

Dear Parents, Carers, and Members of Our School Community,

As we wrap up an exciting and productive half term, I'm delighted to share some of the highlights from across our school community. From cultural celebrations like Día de los Muertos and international projects with our partner school in Spain, to inspiring STEM events and university visits, our students have embraced every opportunity to learn and grow.

Year 11 have shown fantastic focus and determination as they completed their mock exams this month, demonstrating a mature and committed approach to their studies. We've also celebrated sporting success and rewarded outstanding attendance—and what better way to finish the term than with our festive silent disco, a brilliant celebration of everyone's hard work!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible staff for their dedication and commitment throughout the term, and our parents and carers for their ongoing support—it truly makes a difference.

As we look ahead to January, please remember that North Gosforth Academy's uniform expectations remain in place: no trainers or leggings, skirts should be of an appropriate length, and jewellery should be minimal (one pair of small stud earrings and a watch only). As always, please get in touch if you need any support around school uniform. Thank you for helping us maintain these high standards.

Finally, I hope you all enjoy some well-deserved family time over the festive period.

Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year!



Susanna Cooke
Head of School

Mental Health Support

If anyone needs support during the holidays, please remember that help is available:

- Kooth (free online mental health support for young people): www.kooth.com
- Mind (mental health advice and resources): www.mind.org.uk
- Young Minds (support for children and parents): www.youngminds.org.uk
- Samaritans (24/7 listening service): Call 116 123 or visit www.samaritans.org

Looking after mental health is just as important as physical health, and we encourage everyone to take time to rest and recharge.

Important School Dates Half Term 3

Monday 5 th January	First day of term
Monday 12 th January	Year 9 Immunisations
Thursday 22 nd January	Year 11 Parent's Evening
Sunday 8 th -Sunday 15 th February	Ski Trip
Friday 13 th February	Last day of term

Charity Donations

We are delighted to share our heartfelt thanks to the local charity '[Out of Sight](#)', based in Dudley, for their incredible generosity and support. When we reached out for help in stocking our Personal Care Resource—a space where any student can access essential hygiene items such as sanitary products, toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, shower gel, and more—they went above and beyond.

Not only did Out of Sight donate a range of products, but they also organised a tombola and a "Guess the Teddy's Name" competition to raise additional funds. Thanks to their efforts, an amazing £400 was raised to help us continue providing this vital support for our student community. We are truly grateful for their kindness and commitment.

This fantastic charity does so much for the local community, including running a Youth Club at the John Willie Sams Centre every Monday evening (6:00–8:00 pm) for young people aged 11–18. They also offer free travel to and from supermarkets on Tuesdays and host a 'Free Food Friday' initiative. Their work is making a real difference, and we are proud to partner with them.







Academy News

International School Award

As part of our journey towards achieving the intermediate certificate from the British Council's International School Award, we have been paired with a school in Zaragosa, Spain to collaborate on cultural and language-based projects.

Our first activity is already underway: Year 7 students have been creating and sending Christmas cards written in Spanish to our partner school. This counts as one of the three required activities for the year and is an exciting step toward earning the intermediate-level certificate, which recognises schools committed to developing a global outlook.

Over the coming months, you'll see lots of cultural projects happening in MFL classrooms and across the school, helping students broaden their horizons and celebrate internationalism.

To learn more about the British Council's International School Award click [here](#).

Celebrating Día de los Muertos

Students embraced the vibrant Mexican festival Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) during Spanish lessons and through a range of activities and competitions around school during social times.

A highlight was the incredible work by some Year 7 and 8 students who created a replica of a traditional Mexican Ofrenda—a decorative shrine that is central to the celebration. In Mexico, these ofrendas are displayed in homes as a way to honour and remember loved ones who have passed away.

Our students crafted paper candles and flowers to decorate the shrine and dedicated it to famous Spanish-speaking celebrities from the past. It was a wonderful way to combine creativity, culture, and language learning.

Well done to everyone who took part!



Year 10 Chemistry Trip

Our Year 10 students recently visited Newcastle University for an inspiring chemistry experience organised by Villiers Park. The focus of the day was on hydrogen as a sustainable fuel, exploring its potential to power a greener future. Students had the chance to see cutting-edge research in action and deepen their understanding of renewable energy solutions.





