeships





In addition, we continue to work closely with the Newcastle United Foundation, and this term many of our pupils have been involved in trips and workshops, which have really helped our students to focus on their future and how they intend to achieve their goals.

Students on the Villiers Park Educational Trust programme visited Northumbria University, and gained an insight into university life and the application process. They were given a tour of the campus and took part in a maths session on solving codes and ciphers.

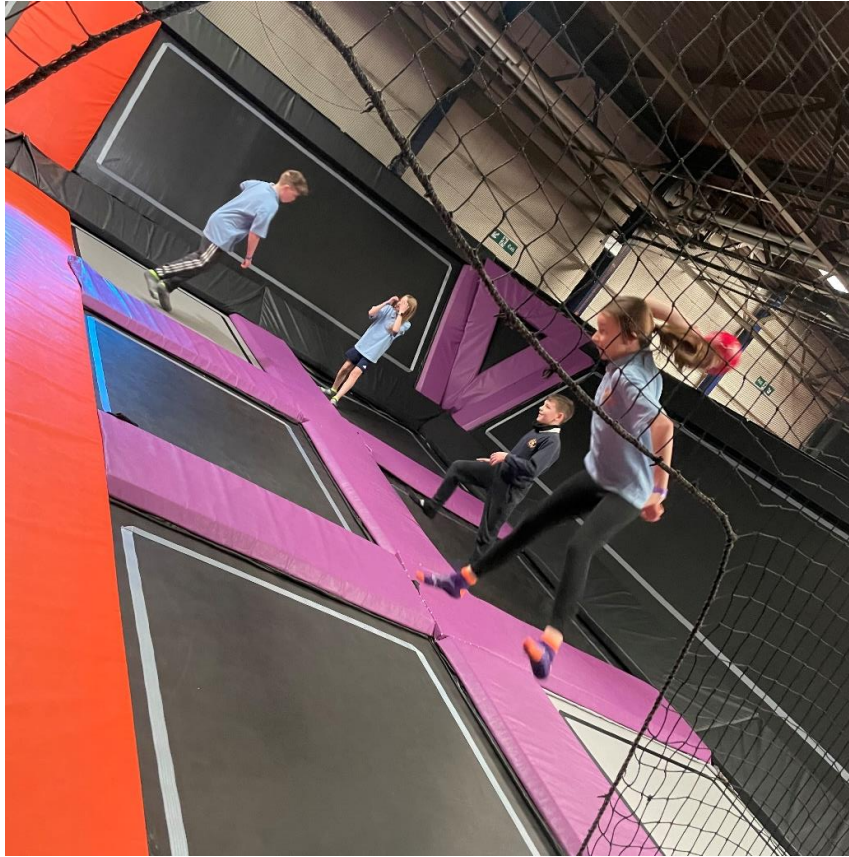


PRAISE & Rewards

We have continued our fortnightly PRAISE events and showcased some amazing work from our students.



Last week 15 lucky students were chosen at random to take part in a trampoline session at AirBox Bounce as a reward for achieving 100% attendance during Spring term 1. All displayed exemplary behaviour and were a pleasure to take out.



This week there have been lots of Easter themed prizes to be won for 100% attendance during the Spring term. Keep an eye out for incentives coming your way for high levels of attendance up until Summer break.

