

Principal's Newsletter Half Term 2

Dear Parents/Carers,

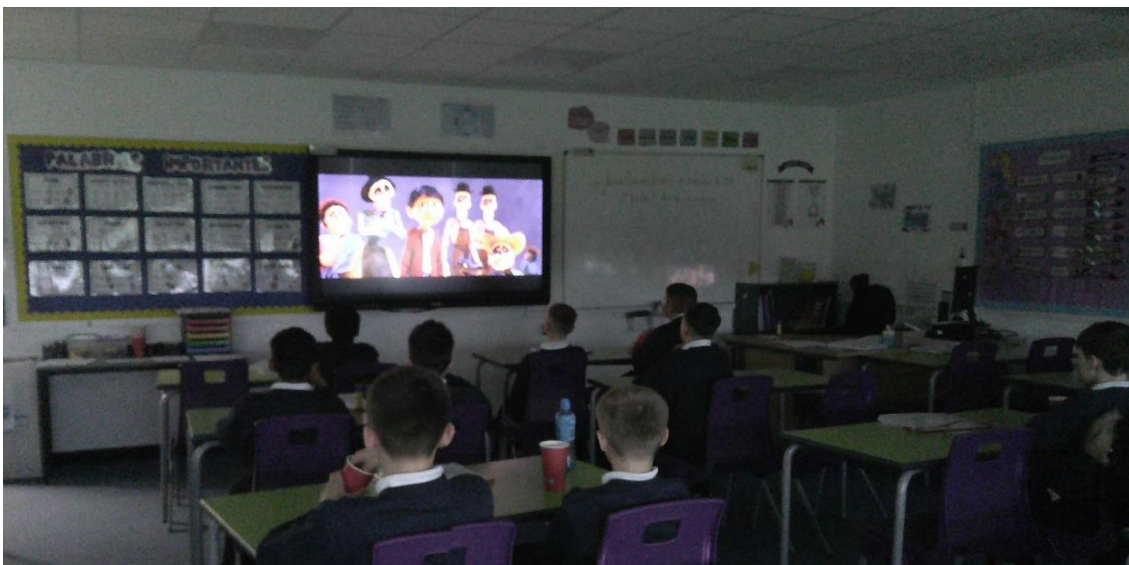
It is the last day of term tomorrow and I would like to start by thanking parents for their support during this term. I am so proud of our students and staff for their hard work and dedication in what has been a very successful first term of 2024/25.