Sunderland University Trip

Fifteen Year 10 students enjoyed an exciting visit to Sunderland University, sponsored and organised by Villiers Park. The aim of the trip was to give students a taste of university life and inspire them to consider higher education opportunities.

During the day, students explored Robotics and STEM subjects, taking part in a hands-on challenge where they programmed robot cars to stay within designated circles and even push other vehicles out of the way! They also toured the Media and Law departments, gaining insight into the wide range of courses and facilities available at the university.

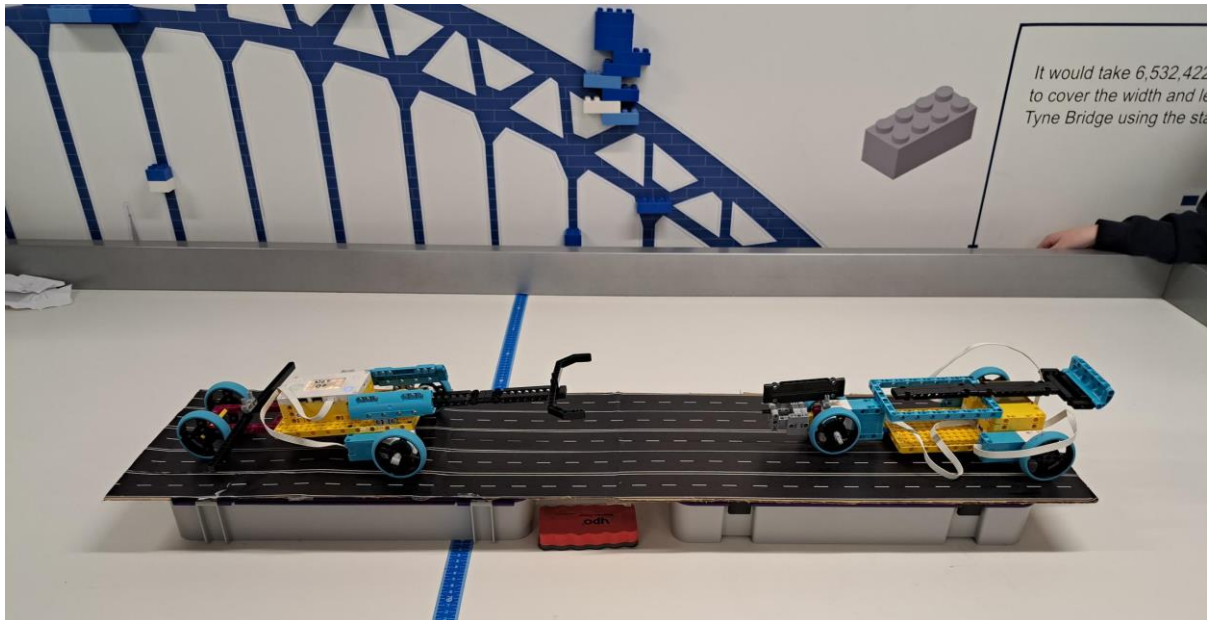
It was a fantastic experience that combined practical learning with future aspirations—well done to all who took part!



NUF Attendance reward

On 10th December, students who had achieved 100% attendance were rewarded with an exciting trip to NUCASTLE. Year 7 and Year 8 students enjoyed a fun morning, taking part in Robot Wars in the STEM room and testing their skills in the eSports gaming zone.

A fantastic way to celebrate commitment and perseverance—well done to all our high-attendance achievers!



Digital Futures Academy

Students were invited to NUCASTLE, the Newcastle United Foundation's state-of-the-art community hub, for their introduction to the Newcastle Digital Futures Academy. This exciting programme, supported by DXC Technology, offers a four-year journey for students aged 12–16, providing hands-on experience, mentorship, and STEM skills development in a cutting-edge STEM and eSports hub.

Students explored robotics and programming challenges and tested their skills in interactive tech sessions. This hands-on experience was a fantastic way to inspire creativity and develop problem-solving skills in a real-world context.