World Kindness Month and LGBTQ+ History Month

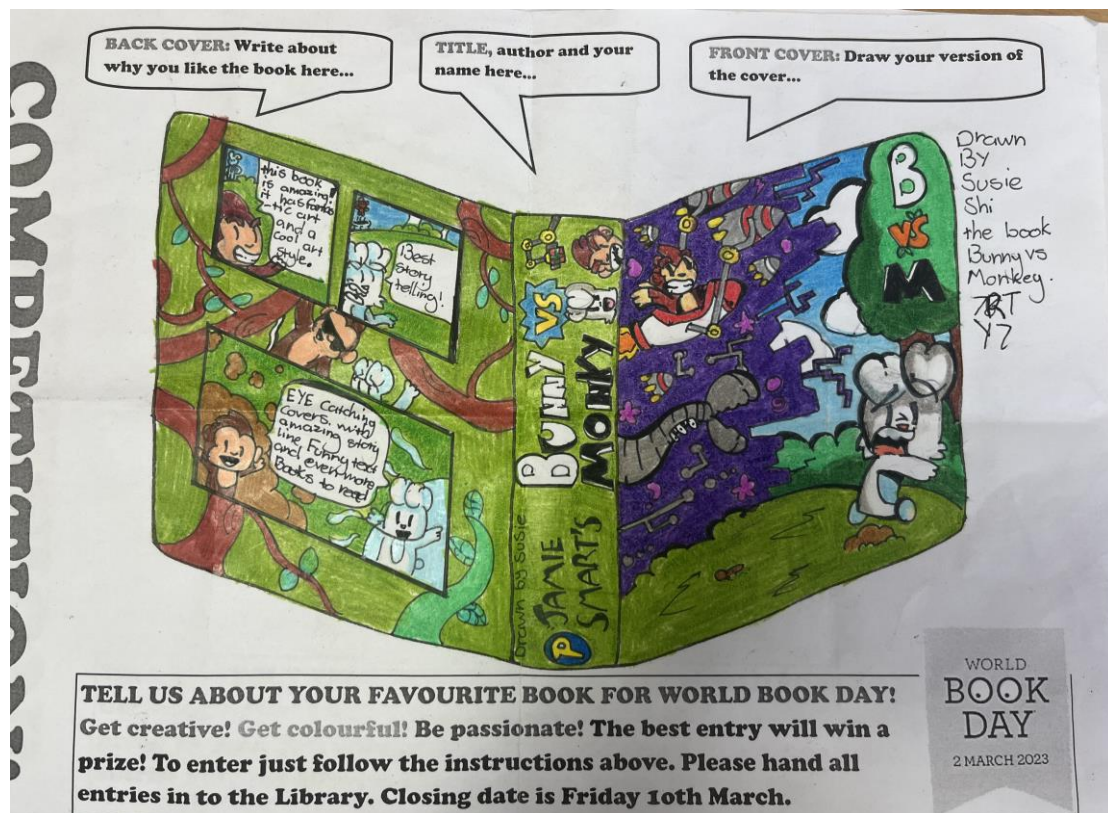
February was World Kindness Month and LGBTQ+ History Month, students wrote kind messages on apples for teachers which are displayed at the front of school as a lovely reminder of how much the students appreciate our staff. Students also studied LGBTQ+ role models in class and learned about the history of equal rights. They also created a pride display encouraging everyone to be who they want to be.