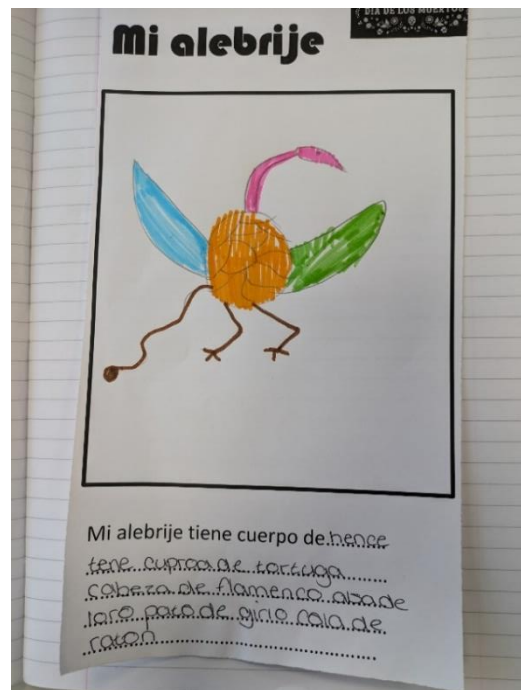
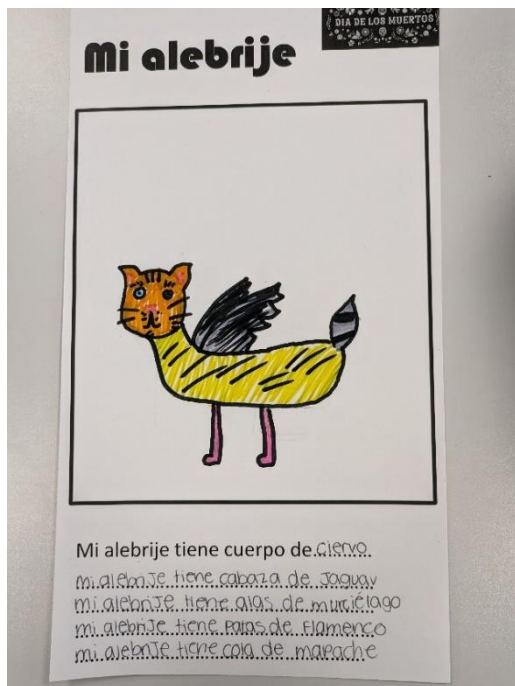
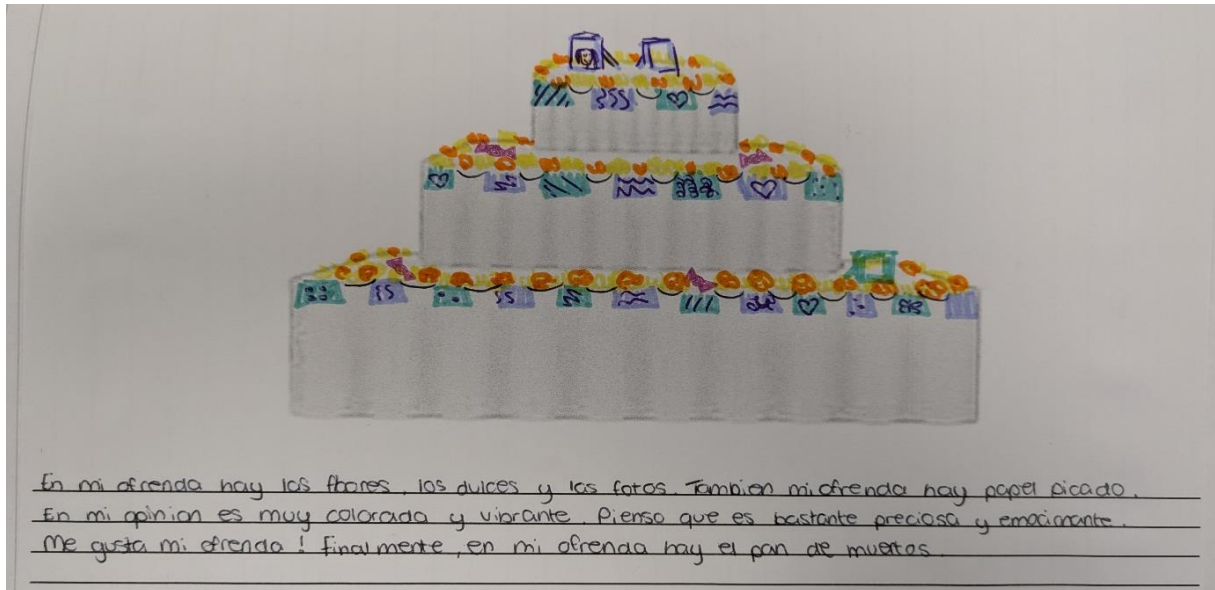
Ofsted were in school on the 26th and 27th November and we have received their draft report. It is wonderful to hear so many positive comments praising our brilliant students and staff. We were especially delighted with the student and parent voice which overwhelmingly confirmed that students and parents are happy at North Gosforth Academy. We will let you know when the final report is published on our website so you can read what they had to say.

It has been an extremely busy half term as you can see below!

Day of the Dead

We kicked off the start of the second half term with Day of the Dead week celebrations! Year 9 Students designed and described their own Ofrendas, which are traditional altars inside family homes during the festive period. They are often decorated with photos of loved ones, flowers, papel picado, food, drink and traditional items. Year 7 & 8 students described and designed their own Alebrije's - an animal spirit guide made up of lots of different animals and bright colours which are said to guide souls on their journeys. Year 10 & 11 joined in on the Day of the Dead fun with "serpentinās" - paper streamers which are commonly found during the Day of the Dead festival, and in MFL cinema club, students enjoyed their popcorn while watching Coco!





Sparx Maths

We were absolutely delighted to win the Sparx Maths School of the Month national competition in October! We are extremely proud of all of the students for their hard work and dedication to their Maths homework.

Reading

Esther in Year 8 and Rebecca in Year 7 are top readers in both year groups this term. Between them they have amassed over 5 million words and read 53 books since September, passing the Accelerated Reader Quiz for each book read. A fantastic achievement that will certainly help their English class win the most words read challenge. For several students who had read more than 100,000 words in our word count challenge, Christmas came early when they all received the much-coveted gold token. They were then able to pick any book from the Book Vending

Machine as a reward, thus enabling them to have a lovely new book to read over the Christmas holidays. A further reward for our top readers is a trip to Waterstones and a stadium tour of St James' on the last day of term.



Fundraising

Children in Need

Once again, our students have demonstrated their kind nature in their efforts to raise money for this year's Children in Need campaign. Our amazing Student Leadership Team organised and ran a bake sale which was a massive success.



Many of our Key Stage 3 students took on the challenge to travel the distance of 300 miles (NGA to London) to raise money. Students were sponsored by family and friends to take turns to cover the distance by running, rowing and biking in our fitness suite. The students kept a running total of distance covered throughout and kept the live map updated as we passed cities such as Leeds, Sheffield and Peterborough along the way! All students involved really put a massive effort in and with about 7 minutes to spare, the Year 9 group got us over the line, reaching London and achieving our target!





