

## Principal's Newsletter Half term 1

Dear Parent/Carer,

We come to the end of an excellent and busy first half term of this academic year. Students have made a really positive start and are focussed and working hard. Attendance has also been excellent across all year groups. Our new Year 7 students have made a great start to their time here at North Gosforth Academy. Feedback from staff has been fantastic and I have been really impressed with how smart they all look and with their behaviour and attitude to their learning.

### Communications from school

The vast majority of school communications will be via email and/or text. It is therefore essential that all parents/carers ensure that we have a valid email address and phone number as school letters or information will be sent via these means, as opposed to a printed letter. Please also ensure that you have notifications turned on for the School Gateway App and please check your emails regularly so that information is not missed.

### Free Breakfast

A simple way to ensure that your child is ready for the school day is to ensure they have a healthy breakfast. We would like to remind all parents that we are part of the National School Breakfast Programme and are lucky enough to be able to offer **every child** a free breakfast at school every day.

All your child needs to do is be at the school dining hall between 8:00-8:30 each morning to get their free breakfast. There are toasted bagels, fruit juices and a variety of cereals on offer and always a lovely atmosphere with students chatting and getting ready for the school day ahead.

The benefits of a healthy breakfast for teenagers include:

- Improved concentration
- Better behaviour
- Healthier lifestyle
- Happier students

In addition to these benefits, it is also a way to ensure that students are in school on time, and it gives them the opportunity to interact with staff and their peers to develop their social skills. Research has shown that where there are breakfast clubs, students have an increased ability in reading, writing and maths by two months, compared to schools with no breakfast club.

Research with students, in schools across England, indicates that students think eating breakfast will help them to concentrate and be more focused in class.

## **Welcome to Y11 Parent Evening**

On the 18<sup>th</sup> September we had our 'Welcome to Y11 parents evening. It was a great opportunity to find out more information about key events throughout the academic year for Year 11 students and how parents and carers can support them during their final year in the run up to their GCSE exams. The evening was a great success and it was great to see parents and students so invested in their focus to work towards doing the best they can in school and at home. If you couldn't attend the evening but would still like to see the presentations then please contact Mr Easton on [chris.easton@northgosforth.co.uk](mailto:chris.easton@northgosforth.co.uk).

## **Young Carers**

At North Gosforth Academy, we know some of our students will be young carers. We understand that being a young carer can have a significant impact on a young person.

A young carer is someone "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 may have a disability, mental health issue, chronic health problems or substance issues". They may support with; cooking, cleaning, washing, shopping, paying bills or providing emotional support to the person they care for.

Our designated teacher for young carers is Miss Binns (Lead Teacher of Pastoral Care). If you think your child might be a young carer, please get in touch with Miss Binns at [ellen.binns@northgosforth.co.uk](mailto:ellen.binns@northgosforth.co.uk)

## **Anti-Bullying Ambassador's**

Bullying is unacceptable and is not tolerated at North Gosforth. Mrs Barton is our dedicated anti-bullying lead and we also have anti-bullying student ambassadors who are working on achieving the Diana Award.

Any child on child incident can be reported by contacting the school and the relevant Head of Year. We also have an anonymous QR Code. Scan the below code with your phone camera and complete the form:



At the end of last academic year, the Anti-Bullying Ambassador's launched a summer poster competition with the theme of 'Equal Rights'. The beautiful art work was showcased at our Opening Evening on Wednesday 25th September. As you can see, we had some amazing entries.



