



The Academy
at Shotton Hall

SPOTLIGHT

APR
2023

SPRING

A message from our Headteacher...

'It is our choices, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities' - Albus Dumbledore.

We used this quote a lot over the past months to encourage good choices in our students. They made countless good choices this term, whether it be showing resilience in their school work or demonstrating determination when taking part in a range of extra-curricular activities.

Looking back at the term, we have lots to celebrate - from our fabulous Matilda the Musical Jr production to the return of World Book Day. I invite you to read on to get a snapshot of another great term here at Shotton Hall.

Spring is definitely in the air, which means Easter is just around the corner. A season of renewed inspiration, joy and optimism (and chocolate) We wish you all a restful, safe and happy Easter break.

Thank you and best wishes,

Alex Hook
Head of School

In this issue...



Sporting success

As always, our students have been performing brilliantly in a range of sports.



Reading Rocks

This term saw the return of much-loved World Book Day and Reading Rocks Week.



Hitting the stage

This term our star students performed Matilda the Musical Jr.



Bonjour cheval

Find out how one student's French lessons came in very handy...



Reading Rocks

As part of Reading Rocks Week and World Book Day, students read from five different books at the start of each lesson. Everyone was then given the chance to review the books and win prizes. One student from each year group received all five books as their prize and another 10 winners received one of the books.

Years 7, 8 and 9 also enjoyed a visit from author Daniel Ingram-Brown who delivered a talk about life as an author to Year 7 before working with our budding writers in writing workshops throughout the day.

And of course, it wouldn't be World Book Day without our English department getting into the literary spirit, would it!?



Bonjour cheval

You never know when your French language skills will come in handy...

One of our Year 9 students, Ellie, lives on a farm where they have cows, sheep and horses. However, recently something strange happened at the farm. One of the ladies who keeps a horse on the farm had to have the horse flown from France. The French trotter named Cassis, didn't understand a word of English so this is where Ellie stepped in with her French skills from school.

Since then, the horse and owner are doing great.

Bon garçon = good boy



Tres bien = very good



Blast from the past

Our GCSE history students recently took part in a series of workshops delivered by Front Line Living History.

The workshops focused on medical treatments administered in trenches and looking at weapons that caused injuries. The group were able to see and handle artefacts they have been studying in lessons.



Sporting success

As always, this term has seen lots of sporting success from our students...

Our Year 7 **netball** team hit the ground running, competing in the East Durham Schools Netball League and so far, have won all the games they've played. In their most recent game against St.Bede's, the team played brilliantly and won 8-1.

Our Year 7 and 8 **dodgeball** team also performed well this term in an Associated Competition against Seaham High School, Wellfield School and Easington Academy. The team played brilliantly and placed as runners-up, narrowly missing out on the top spot!

A group of Year 7 and 8 students tackled the East Durham Schools **soft archery** competition, beating all the other teams. A big thank you to Year 10 sports leaders who helped to run the event - it was a success.

Our Year 10 **netball** team competed against local schools in the East Durham Schools Netball League this term. They were unbeaten throughout the competition and crowned league winners. They have won the league every year since they started competing which is down to their hard work and determination.

Outside of the classroom, **boxer** Ella, flew to Serbia to compete in the 12 Nations Cup. All of her hard work paid off when she was crowned the champion and winner of the best junior boxer throughout the competition. Amazing!



Robot wars

Year 7 and 8 students designed a robot to compete in the VEX IQ Championships at Nissan this term.

The group came 3rd overall, placing them 23rd in the UK rankings. A big thank you to the Nissan Skills Foundation and the Reece Foundation for organising and funding this brilliant opportunity.



Did you know?

Each year, Easter Sunday takes place on a different date - the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox.

But Easter isn't the only religious festival in spring time. Jewish people mark Passover during the spring which celebrates the Biblical story of the Israelites' escape from slavery in Egypt.

This year, Ramadan also takes place at the beginning of March all the way through to the end of April. Followers of Islam practice fasting, prayer, reflection and celebrate community. Food can only be eaten after sunset or just before dawn, meaning many families create plentiful feasts to enjoy outside daylight hours.

Vision campaign is an eye opener

Our new vision campaign has been an eye-opener! We've seen remarkable results from our new strategy to boost learning where children with poor eyesight have, for the first time, received a pair of glasses.