Together our students raised just under £240 in total for the charity, a huge well done to all involved for a brilliant achievement!

Local Foodbank

Tutor groups across the whole school have been working hard to collect donations for the local foodbank at Greenfields Community Primary school. As always, our students and their families showed wonderful generosity and we know that their donations will be gratefully received by families in need at this time.



Trips

Many of our students have enjoyed fantastic trips out of school this half term.

Kirkley Hall

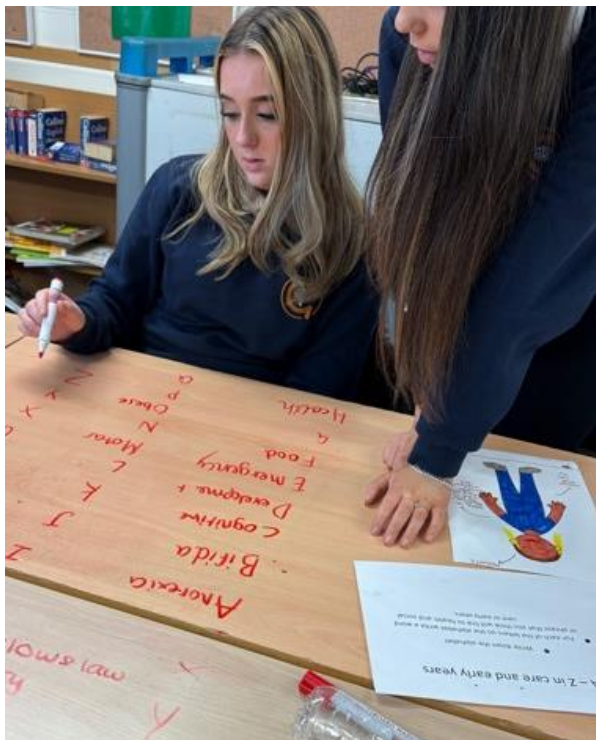
On Friday 15th November, a group of Year 11's were taken to visit Kirkley Hall to explore future prospects. Students spent time looking into engineering, animal care and agriculture. They were taken on a tour of the site and took part in some educational talks, as well as getting

hands on with some tasks! Kirkley Hall is an expansive site with so many options for students to choose from for life after high school and beyond.



Tyne Met College

On Tuesday 19th November, Year 11 visited Tyne Metropolitan College. Students experienced a small snippet of what the college has to offer, looking at life after North Gosforth Academy. There were sessions on construction, childcare, hair & beauty, art, and much more - although these were only a few of the hundreds of courses on offer. They got hands on creating engineering feats and learning how to curl hair, as well as taking a tour around the opportunities within plumbing, electricals, bricklaying, etc.





Cyber Security STEM Event St James' Park

Year 8 Girls attended a fantastic Cyber Security STEM event at St James' Park a few weeks ago. The event was organised by the Newcastle United Foundation in collaboration with Sage to engage young girls to pursue careers within the tech industry. The girls took part in a carousel of activities throughout the day with representatives from Sage, Newcastle United Foundation, Cyber First, Newcastle University, BT, Cyber North, Sapphire and many more. It was a fantastic event to be part of and the girl's behaviour was exceptional with some wonderful feedback about how engaged the girls were. Special shout out to Lily McMahon, Rosie Martin and Ellie Owen who won Superdrug vouchers for winning the Cyber Security Quiz.





Sunderland University Visit

A group of Year 10's recently enjoyed an exciting trip to Sunderland University's St Peter's Campus in collaboration with Villiers Park Educational Trust, aimed at sparking curiosity and engagement with universities, specifically within the field of STEM. The day was packed with hands on seminars and activities designed to introduce students to cutting-edge technology and innovation while showcasing the real-world applications of STEM fields. They delved into the fundamentals of robotics and coded robots to compete in a battle arena and were introduced to the world of 3D imaging and design. Beyond the practical activities, there were insightful discussions about career pathways in STEM and experts from Sunderland University and Villiers Park shared their experiences and advice, inspiring students to think about how they might contribute to these exciting fields in the future.

Children North East and The KEY charity

Children North East and The KEY charity have partnered together to provide support to a handful of our students on their transition into high school. 2 groups of students worked on their own project to plan an activity of their choice. The first group went to Jump Giants and the second group tested out their skills on the racetrack at TopGear Karting. We have loved having Karissa with us to run the project and provide our students with a fantastic experience working on group and individual skills.





A Christmas Carol

On Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th December, we were delighted to take students from Years 10 and 11 to watch a live performance of Dickens' classic, A Christmas Carol, at the Northern Stage Theatre in Newcastle. A Christmas Carol is studied by all students in Key Stage 4 and is a key component of their Literature Paper 1 exam. The play was a unique interpretation of the much-loved Christmas tale and helped students to consolidate their knowledge about Scrooge's journey to redemption. Students were excellently behaved and very much enjoyed the performance.