	Group 1 (Yellow)	Group 2 (Green)	Group 3 (Purple)	Group 4 (Blue)	Group 5 (Orange)
10:30-10:55	Autonomous Cars	VR	Game Design	Build a PC	Tech Doodle
10:55-11:20	Tech Doodle	Autonomous Cars	Game Design	Build a PC	Tech Doodle
11:20-11:45	Build a PC	Tech Doodle	Autonomous Cars	Game Design	Build a PC
11:45-12:10	Game Design	Build a PC	Autonomous Cars	VR	Game Design
12:10-12:35	VR	Game Design	Autonomous Cars	VR	Game Design



Empower STEM Event at St James' Park

A group of Year 8 girls attended an inspiring Empower STEM event at St James' Park, aimed at championing female participation in science, technology, engineering, and maths.

Hosted by Sage, the event brought together over 40 employers from across the North East, showcasing the incredible range of careers and opportunities available in STEM fields.

Throughout the day, students took part in hands-on activities designed to spark curiosity and build confidence. They met professionals from industries such as cybersecurity, technology, and engineering, who shared insights into their roles and offered guidance on future pathways.

This event was a fantastic opportunity for our students to explore new ideas, ask questions, and discover the exciting possibilities that STEM careers can offer. They left feeling motivated, informed, and empowered about their futures in these growing fields.

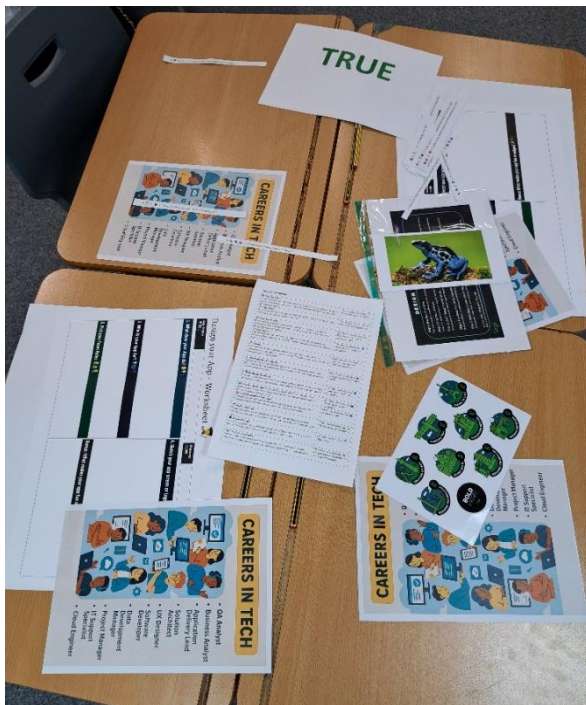




Sage Workshop

Year 8 girls also took part in an interesting Sage Workshop here at NGA, where they explored the world of artificial intelligence and learned how to create their own apps. The session gave students hands-on experience with cutting-edge technology while introducing them to the wide range of career opportunities in IT and digital industries.

This workshop was a fantastic way to build confidence, spark creativity, and show how STEM skills can open doors to future careers in tech.



Sporting success

Huge congratulations to Haden in Year 9 who ran his first U15s relay in September, and despite having no previous experience in the event, helped his team win and set a new club record.

In November, Haden competed in his first-ever indoor U15s 60m race at Gateshead, achieving a time that ranked him 4th in the UK! He's now preparing for his next competition in Sheffield in January and will go on to compete at the Nationals in Birmingham later next year.

Although Haden's speciality is 200m and 300m, his success in these short winter races is truly remarkable. Well done, Haden—we're proud of you!

Year 7 Girls Academy Victory

At the end of November, our Year 7 Girls Academy braved the pouring rain to take on Burnside College—and came away with a fantastic 4-2 win against their Academy team. A brilliant performance from all involved!

There was nothing silent about our Silent Disco Christmas Reward!

This week ended with every year group getting the chance to celebrate and be recognised for the incredible hard work and dedication they've shown so far this year.

More than 450 students accessed this reward—a fantastic achievement! The energy was incredible, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!