

Principal's Newsletter Half Term 4

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come to the end of another busy half term for staff and students. As you know there have been some changes to the leadership structure in four of the Trust's schools and so this will be my final newsletter to you. After Easter I will be taking up the post of Executive Headteacher overseeing North Gosforth Academy and Great Park Academy. Mrs Cooke will be taking over as Head of School at NGA and will continue to keep you updated each half term with all that has been going on in school.

We also say a sad farewell to Mr Fryer who, after over 7 years at North Gosforth, is moving to Gosforth Junior High to take up the position of Head of School there. We wish him the best of luck in his new role!

Since coming back at the end of February, Year 11 students have completed further mock exams in English, Maths and Science and attendance at extra revision and tutoring sessions has been excellent! 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.

RISE Award

We are delighted to share the news that North Gosforth Academy have won the RISE Community Engagement Award for the North-East. RISE are a leading health and wellbeing charity who are passionate about the role that physical activity can play in making a difference to the communities that need it most.

NGA have been one of the schools in the Opening School Facilities programme which aims to reduce inequalities and get children and young people more active and moving more. The programme ensures that all children, young people and the wider community can access inclusive, fun, safe and needs-led co-designed extra-curricular activities outside of curriculum time – particularly in those communities that experience the most significant health, social and economic inequalities.

We were competing for the Award against 146 other school projects. Our school's project was to link the NGA and Wideopen Juniors girls' teams to allow girls teams to play on Saturdays and train during the week. The link has been a major success, and we now have over 200 girls playing football at NGA each week!



Emma Foody, MP for Killingworth and Cramlington, came to NGA on Saturday to see our project in action, we had 145 girls playing football here that day!



Young Carers

At North Gosforth Academy, we know some of our students will be young carers and we understand that being a young carer can have a significant impact on a young person. A young carer is anyone under the age of 18 who regularly helps to look after someone in their family. This may be a sibling, a parent or another family member. The person they help may have a physical disability, sensory disability, learning disability, mental health issues, chronic illness or substance misuse issues. A young carer may take on additional roles at home, such as laundry, cooking, cleaning, shopping, physical or emotional support.

Support is available in school for students who are young carers. If you have any queries or think these circumstances apply to your child, please contact Miss Binns, our Designated Teacher for Young Carers: ellen.binns@northgosforth.co.uk

World Book Day

On Thursday 6th March the English Department celebrated World Book Day. The event, which is held on the first Thursday of each March, gives everyone the chance to celebrate the reasons why we read. As such, the day saw a range of activities run within the school including a literary treasure hunt, a 'guess the book' quiz and a design your own bookmark competition. There was also an array of staff costumes on display, with the English department dressing up as literary characters!

Congratulations to Alfie, Freya and Jemima who all won themselves a Waterstones voucher.





Northumbria University workshop

On Friday 28th March we had a visitor from Northumbria University in school to run a workshop with our Year 7 students. The students learned about the courses, accommodation and societies available at university. They took part in an activity which encouraged them to consider how they can balance finances, coursework, volunteering, and socialising. The workshop was informative and engaging for our students and we are very grateful to the university for providing it for us.

Renewable Energy Activity Day

Year 8 took part in a Renewable Energy activity day facilitated by Newcastle College. Students had a fantastic time learning about wind turbines and careers within the renewable energy sector. Students got the opportunity to build their own wind turbine in teams and compete against each to see who could produce the most energy.



Sports News

- NUFC ball boy - Ethan Collier will be ball boy at the Crystal Palace game, selected at random, following a nomination by Mr Anderson due to his effort and attitude towards Y11 revision. Ethan also achieved an excellent grade in his English mock.
- KS3 cricket tournament – NGA girls played brilliantly and really enjoyed playing against the other schools. This was the girls first experience of playing competitive cricket at NGA and they conducted themselves very well. Prior to the tournament the girls had been working with Adam from the Northumberland Cricket Board in PE lessons.
- KS4 Cricket tournament – NGA girls went to Jesmond Park Academy and played very well. Their teamwork and attitude were commented on by the organisers. Evie Ramage was player of the day!