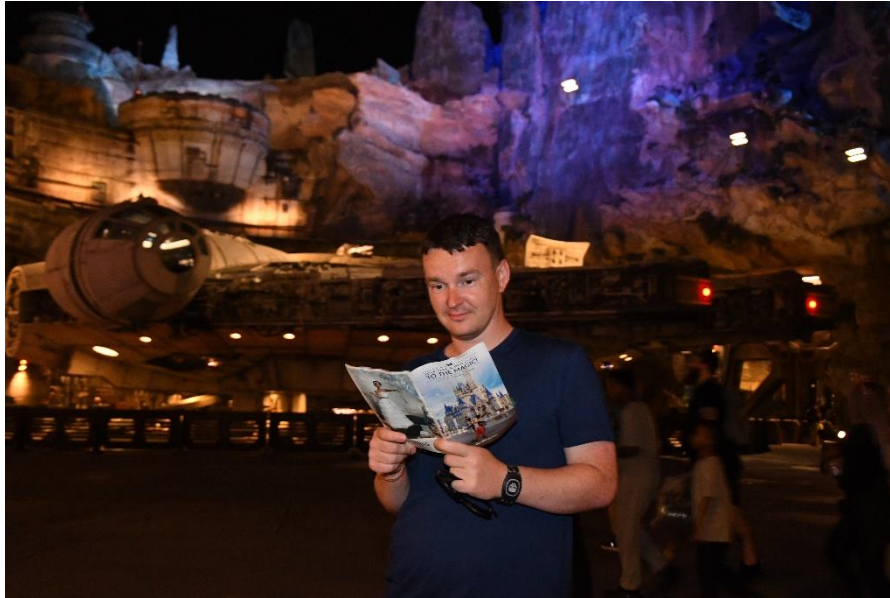
### **Friendship Fayre**

Year 7 took part in a 'Friendship Fayre' a few weeks ago during registration where they had the opportunity and stimulus to get to know and speak to people who have similar interests to them.



## Read Anywhere Challenge!

At the start of the term, the English department launched their 'Read Anywhere Challenge'. The challenge to students was to get a picture of themselves reading in a unique location and share it with their English teacher. Everyone that entered earned a prize!



## Reading Champions!

We have been delighted to celebrate our 'Reading Champions' this half term. Congratulations to Alfie, Amelia, Lucas, Lawson, Rosie and Joshua!





### Altitude Foundation

Altitude have returned to North Gosforth Academy for the second year to support our future coders. Lots of year 7 students have joined the fortnightly Code Cooperatives. All are enthusiastically working on a 3D printing project which will culminate in a visit to the Altitude Headquarters in Newcastle to see their design brought to life.



## Extra-Curricular

Students have really developed their Chess Skills since the start of term and had great fun in the process! We are pleased to announce that 5 students have been awarded "Knight" Certificates in recognition of their amazing progress. A range of certificates are available - up to the level of Grand Master.



The Arts & Crafts afterschool club have been busy this term making spooky Halloween decorations. If anyone is interested in coming along, please speak to the SEN team.



## European Languages week

We had an incredible week here at NGA for Languages week. Students enjoyed lots of different activities and competitions around school and heard a lot about why it is important to learn another language.

Congratulations to the winners of the various competitions who all received a prize!



## Art Department

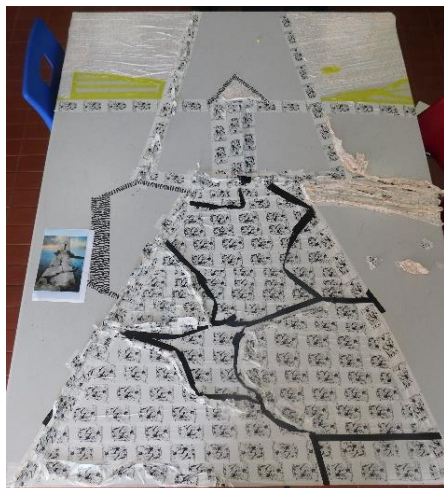
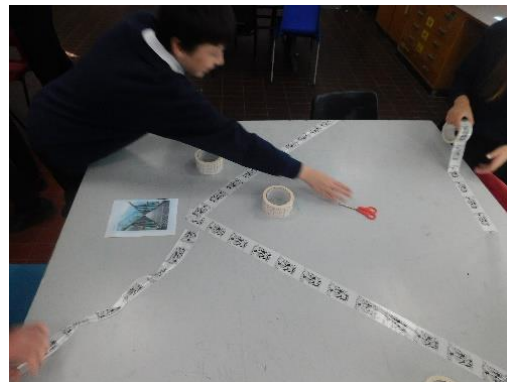
Our Year 10 Art students were taken on a trip to the Quayside and the Baltic and Hatton Art Galleries as part of their project on Structure. They explored the different man-made and natural structures that they could find down on the Quayside. Then they visited Joanne Coates' photography exhibition on 'Middle of Somewhere' looking at how she records places and spaces that are important to her. At the Hatton

Gallery they saw the Mali Morris exhibition where she explores colour and how colours work together. Experiencing these artists work first hand will inspire our students when working on different structures for their project.



