

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

This half term has been again full of memorable experiences across our school. One particular highlight is our school ski trip, where forty students are currently enjoying an unforgettable week on the slopes of Andorra—an exciting milestone for our community. Year 10 also benefited from an inspiring visit to see 'Weird' at the Theatre Royal, bringing Macbeth to life in a new way.

Our Spanish Spelling Bee finalists have impressed us with their hard work, and many students enjoyed well-earned rewards trips to NUCASTLE, taking part in STEM challenges and a lively robot war. Students engaged thoughtfully in a powerful assembly on knife crime delivered by the Connor Brown Trust, where their excellent conduct, maturity, and respectful engagement were truly commendable.

Year 11 have had an important and encouraging few weeks—celebrating their mock exam results and showing real maturity and commitment as they begin intensive intervention sessions. Their positive attitude and determination has been impressive alongside the commitment of their teachers to get them exam ready!

All of this has taken place against a backdrop of miserable weather and a wave of winter illnesses. We look forward to those first signs of Spring! With the half-term break now here, we hope students enjoy some well-deserved rest and family time. A pause to recharge will help everyone return refreshed and ready for an exciting term ahead.

We encourage parents to stay engaged by keeping up with key dates, supporting strong attendance, and celebrating students' progress at home. Your involvement makes a meaningful difference, and we are grateful for your ongoing partnership.

Thank you for your continued support.



Susanna Cooke
Head of School



Cadet Force – Call for Parent Volunteers

As we look to launch our school's first Cadet Force next year, we are hoping to draw on the skills and experience within our parent community. If you have a background in leadership, the military, outdoor education, first aid, coaching, or youth development—or simply a passion for supporting young people—we would love to hear from you.

Volunteering with the Cadet Force is a rewarding way to make a real difference, and even a small amount of time can have a big impact. If you feel you may be able to help, please get in touch with the school office for more information.

Important School Dates Half Term 4

Monday 23 rd February	First day of term
Thursday 26 th February	Year 9/10 Immunisation catch ups
Thursday 26 th February	Year 9 Parent's Evening
Wednesday 4 th March	Careers Fair
Thursday 5 th March	Year 9 Options Evening
Friday 6 th March	Year 9 Taster Day
Thursday 19 th March	Year 10 Parents Evening
Thursday 2 nd April	Last day of term (1pm finish)

Academy News

Year 11 next steps

Year 11 students have taken part in a series of weekly visits this term to explore the pathways available to them after completing their GCSE exams. We have visited Gateshead College, Seghill Skills Centre, the Blyth Offshore Engineering Centre, and the sixth forms at Gosforth and Jesmond Park. We also hope to visit Newcastle College and Kirkley Hall before Easter.

These trips have given students valuable insight into the full range of choices open to them. They have had opportunities to tour facilities, speak with staff, ask questions, and gain a clearer understanding of what each route can offer. We are delighted to share that many of our Year 11 students have already applied for places and have been accepted—fantastic news for their next steps.

We remain committed to supporting all students as they plan for their future. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr Ayres at chris.ayres@northgosforth.co.uk.

Year 10 Theatre Trip

On Friday 30th January lucky Year 10 students were taken to see the world premiere of 'Weird' at the Newcastle Theatre Royal. This brand-new musical reimagines Shakespeare's Macbeth through the eyes of the three witches, The Weird Sisters! Year 10 students will be assessed on Macbeth during their final English Literature GCSE exam and watching this live performance helped to consolidate student understanding of the main events, characters and themes within the text. Year 10 had a fantastic time and really enjoyed show!