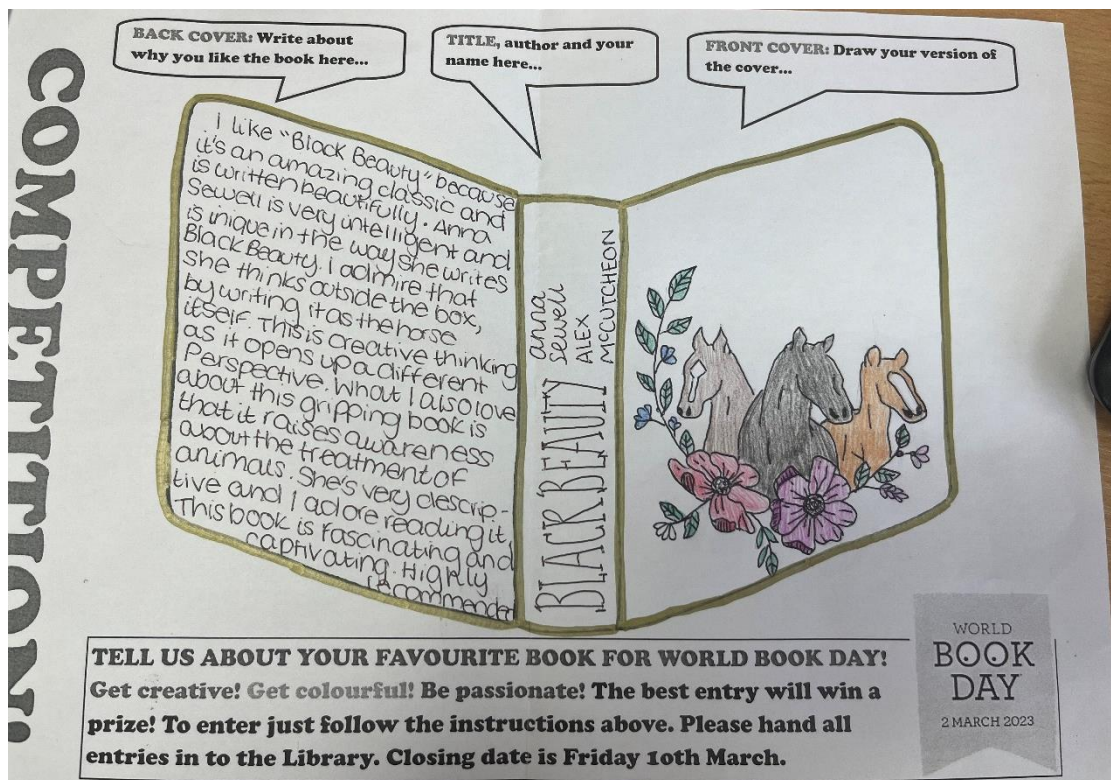


We also celebrated International Women's Day across school, with several subjects studying extraordinary women, female role models and female empowerment.



For World Book Day the library ran a design a poster competition with some fantastic entries.





Sports News

As always our excellent sports stars have been busy and there have been some fantastic successes in various sporting events.

- Daisy Rutherford competed at Year 7 Regional Cross Country representing the school and North Tyneside.
- Year 9 boys played away to Marden in the league cup. The game was close, but 3 goals in the space of 6 minutes meant the tie was won by Marden. The game was played in an excellent spirit by both sets of teams.



- Year 11 boys senior team put in a sterling performance against rivals Whitley Bay in the semi-finals of the under 16s cup. Mr Ayres, who organised the game on behalf of North Tyneside Schools said the spirit of the players shone through as they failed to be defeated by the elements at a rain-lashed Seaton Burn.

The competition was fierce throughout the entire game, and there were many superb team and individual performances. North Gosforth boys were focused and played effectively, Owen Finneran was superb moving and coordinating players up the field and Dylan Clapperton scored an excellent goal.

The score line of 1-5 hardly represents the passion and pure dogged determination of our boys who whole heartedly played to win for every second of the game. True sportsmanship that can only be commended.

- Last week the Year 7 rugby team attended the County 12s Cup. The team played well, improving as the competition developed, playing close games against Blyth and St Thomas Moore. Students played 5 games winning 1, drawing 1 and losing 3. All students performed brilliantly and there is a lot of potential for future rugby ties!
- Miss Binns took Year 9 girls to a cricket tournament at Walker Dome on the 17th March. The girls played brilliantly, beating Ponteland and Valley Gardens. They really enjoyed their day. Y7 and 8 girls were taken to the Walker Dome last week and played against Jesmond Park and St Marys. Our girls beat St Mary's and all of their games were within ten runs either side. This was the student's first experience of cricket and they all performed exceptionally. There will be an outdoor tournament in the summer which everyone is looking forward to.



Important Dates: Summer Term

Monday 17 th April	Students return to school
Tuesday 25 th April	Start of the GCSE Exams
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Monday 8 th May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June	Half Term holiday
Wednesday 21 st June	Transition Evening
Monday 26 th June	Staff Training Day – school closed
Thursday 29 th June	Year 8 Parents Evening
Thursday 13 th July	Year 7 Parents Evening
Friday 21 st July	Last day of term, students dismissed at 12.20pm

I'd like to remind parents that as usual students will be dismissed at 12.20pm on the last day of term, Friday 31st March. Students can get lunch before they depart and buses have been rearranged accordingly.

I hope you have an enjoyable Easter break and look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 17th April.



Pete Fox
Principal