

**Head of School Newsletter
Half Term 4 2025/26**

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

As we finish Half Term 4, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been another busy, positive and inspiring period at our school. The weeks leading up to and following February half term have showcased so many opportunities for our students to grow academically, socially and personally, and I am incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, resilience and ambition they continue to demonstrate.

This newsletter captures just a snapshot of the fantastic experiences our students have been involved in – from enriching educational visits and competitions, to curriculum projects that celebrate creativity, culture and community. Whether learning on the slopes in Andorra, debating complex global issues, taking part in language competitions, or showing kindness and generosity to others, our students consistently represent our school values with pride.

As we look ahead, this half term will be an important one, particularly for our Year 11 students as they prepare for their upcoming examinations. We remain committed to supporting them every step of the way and thank parents and carers for the continued encouragement you provide at home.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support and partnership. I hope you enjoy reading about the many achievements and activities taking place across our school.

Thank you for your continued support.



**Susanna Cooke
Head of School**

School Parking

Please can we remind parents and carers that the two bays by the entrance to the school building are reserved exclusively for emergency and disabled vehicles. No one should park in these bays unless they have a valid disabled badge clearly displayed.

Important School Dates Half Term 5

Monday 20th April

First day of term

Wednesday 22nd April

Year 11 Exam Information Evening

Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Monday 11 th May	GCSE exams begin
Friday 22 nd May	Last day of term (normal 3.05pm finish)

School equipment

Please could we ask parents and carers to check their child's school bag to ensure it contains the following essential equipment, and to replace any items that are missing:

- Black or blue pen (and a spare)
 - Green pen
 - Pencil
 - Glue stick
 - Pencil sharpener
 - Ruler
 - Eraser
 - Scientific Calculator (Casio FX-83GT-CW)
 - Coloured pencils
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Academy News!

Ski Trip

The much-anticipated NGA Ski Trip took place in the final week before February half term. Students travelled to Andorra and spent a week in the Pyrenees, many skiing for their first time. We are very impressed at how they represented the school whilst abroad, and even more at how they threw themselves into the week!

Spending 4 hours a day skiing was a tiring experience to many, but despite this, students showed great resilience and enthusiasm to the new sport. As their skills developed, they were able to see more and more of the mountains, many driven on by a healthy amount of competition amongst the groups (and often fuelled by a quick nap at lunch time!). Seeing our students keep pushing, even when tired and frustrated left the staff very proud, and even more so when seeing them support each other through the difficult sections of the day, keeping each other's spirits high, and no matter how they had skied, greeting each other with massive grins and positivity at the end of each day.

Off the slopes, the fun continued as the group explored the local area, took in the views and used the opportunity to practice some Spanish. They ended the week with a disco, celebrating the student's effort and giving out several awards, from the ski instructors of each group, and some from the staff for the students whose resilience, development and general attitude had been particularly impressive.

We've been delighted at the number of students that have mentioned how much they enjoyed the trip, and how many of them are already looking forward to another opportunity to ski.

Throughout the week what stood out most was that despite nerves, tiredness and fear of the unknown, our students embraced the challenge, experiencing a new culture and country, a love for a new sport, and really made the most of a brilliant opportunity.



World of Work Careers Fair

Last month, students in Years 9 and 11 took part in the annual NGA World of Work Careers Fair. The event was a tremendous success, bringing together more than 300 employers and further education providers from across the region. They shared their expertise and insights with students, offering purposeful and informative guidance on potential career pathways and next steps.

Our students engaged brilliantly, asking thoughtful and meaningful questions that led to insightful conversations. The atmosphere throughout the day was lively and inspiring, and it was wonderful to see students, staff, and visitors all thoroughly enjoying the experience.



Modern Foreign Languages Department

As always, our MFL department has been incredibly busy, with a wide range of exciting activities taking place both in lessons and around school!

To celebrate Culture Week, students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have taken part in a special project creating origami butterflies, each decorated with messages of friendship written in different languages. These beautiful creations will be sent off to form part of a public exhibition at Newcastle Civic Centre in April.

Our students have shown fantastic creativity and enthusiasm throughout the project, and we cannot wait to see their hard work on display.



Year 8 have been working on translating Spanish recipes for making paella as part of the Festival of Languages. They translated the ingredients and used their growing knowledge of Spanish to interpret the step-by-step instructions. Students have now taken their completed recipes home to try making the dish with their families.

