



SPOTLIGHT

Summer newsletter | July 2022



Ofsted
Outstanding
School
2012/2013

WELCOME to our summer newsletter

As if by magic, another academic year is drawing to a close. A time to pause and reflect on the many achievements of the students at Shotton Hall.

We are very proud of our student's resilience, dedication and determination and, at the time of writing, we were looking forward to celebrating this in the activities planned for them.

We hope that activities week will be a roaring success – new experiences; lots of fun and laughter, where memories of special school days were made. Also, Sports Day (weather permitting) something to compete in or watch.

We have much to celebrate

this year from sporting success; homework heroes; fund raising, discos, and the return to our stage for our annual musical!

It is also the time of year when we welcome our new Year 6 students. They arrive a little bit shy and nervous, but full of excitement, watching them grow and flourish is really one of the best parts of working in school. We also say a fond farewell to some members of staff, we thank them for their dedication and wish them well for the future.

Here's to a long summer holiday, filled with sunshine.



**Miss A Hook,
Head of School**

Goodbye Year 11

After five years our Year 11s finally left school this term.

Throughout their time here they have played a huge part in our school community and we will always remember their contribution.

Even though a significant part of their school lives has been difficult with Covid restrictions, the last day of school for them was a fantastic celebration of their overall time at Shotton Hall.

Students and teachers alike were able to say goodbye and good luck as they celebrated the past five years.

We wish all our Year 11s well and look forward to hearing about their future achievements. We can't wait to find out what you go on to do along whichever path you choose!

Don't forget, GCSE results day will be taking place on **Thursday 25 August 2022.**





Star students!

As always, this term has seen many sporting and subject achievements for our students.

Football - 7T1 were triumphant in our Year 7 SEPT tournament. They proudly lifted the trophy after a brilliant set of matches.

Row, row, row your boat - A group of Year 7 and 9 students took to the water for a canoeing session on the River Wear in Durham. As well as learning to canoe as a team, they enjoyed some competitive activities and even a little swim in the river.

Performing arts - Our 'Showstoppers' performance was an absolute success this term. The show saw our superstars perform incredibly well for everyone in the

audience which included some primary school pupils.

Drama students also had the opportunity to perform monologues to Katie Brace, aka Tracy Turnblad from the national tour of Hairspray. Katie gave amazing feedback to those that took part.



We're social!

Follow our social media accounts to stay up to date with all of the latest news from around the Academy!



@shottonhall



@shottonhallacademy



@shacademy

IMPORTANT DATES for your diary

06 SEP - Back to school

21 OCT - Break up for half term

31 OCT - Back to school

25 NOV - INSET day

Please keep checking our website and social media channels for the latest updates.

Hello!

to our new Year 7 students...



Here at The Academy at Shotton Hall we are all very excited to meet you and we have a warm welcome awaiting you for your first days in 'big school'!

We have loved welcoming primary school pupils from local feeder schools this term. Pupils have enjoyed a series of transition and subject sessions to prepare them for September and to help settle into school life at The Academy at Shotton Hall. We've also been delighted to welcome Year 5s into school and we hope to see many of them at our open evening on **Thursday 15th September**. See you all soon!

Channel 4 visitors

This term we were visited by staff from Channel 4 including Managing Director Sinead Rocks.

The team visited school to work with Year 7, 8 and 9 students as part of the '4schools' project which aims to raise aspirations and inform students of the vast array of roles in the media and creative sector. We were delighted that everyone had such a good day!



Afternoon tea treat

A group of our kind students prepared a tasty afternoon tea for their parents and carers this term.

The group worked really hard on the event and created lots of lovely treats for a memorable day. Eat your heart out Gordon Ramsey!



A special visitor

This term we were delighted to welcome Lord Lieutenant Sue Snowden into school to plant a tree.

Alfie Dixon-Clark, invited Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant as part of the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) project - a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee".

Kind-hearted Alfie, known locally as 'Alf the Kid', organised for three trees to be planted across the local community and we were delighted to welcome Mrs Snowden into school to mark this special occasion.

Not only did Alfie organise the event, but he also commissioned local artist, Sam Lonsdale, to design a special plaque for 'Making Peace with Nature' - an initiative tackling climate change. The plaque incorporated an olive branch design to subtly reference the late Prince Philip who was an active

environmentalist. Alfie also chose to plant a freedom apple tree as a tribute to war veterans.

Alfie has been involved in many projects in his local community including mental health advocacy for young people and ongoing work involving councillors, the police and the NHS.

Mr Taylor, our Vice Principal, said: "We are incredibly proud of the many achievements Alfie has accomplished over the last few years. He is an extremely caring student who goes above and beyond for those in need."

Thank you to the Lord Lieutenant for attending and making the occasion even more special. Well done to Alfie for organising the ceremony and for consistently showing commitment and kindness!



THE
QUEEN'S GREEN
CANOPY

THE PLATINUM JUBILEE 2022

Student successes

We've got a talented bunch here at Shotton Hall haven't we! The summer term has seen more success from our students both in and out of the classroom. Have a read of just some of the brilliant news we've celebrated this term...