Altitude Visit

Yesterday, 9 students from years 7 and 8 visited the Altitude Headquarters at The Lumen in the centre of Newcastle. The students were able to see their hard work brought to life in the form of 3D printed objects. Students were blown away by the technology and the 3D printers but also the building and its views of the city. We have some future coders in the making. Many thanks to Altitude for your support and hospitality, the students loved it!

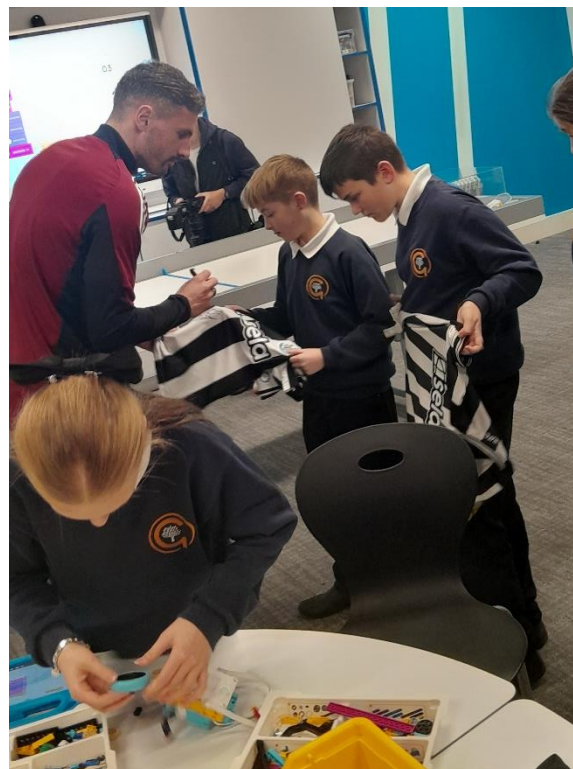


Rewards Trips

As a reward for their hard work and dedication in attending after school intervention and working diligently towards their exams in the first half term we took a group of Year 11's out for their lunch at Sambucas at the start of term. Last week we took a group to the Metrocentre for the afternoon following their English Literature mock exam as a well done for keeping up the hard work this half term.

St James Park trip

Last week 15 students were invited along to NUcastle – the Newcastle United Foundation building to take part in a STEM workshop and play dodgeball using augmented reality technology. The students were also surprised with a visit from Newcastle United players Fabian Schar and John Ruddy. Students got their shirts signed and had a chance to get their photos taken with the players.



In these final two weeks of term the top attenders in all year groups have been taken on trips to the National Trust property, Cragside, in Rothbury. Students enjoyed visiting the house and gardens, seeing the world's largest Christmas tree and even some fun in the play area!





Christmas Show

Last night the NGA Theatre came alive as we hosted the annual Christmas Concert. Our very talented drama club students performed their very own version of the Panto classic, Cinderella. The script was written especially for NGA by Mrs Hindhaugh and Freya Hemsley in year 7. It was a fantastic night which showcased our very talented singers, musicians and drama club. The recently formed NGA choir excelled at bringing tears to everyone's eyes with the Christmas Classic Silent Night.



Important School Dates next half term

Monday 6 th January	First day of term
Monday 13 th January	Start of Year 11 mock exams
Thursday 20 th February	Year 9 Parents Evening
Friday 21 st February	School breaks up for Half Term

Tomorrow is a Christmas jumper/non-uniform day. As is usual on the last day of a full term, students will be dismissed at 12.25pm. Students can get lunch before they leave and the scholars buses have been rearranged accordingly.

Kooth wellbeing support

With the winter break fast approaching, we appreciate there will be some young people who may struggle during the holidays without the access to the daily pastoral support, teaching staff and friends that the school community provides. Seasonal illness and the closure of many services at this time of year can also lead to extended wait times for support across both adult and young people's NHS and community services.

Kooth offers free and anonymous therapeutic mental health and wellbeing support to young people in North Tyneside aged between 11-25 and services remain available over the school holidays, offering 'on the day' wellbeing support from the comfort of your own home, via any web-enabled device via the following website www.kooth.com.

Kooth offers free access to online text-based practitioner chats, self-help tools and activities, journal spaces and advice from non-judgemental, safe and moderated peer:peer communities. With no threshold, waiting list or referral process, young people can access support for ANY issues they may be experiencing.

Kooth can be contacted directly on email at parents@kooth.com if you have any questions for them. A selection of Parent/Carer resources can be accessed using this link: [Kooth. Parent & Carer resources](#)

Finally, I would like to wish you all a fantastic festive break! I look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 6th January 2024.



Pete Fox
Principal