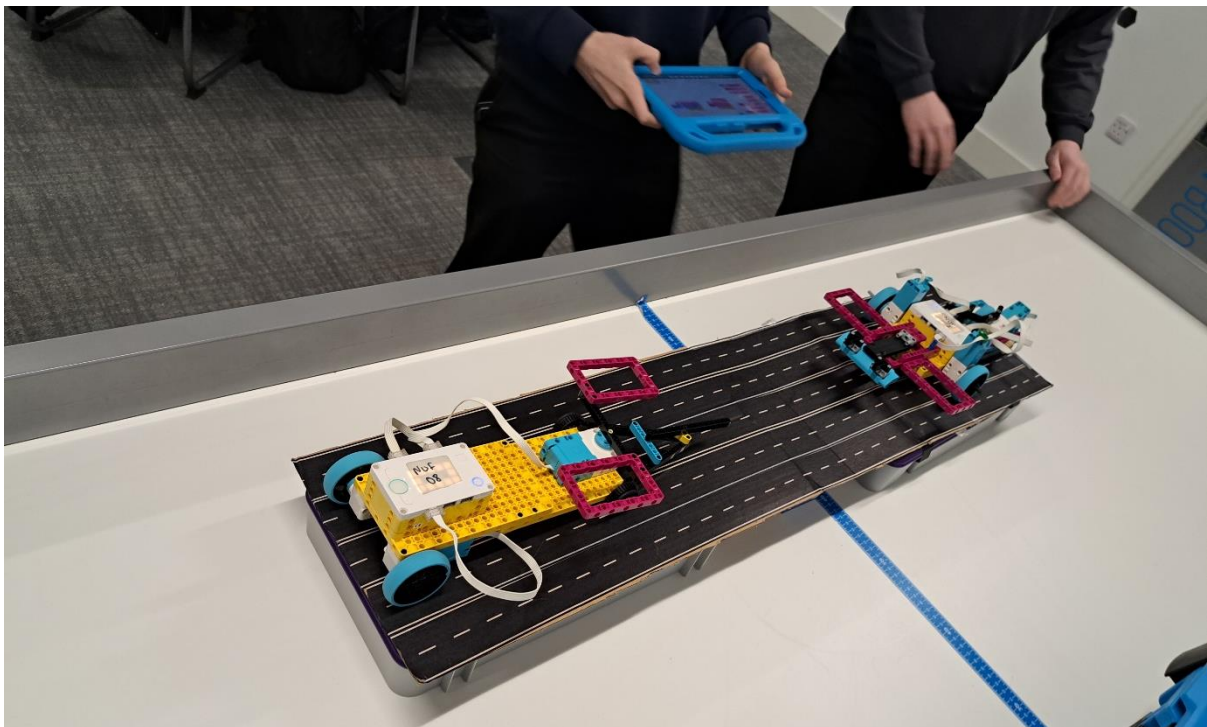
Spanish Spelling Bee

Students in Years 7 and 8 have completed their first round of the Spanish Spelling Bee this week. Students have worked hard over the last term and a half and have built up a great knowledge of vocabulary which will be used throughout the Spelling Bee. The winning teams will go into the final in the first week back and will go head-to-head to win certificates and prizes. The Spelling Bee is always a fun competition that students enjoy and we are sure the students' knowledge and hard work will shine again this year.

Attendance Rewards trips

Students in Years 7, 8 and 10 have been taken on rewards trips to NUCASTLE for excellent behaviour and attendance this half term.

Students took part in different STEM activities which ended with a robot war. After lunch students got an hour of gaming in the Newcastle Foundation Gaming Suite, a great time was had by all.



Knife crime sessions

On the 6th February students enjoyed an informative and hard-hitting assembly on Knife Crime. This assembly was delivered by Simon Brown from the Connor Brown Trust. We would like to thank Simon for his time and sharing Connor's story with us.



Theatre in Education workshop

Last week, our Year 7 students had the exciting opportunity to take part in a 'Theatre in Education' workshop delivered by Theatre Space NE, focusing on the important theme of sustainable travel.

The interactive performance explored the everyday decisions young people make about getting from place to place, highlighting the environmental impact of different travel choices. Through engaging storytelling, humour, and relatable characters, the Theatre Space NE team encouraged students to think about how walking, cycling, car sharing, and using public transport can help protect the planet.

The session not only supported our commitment to environmental awareness but also helped students build confidence in teamwork, communication, and critical thinking. Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed the experience and left inspired to make positive changes—one journey at a time.

We'd like to extend a huge thank you to Theatre Space NE for delivering such an energetic, thought-provoking session, and to our students for taking part with such enthusiasm.