RECETA DE LA PAELLA

Ingredientes

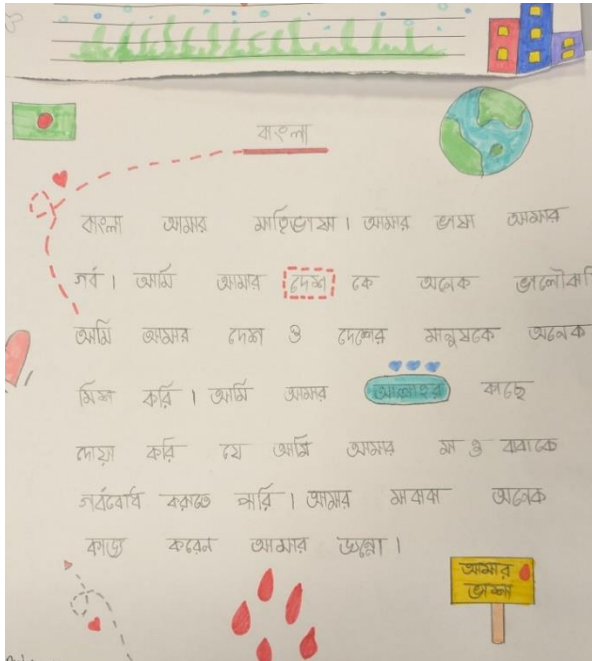
- Tomatoes
- Salt
- vegetables
- olive oil
- red pepper
- Chicken
- Garlic
- _____
- Rice
- _____
- Green beans
- _____
- white beans
- _____
- broth/stock
- _____

Instrucciones para cocinar la Paella

Firstly, cook the vegetables	After, add oil into the pan	then, add the chicken	later on, add the vegetables
then, grate the tomato and garlic	after, stir all the ingredients	after, add the broth/stock	then, stir
later on, add the rice	wait 15 minutes	finally, put the lid on	and then eat!

Year 9 have taken part in the “Mother Tongue, Other Tongue” poetry and creative writing competition for the North East Festival of Languages. Students created striking blackout poems by selecting words from a passage of text that best expressed the theme of their writing. Other students chose to write a poem or creative piece in their home language, celebrating the linguistic diversity within our school community.

Students have been incredibly engaged throughout the project and have worked extremely hard on their entries.

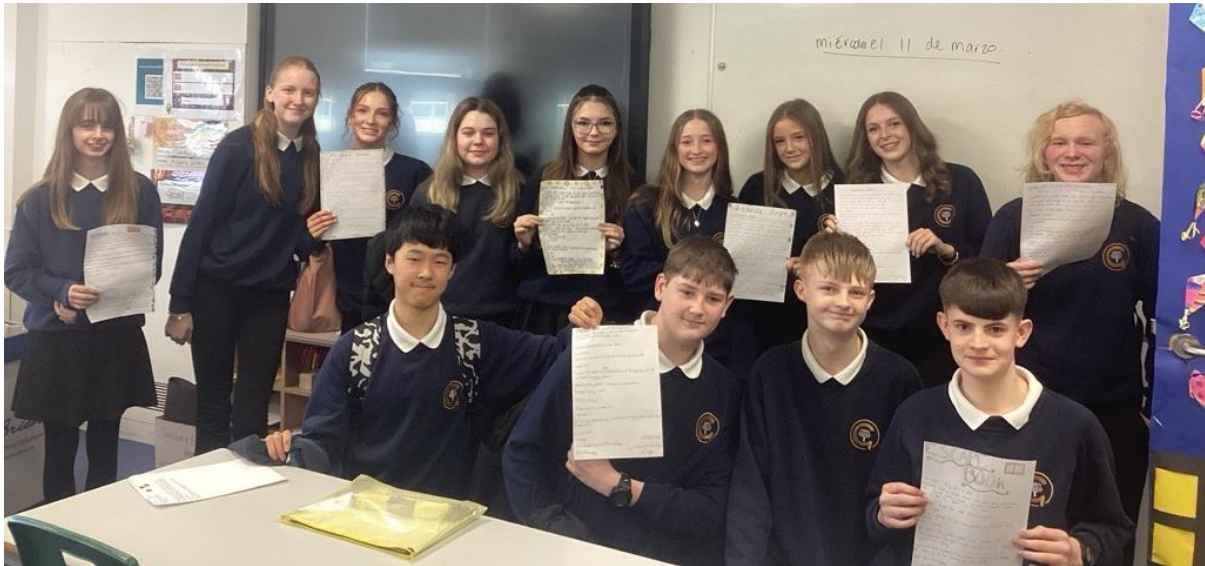


Our Year 7 students have been busy writing letters in Spanish to their pen pals in Spain, sharing details about their daily lives, school routines, likes and dislikes, and recommendations for things to do in our local area. Their letters are now on their way, and we can't wait to receive the replies after Easter!