Languages department news

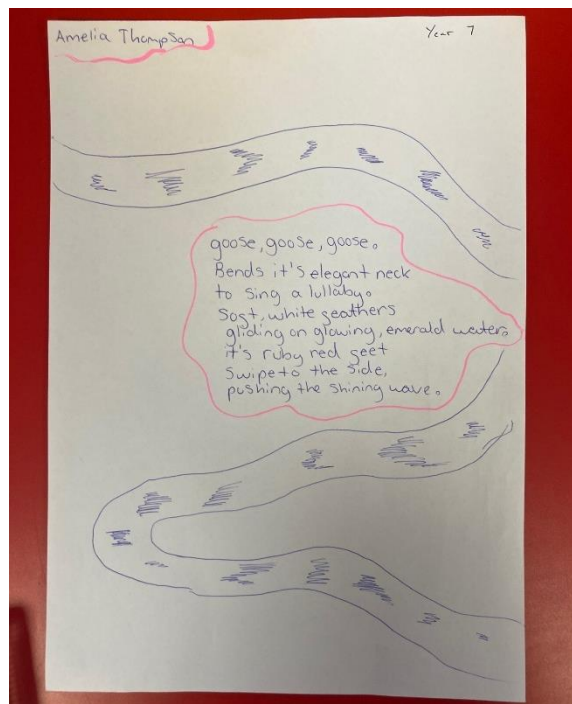
The languages department has been very busy this half term. Some of our Year 9 students attended a live webinar with Pierce Kiemi, Director of the company

FutbolLingo and football coach, to learn about the importance of languages in the world of sports. Students also learned about how they can use their languages to boost their own careers in any future jobs and how the skills languages give us are very valuable to all employers.



Students in Chinese lessons tried their hand at creative translations through the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators, which aims to promote language learning and inspire creativity in the classroom. Year 7 students translated a famous Tang Dynasty poem, while year 10 students worked on the story behind a famous Chinese expression. Students really enjoyed the challenge of finding the balance between accuracy and creativity and produced some amazing results.

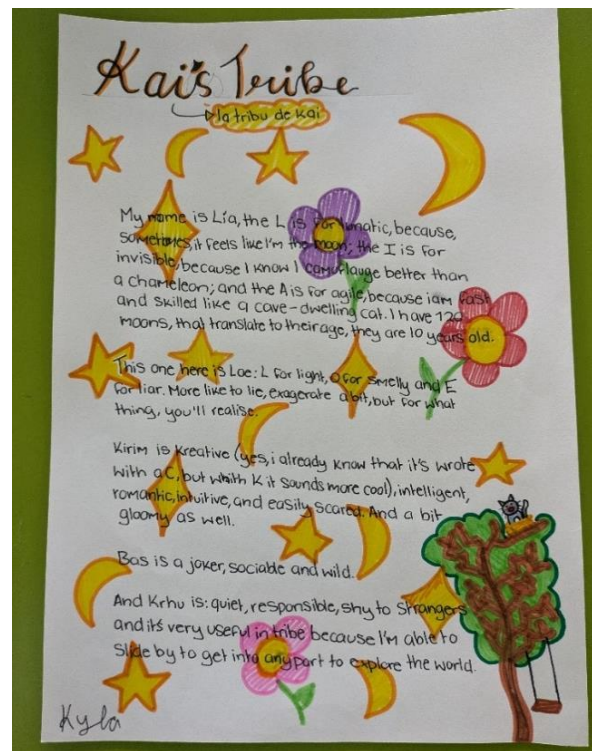
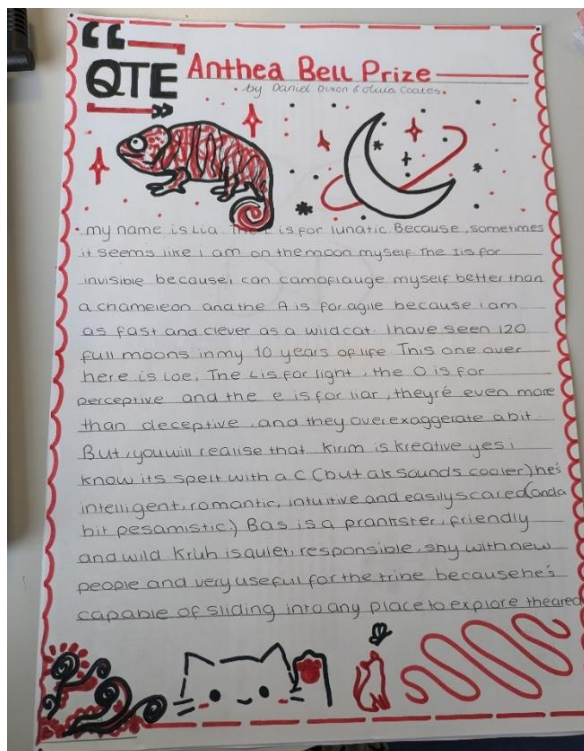
The best five for each category have been entered into the competition and we await the results!