Sporting success

Our football and futsal teams have enjoyed a packed schedule, showing fantastic effort and determination across all year groups. Highlights include strong wins for the Year 7/8 girls football team (4-1 vs Framwellgate), multiple futsal victories across Year 7-9 boys' and girls' teams, and impressive performances in the boys' 7-a-side league, with Year 10 securing three solid wins. Despite some tough losses, all teams represented the school with pride, teamwork and resilience.

Lily K, Daisy R and Keira G competed at the next round of the cross-country championships and represented the school brilliantly!

Haden in Year 9 competed in the 'Northerns', in Sheffield and came 1st in the 200m, securing a gold medal and a new PB. He also came 1st in his heat at the indoor 'Nationals' in Sheffield and finished 4th in the final. He is officially ranked 4th in England for the 300m and 8th for the 200m and 1st in the North East for 200m and 300m.

Astonishing results considering he's been doing athletics for less than a year!

Mr Gillender's Friday quiz

This year Mr Gillender has created a weekly quiz for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to complete during registration on a Friday. In this newsletter we speak to Mr. Gillender, creator and editor of the "What did you learn this week?" Quiz.

Mr. Gillender, thanks for taking the time to speak to us. Your quiz has taken the school by storm, and we all look forward to seeing if our questions will be chosen. How did you come up with the idea?

Well my tutor group really enjoyed doing a young players Trivial Pursuit on a Friday morning in registration. They each had their preferred teams, and it got quite competitive. From there, I thought it would be fun if they were answering questions on things they learnt in school.

So how did you take that idea further?

It's kind of, well you know in school we teachers are always asking you questions to find out what you have learnt that lesson? So, it's a bit like that but bigger, better and more fun. You get to ask the questions. You get show us what you have learnt, and you get to challenge your friends.

How did you make it?

I had the basic idea down on paper and I felt it would best work as a shared PowerPoint. I knew Mr. Grice was really good at making PowerPoints with buttons and animations, so I asked him for help. He gave me a PowerPoint with the mechanics, and I went to work tweaking it and creating a design style that felt right.

How do the students create the questions?

Each Friday registration after the quiz, the key stage 3 tutors hand out the quiz books and ask the students to come up with up to four questions and answers about any subject as long as it was something they learned that week.

Have the students given you good questions?

Oh yes! I have been so impressed with the quality of the questions from years 7 to 9. I am getting a real clear picture of what you are learning in each subject each week. Some of the Science, English and Spanish questions are beyond what I expected to see.

How well is it working?

It is still early days and I'm probably nearing the end of the beta testing stage. At first, I put in far too many question sets and the tutors said they didn't have enough time to answer the questions and generate more, so I had to reduce the number. I tried asking teacher for questions too, but I think that might be something we keep for a later date.

Does it take long to make the quiz?

Yes, but I get help from Mr Common on book collection. The students are getting really good at collecting and bringing the books back on a Friday morning.

Do you literally look through every book?

Yes, but I will see the same questions appear in each week. I stamp the question I choose and populate the quiz. Don't forget, a stamp in the quiz book equals 10 stamps.

How do you choose the questions?

I try to be fair and share out the stamps, but some students are just asking such incredibly good questions. Some students ask a question but do not give the answer and I can't select those. Some students, I can't read their writing, so please try to write neatly.

You said the teacher questions might feature again at some point?

Yes, I think the teachers should put down the most important questions they want everyone to learn and remember each term. We could then have a quiz based on that. It could even be during an assembly where we have two students representing each tutor group. Let's have some fun with this. I could make a trophy for each year group in the workshop.

You seem to be really enjoying this.

I am. The Friday quiz is like an end of week plenary for all subjects in key stage 3. There's a saying in teaching that goes "just because you taught it, doesn't mean they learnt it". This is a great opportunity for all staff and students to learn through recall. I hope it's engaging everyone and especially those who are struggling in particular subjects. You know, when you are coming up with questions to test your peers, you must think deeply about your subject, not just scratch the surface. And another thing, see your memory development like this: tracks made by walkers in a field. The more you go over something in your mind, the deeper and clearer you remember, just like tracks created in a field by many people walking the same path. Once you understand that, then you understand why revision works.