Year 8 Art students have been working on a perspective project and were challenged to create perspective images working with tape.

Here are a few photos of the working teams and their response to creating perspective images onto tables, demonstrating great teamwork.



## Wallington Hall Trip

This week 14 students from Year 8 were chosen to go on a trip to Wallington Hall as a reward for their excellent behaviour and attitude to learning!



## Newcastle United Foundation

33 Year 10 Food Tech students were invited to St James' Park by the Newcastle United Foundation, to take part in a 'Choose Hospitality' event. The day consisted of activities, including students trying to set a fine dining table from memory and a drinks service relay race. There was also a panel discussion with people who are already working within the industry.



## Student success

Our Y9 girls football team played their first games of the season in the first round of the Central Venue League in Cramlington.



Tristan and Kieron in Year 10 have both been selected to play for North Tyneside County team, we are very proud of them!



Dalton in Year 7 took part in his first vocal competition at Tees Valley Theatre Organisation. There were 74 competitors in the junior section, Dalton was the only boy to make it to the finals, where he achieved 4th place. Well done!



Ellie in Year 8 has continued her success in gymnastics at recent competitions in Liverpool and Durham. Ellie has now been selected to represent the north of England at the finals as part of a team in November. Good luck Ellie!



Daisy and Amy have been signed for the year with the Newcastle United Foundation's Emerging Talent Centre. They will be playing Rotherham United FC next week. Good luck for the season Daisy and Amy!



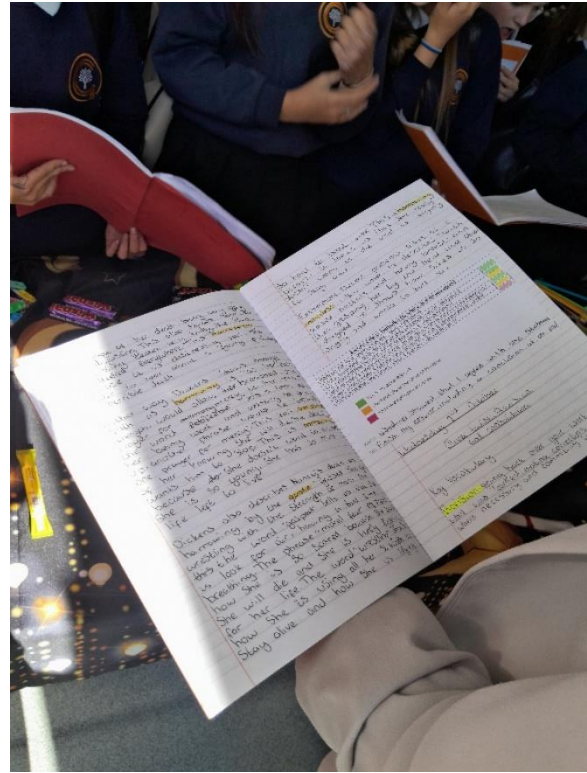
On Wednesday 23rd October, a group of students from across all year groups took part in the Schools Cross Country Championships at Monkseaton High School. All students competed to the best of their ability and were a credit to the school competing against the best runners in North Tyneside.

Special mention to Lily and Keira in Year 9 who, out of a field of 92 runners, finished 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> respectively and have now qualified for the regional finals at Temple Park.



## PRAISE

We have continued our regular PRAISE events at break times which continue to have an excellent turnout and a real buzz of positivity! The books that students bring to show us are full of outstanding work all of which is beautifully presented and shows the progress students are making in class. Many students are keen to tell us how they have improved their work in so many ways which is lovely to hear. Our students are very proud of their achievements, and we are incredibly proud of them too!



## Important School Dates Half Term 2

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	First day of term
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 11 Parents Evening
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 7 Tutor Evening
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Flu Vaccinations
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Y10 trip to see A Christmas Carol
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Y11 trip to see A Christmas Carol
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 11 Revision Evening
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term (students dismissed at 12.25pm)

Finally, I would like to wish you all a fantastic and restful half term break!

**Pete Fox**  
**Principal**