We screened all Year 7 students and arranged eye tests for those who need them at Specsavers Opticians in Peterlee. During the tests it emerged that around 20 of our students in the year group of 250 actually needed glasses. A further 15 pupils who were found to not routinely wear their existing glasses had new glasses given to them too.

Kay Knight, Teaching School Hub Administrator, who oversaw the screening, said:

"Children are meant to have their eyes checked every two years, so I strongly encourage parents to do this. The NHS funds the eye checks and any glasses that are needed.

"I encourage everyone to talk to friends, family and colleagues who have children to encourage them to get regular eye tests."



Global traditions

Hot crossed buns are traditionally eaten in the UK at Easter to represent Jesus' crucifixion. We also eat a LOT of Easter eggs around this time of year. In 2019, the UK spent £206 million on the chocolatey treats!

But not every country marks Easter in the same way as the UK. In Italy, for the last 35- 0 years, people watch firework displays to mark the Easter period and in Antigua, locals cover the streets in colourful carpets to prepare for the Good Friday procession through the city.

DATES

for your diary

31 MAR - Break up for Easter

17 APR - Back to school

01 MAY - Bank holiday

08 MAY - Bank holiday

Spring snaps

The weather is getting warmer and the days longer, so why not get outside during the holidays and challenge yourself to capture spring in some photographs?

You could use the frosty mornings or blooming flowers as your inspiration. We'd love to see what you produce.

Alf the Kid

We would like to give a special mention to student Alfie, who is known locally as 'Alf the Kid' for going out of his way to give back to our local community.

Alfie has most recently worked with mental health charity, Spare 10 for Ben, to help break down any stigma around mental health.

He is currently involved in a project to set up walking trails across Easington and hopes to expand this to other locations in the north east.

We are incredibly proud of the ongoing and impactful contributions that Alfie makes.



Seeing stars

This term our Astronomy Club visited the Kielder Observatory in Northumberland.

The group had the opportunity to meet working astronomers and talk about what it is like to be in their profession. Students had taken part in group sessions in the lead up to the visit, learning about everything from our solar system to how the Northern Lights are created.

Keep your eyes peeled for future astronomy opportunities...



Lights, camera, action!

This term saw students hit the stage for their performance of Matilda the Musical Jr.

Before the big shows in school, we invited primary pupils from local schools to watch rehearsal performances.

After this, our cast ventured out to two local care homes, Peterlee Care Home and Hawthorns Care Home, to share some behind the scenes magic.

The group slipped into their characters and sang songs from the show which both our students and residents found very moving.

A big well done to everyone who worked hard to make it such a success!



Spring time careers

Let's take a look at some career paths that really flourish at Easter time...

Chocolate Research and Development Scientist

This career involves developing new chocolate prototypes and products as well as improving quality of existing products. But it's not just about the taste test, a chocolate scientist needs to provide technical reports and guidance too. Having qualifications in food chemistry and nutrition can lead to becoming a Chocolate Scientist.

Florist

Did you know that Easter is one of the busiest periods for florists? A college course in floristry on average takes around two years to complete. You may also choose to open your own florist shop!

Allergist

During the spring, allergists see almost 30% of their patients for the whole year. After completing training, the average salary of an Allergist is £29,384 - £34,012. At the level of a Consultant, this can rise to £114,003!





WHAT WOULD DAVID DO?

Is your child an eco champion? We're launching a new eco-campaign in school to encourage all students to join our exclusive What Would David Do? (WWDD) club, where membership is reserved for our most eager energy experts, resolute recyclers and superior species savers.



←
MERCH!

Your child is in with a chance of bagging this year's must-have uniform embellishment if they can prove that they have worked hard to save energy, reduce waste and improve the environment around school and at home.

Students (even sixth formers!) across the North East Learning Trust will be sent one of our limited edition pins and certificates at the end of each term if they can prove that they are an eco champion.

Is there anything you can do at home to help them bag one of our recycled wooden David Attenborough pins?

HOW TO WIN A BADGE:

START AN ECO INITIATIVE

SHOW PROOF OF YOUR ENERGY SAVING

SHARE ECO IDEAS OR PROJECTS + MORE

How to apply:

Your child will need to download an application form and fill it in (including a signature from their teacher) before sending it to NELT Head Office. At the end of term our eco champions will be decided and their place in the WWDD club confirmed with the delivery of their certificate and pin.

Visit: nelt.co.uk/WWDD



North East
Learning Trust