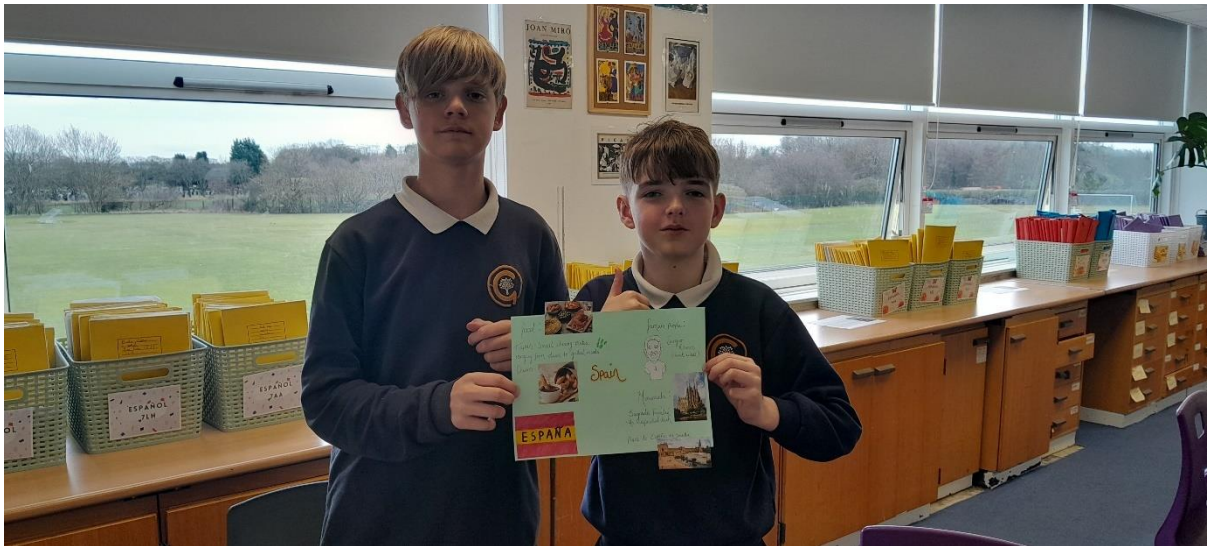


Spanish Culture week

The Languages department celebrated Spanish culture week at NGA and all students across the school participated in a variety of activities including a tutor group quiz and break time language and culture activities and competitions.

Y7 & 8 students did some brilliant research on Spanish speaking countries and created their research project for a big display. Y9 students competed against each other in a language based escape room and Y10 entered the Anthea Bell Translation Prize. Our students' amazing participation in all of these activities will go towards NGA achieving the British Council's International School Award Foundation certificate.





Art department news

It has also been an exciting half term for Art at NGA! We are delighted to share the news that North Gosforth Academy is one of just twenty schools in the UK that has been selected to receive an exciting new art programme. The programme is called 'Sensations', and it is produced by the charity Art in Schools. It brings the great art of the world – and the great art of our students – to our TV monitors, computers, and classrooms every day. It's free and it's entirely for our enjoyment - no exams!

Each week students at North Gosforth Academy have been introduced to Artist work through a digital display of a new art 'exhibition', often on themes which are relevant to our school community. One exhibition, for example, is called *Identity - 'Who Am I?'* and explores personal identity through a range of artworks from Frida Kahlo through Napoleon to . . . Batman! Another is *Masterpieces from the National Gallery* in London.



Helix Arts

We have been lucky to have had the local Artist Fredrick Worrell working with students at North Gosforth Academy in developing their skills in portraiture and with identity and their local environment. Students have worked with layering and mark making using ideas based on the importance of their community and what is important to them.

Frederick has also been working with some of our students within the community on the Weetslade Art Trail, together with other community projects.





Important School Dates next Half Term

Monday 28 th April	First day of term
Wednesday 30 th April	Year 11 Exam Information Evening
Monday 5 th May	Bank Holiday – school closed
Wednesday 7 th May	Year 8 HPV Immunisations
Friday 9 th May	Start of GCSE exams
Friday 23 rd May	Last day of term

Tomorrow is a non-uniform day, and staff on the gate will be collecting voluntary donations to St Oswald's Hospice. Students will be dismissed at 12.25pm, they can get lunch before they leave, and the scholars' buses have been rearranged accordingly.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a fantastic Easter break and look forward to welcoming students back to school on Monday 28th April.

Pete Fox
Principal