Elin: Equestrian star Elin was back on the track to compete this term, this time at the Pony Club Minimus National Championships alongside 210 other competitors from the UK and Ireland

Elin performed brilliantly both in a team and as an individual and scooped an impressive 6th place overall individually. Elin tackled her most difficult track to date and beat her personal best records in the shoot, swim and run categories - what a total pro!

Alfie and Evie: Along with the rest of their dance crew 'Dance Jam', attended the Britain's Got Talent 2022 auditions.

The group scored 4 yeses from the judges and soaked in every second of this amazing opportunity. Unfortunately the group didn't make it to the live semi finals but everyone had a great time regardless!

Lily: Our own Rocky Balboa won the English Schools Boxing Championships this term - an amazing achievement!

Tia: Year 10 Tia was flying high this term with the air cadets. The pilot passed control over to Tia while flying over Roseberry Topping where she excelled, demonstrating all the skills she'd been busy perfecting.

Lilly: Our Year 7 dance star was on fire this term at a local dance competition. Lilly wowed on the dance floor winning not only her solo performances, but also bagging the Supreme Champion trophy - wow!

Brandon: It was success for Brandon at the Sunderland Big 3k in May where he came first!

Ella Mae: The Year 10 boxing champ competed in the England Boxing National Junior

Championships this term. She had two fights and won them both, crowning her the Junior National Boxing Champion! She has also been selected to represent England at the Tri-nations in the Summer... Could she be our next Olympic medallist!?



Prom 2022

Leavers' day means only one thing - glitz and glamour at prom. Everyone looked fantastic as they danced the night away and celebrated their school life. Check out some of the brilliant photos...



Could you be a teacher?



Our teacher training partner North East SCITT train the next generation that make a real difference to children's lives.

Applications for teacher training, beginning in September 2022 are still open during the summer holidays for the last remaining places.

To find out more, please visit their website www.northeastscitt.co.uk where you can find out more information, including course structure and funding support.

We're the kids in America

Staff and students had a great time over in the states this term on their trip to Washington DC.

The group made new friends at Eagle Ridge High before they had a very busy time visiting landmarks like the Smithsonian and the Washington Monument. For an extra treat, they headed to a baseball game and managed to squeeze in the new Top Gun movie along with super-sized drinks!



Star baker Scarlett

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee we held a very successful bake sale which raised a brilliant £170.39.

Proceeds went to Young Lives vs Cancer and the Queen's Green Canopy project which will see a commemorative Jubilee tree planted in our school later this year. We also took on the NELT Platinum Pud bake off where Scarlett baked this fantastic Jubilee themed cake which then featured in our bake sale.

A huge thank you to everyone who got involved, donated and baked - you've helped a fantastic cause!



The story of Joseph Davidson

Hayden from Year 9 has written an article about his great grandfather in the war.

Joseph Davidson fought in France with the Durham Light Infantry (DLI) and was presumed MIA (missing in action) before later being confirmed as a POW (prisoner of war). Joseph was potentially in Stalag 8 judging by images of the bunks he included in a letter home.

Field Marshal Montgomery said: "What a magnificent regiment, steady as a rock in battle, and absolutely reliable on all occasions, the fighting men of Durham are splendid soldiers, stick it out until the end, the hardest of the hardest. Also, the DLI fought in with major distinction in every major theatre of war they fought in Dunkirk in 1940, north Africa, Malta, Sicily, Italy, Burma and in Europe from D-day to the last defeat of the Germans."

Information about Joseph

Born:1919

Died:1995

Rank: PTE private rank.

Medals awarded: The star was awarded

for men overseas. The RAOB medal with the words "no man is at all times wise." was awarded. He was awarded the Dunkirk medals and also achieved the 1939-1945 medal for staying and surviving throughout the war as well as the loyal service pin where he would get pensionable pay from the injuries sustained as a POW.

How he was caught

The reason he was caught was he asked to hide in a German's barn on a farm. The farmer who told enemy forces about this, leading to his capture. He proceeded to survive in a POW camp to the end of the war and was rescued by the Americans.

Home for Joseph

Joseph had two brothers named Rodney (who emigrated to Australia) and Sidney (who was a blacksmith at the pits). Sidney wasn't called up to go to war unlike Joseph. Joseph was known as a gentleman who never drank or swore. Most of the



men of Shotton went to the ice rink in Durham where he met his wife (and had my Grandma) - he later went back down to work at the pit.

He collected charitable donations for people who died in the war but after retirement age his mental health started to deteriorate. He started having flashbacks, which led to him having PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) and although he never really liked to speak about his experiences, which is understandable, he did tell my grandma that he was forced to make sugar beet in a factory.

The last thing that remains of his legacy are his medals, the stories of his bravery, and sacrifice and his name - both me and my dad are named after him as Stephen Joseph Hunter and Hayden Joseph Hunter.