

Principal's Newsletter Half Term 3

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come to the end of another busy half term. Year 11 students completed their mock exams at the start of the term. Students worked hard to prepare for these, and we shared their results with them at the end of last week. Over the next half-term we will continue to work with Y11 students through extra revision and tutoring sessions to ensure they are as prepared as they can be for their exams in the summer term.

Pre-Loved uniform

You will have received a letter about our pre-loved uniform scheme. We know that school uniform can be expensive for families and, as such, we are trying to offer a more comprehensive pre-loved uniform service. To make this possible we are requesting donations of uniform items that have been outgrown. These can include sweatshirts, polo shirts, skirts, trousers, PE uniform, shoes and aprons for Food Technology. Uniform item donations can be left at the main school reception at any time. Thank you to all of you that have donated items so far!

Pre-loved uniform can be requested at any time by completing the online [form](#). All requests will be dealt with discreetly and be responded to within 48 hours.

Additionally, items will be displayed and available for parents to choose from at parent's evenings and also on the last Wednesday of every term (9:00am - 12 noon and 1.00pm - 2.30pm), starting on Wednesday 9th April. All items are free to those that need them, but there will be a money donation box on the table if parents wish to make a donation. Any donations received will go towards hygiene products, tights and small stationery items etc.

Thank you in advance for your support in making this initiative a success!

Breakfast Club and Before School Activities

I would also like to remind parents about the free breakfast club in school between 8-8.30am each morning. This is open to all children, and they can choose from toasted bagels, fruit juices and a variety of cereals. There is always a lovely atmosphere with students chatting and getting ready for the school day ahead.

In addition to this, starting after half term, we are delighted to announce that we will be able to offer some before school activities for students to get involved in.

These activities will take place between 8-8.30am and all students taking part will be offered a free breakfast. We will also be offering prizes/incentives for different groups around most attended and competition winners. These will include trips to the NUcastle building, NUFC merchandise etc.

The activities on offer from after half term are:

- Indoor football/futsal tournament (Gym/Sports Hall) - to enter a team and for more details, students should see Mr Rebucha
- Early morning darts league. Students to see Mr Ayres or Mr Kenyon to sign up.

- Early morning gym session (25 min use of the fitness suite). Students to see Mr Ayres or Mr Kenyon to sign up.

We are always looking at ways to improve and widen the offering for our students and will keep you updated.

Trips and Events

We have had many interesting trips out and events taking place around school this half term.

Waterstones and NUFC Stadium tour reading rewards trip

On the last day of last term, we took a group of lucky students to St. James Park for a stadium tour and to Waterstones to choose a new book. This was a literacy rewards trip for our most improved, top scoring readers from Years 7 and 8. This annual trip is funded by the NU Foundation.

Students were taken to St James Park where they had a tour of the stadium, went to the top of the stands, viewed the private boxes, visited the players dressing rooms and even got a chance to run down the tunnel as the players do on a matchday.

This was followed by a trip to Waterstones to choose a lovely new book to take home and read. The students all had a fantastic time and enjoyed the perfect last day to finish the term.





UK Maths Trust: Intermediate Maths Challenge 2025

Huge congratulations to the Year 9 and 10 Mathematicians at North Gosforth Academy who competed in the UK Maths Trust: Intermediate Maths Challenge 2025. This is a competitive national competition that mixes problem solving, logic and wider lateral thinking skills; these students have been rewarded with prestigious Silver and Gold certificates. A deserved congratulations and well done to all those who took part in the competition!



Spanish Spelling Bee

The final of the Spanish spelling bee was held last week, and our Year 7 & 8 finalists were absolutely amazing. Everyone participated and the MFL department were blown away by the knowledge students had and their attitude towards the competition. A huge well done to our Y7 & 8 winners





Calligraphy workshops

Chinese teachers from Newcastle University visited North Gosforth Academy to run a calligraphy workshop for students in Years 7 and 8, as a reward for their hard work, engagement and improvement in Chinese lessons. As well as learning how to use a calligraphy brush to write characters such as 'luck' and 'wealth', students learnt about Chinese New Year traditions and took part in an impromptu lion dance around the Chinese classroom.



NETBA Reading Group 2025

In January, twelve students from Years 7, 8 and 9 started on the NETBA journey, which sees them reading 6 books of differing genres within a 2 month period. Every Friday lunchtime the students meet in the library to discuss the books, rank them in order of favourite and enjoy the odd chocolate biscuit. When they have read all the books, we submit the scores for each book along with hundreds of other schools and eventually a winner is decided. Hopefully our favourite book will be the winning title.



Peer Mentors

20 students from Years 8 & 9 have completed their Peer Mentor training provided by Connect Mental Health. The students have learnt how to provide support and guidance to their peers

and are looking forward to helping other students and being involved in transition with the Year 6 students.



Fire and Rescue service

The Fire and Rescue service came in to speak to Year 7 students about deliberate fire starting and anti-social behaviour. The students learned the legal and life-threatening implications of starting fires, however small they may seem. They came up with strategies on how to respond if ever pressured to start a fire and learned how firefighters respond to calls. The session was very engaging, and the students provided some excellent answers.

Kooth

Kooth delivered assemblies to all year groups around mental health last week. Kooth is an online mental health and wellbeing service for children and young people. It is free to use and is always available and can be a valuable resource to students, particularly during school holiday time. Want to learn more about Kooth? [Check out their FAQs for parents and carers.](#)

Sports News

Year 7, 8 and 9 boys' and girls' futsal teams have played in the Northumberland Futsal league, with all years winning games and some narrowly losing competitive games, we wait to find out which teams have progressed to the North East finals. We hope to be represented by a number of teams.

Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 boys' football teams have been busy in the North Tyneside 7 aside championships. Again we have been very competitive in all games, Year 10 have won all 4 of

their games, Year 7 won 3 out of 4 and Years 8 and 9 won 2 out of the 4. We look forward to the last set of games coming up in March.

Year 7 and 8 girls recently played Burnside in small, sided games, one team winning 5-4 and the other narrowly losing 4-3. All girls performed very well in cold conditions.

Our U13 girls narrowly lost 4-3 in the ESFA national cup 3rd round against Lord Lawson school, this was after an excellent win against Ashington in the 2nd round. The U15s girls are preparing for their 3rd round tie against Keiper school after the February holiday.

We have more games to fit in after half term before the end of the season – we wish our teams the best of luck!

Wallington Hall

In this last week selected student in Years 7-10 have been taken on day trips to Wallington Hall as a reward for excellent behaviour, attendance and attitude to learning. The students enjoyed their day out walking the grounds, bird watching, and playing in the many parks. The National Trust staff, as well as a member of the public, complemented our students on their good manners and were glad to see them enjoy the day.









Important School Dates Half Term 4

Monday 3 rd March	First day of term
Wednesday 5 th March	Careers Fair
Thursday 6 th March	Year 9 Options Evening
Friday 7 th March	Year 9 Taster Day
Thursday 27 th March	Year 10 Parent's Evening
Friday 11 th April	Last day of term (students dismissed at 12.25pm)

Finally, I would like to wish you all a fantastic half term break! I look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 3rd March.



Pete Fox

Principal