Our Year 10 Spanish students have been working incredibly hard to take part in the national **Anthea Bell Translation Prize** for young translators. Each student was challenged to creatively translate a passage from a book and present their work with decorated entries. The top five submissions have now been sent off for judging, and we expect to hear the results at the end of May.

We would like to congratulate all of our fantastic Year 10 students, who continue to demonstrate outstanding effort and dedication in every lesson. We are extremely proud of them.



Spanish Spelling Bee

This term marked the exciting return of the Spanish Spelling Bee! All Year 7 and Year 8 students took part in the first round during lessons, with the winning teams from each class progressing to the final. The enthusiasm, effort and teamwork shown throughout the competition were fantastic, and we are incredibly proud of the resilience and hard work demonstrated by all students.

A huge congratulations to our final winners from Year 7 and Year 8: **Theo, Oliver, Zac, Freddie, Nadeer and Caleb**. Well done to you all!





European Youth Parliament

On Wednesday 25th February, eight incredibly brave Year 11 students took part in the European Youth Parliament debate at Jesmond Park Academy. They faced five sixth-form teams – and absolutely held their own!

Our students delivered articulate, thoughtful speeches and debated complex current issues with confidence, reason, and well-researched arguments. Their maturity and professionalism were outstanding, and they represented the academy brilliantly.

We are exceptionally proud of them. Well done, everyone!



World Book Day

World Book Day is always a highlight at NGA, with both staff and students getting enthusiastically involved. As ever, the English Department went all-out with their fantastic literary-themed costumes, bringing characters to life across the school!

Teachers also transformed their classroom doors with incredible designs. The standard was so high that choosing a single winner proved impossible – so every form class that decorated their door received a well-deserved box of chocolates.

We are also delighted to announce the winners of our World Book Day quizzes. The following students each earned a prize for their brilliant efforts:

1. Izzy Laws
2. Zac Kellacher
3. Alexandra Morton
4. Nadeer Yusuf

Prom Bake Sale

Our Year 11 students organised their own bake sale with fantastic support from Mrs Mead, Miss Crackett, and the wonderful Year 10 students who helped bake the majority of the treats. Their hard work and teamwork paid off—they raised **£182** towards their prom. A huge well done to everyone involved!



Student Rewards

During the final week of last term, we held the prize draws for our Attendance Stamp Cards and our Weekly 100% Attendance vouchers. We would like to extend a huge congratulations to all students who took part in the initiative and demonstrated outstanding commitment to attending school whenever possible.

A special well done to the students listed below, who have each won either an Odeon gift card, vouchers, or a Newcastle United football shirt. Your dedication has truly paid off.

Y7

Lincoln - Newcastle Shirt
Indie - Oden Voucher
Lucas- Voucher
Emily- Voucher

Y8

Caleb - Odeon Voucher
Nadeer - Newcastle Shirt
Isaac - Voucher
Layton - Voucher

Y9

Kamsi - Newcastle shirt
Alcia - Voucher
Ellis - Voucher
Ethan - Odeon Voucher

Y10

Riley - Voucher
Maisy - Odeon Voucher
Thomas - Football Shirt
Ben - Voucher

Y11

Joseph - Newcastle Kit
Noah - Odeon Voucher
Isabella - Voucher
Sophie - Voucher



Inspire students spread Easter kindness

Yesterday, students from Inspire delivered Easter eggs—generously collected by their provision—to the Families First Food Bank in Brunswick.

During their visit, the staff gave the students a tour and shared the incredible work they do every day to support local families. The students saw firsthand the dedication, compassion, and effort that goes into making sure no family goes without essentials.

A simple act of giving turned into a powerful learning experience about community, empathy, and the impact of helping others.