



SPOTLIGHT

Winter newsletter | December 2018



National
Teaching
School



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to our Christmassy edition of *Spotlight*... It has been a magical term at the Academy - Christmas is always a special time here.

It all started when the giant 14ft Christmas tree arrived in reception. After that it was non-stop Christmas celebrations with extra special open mic performances, Christmas lunch, a disco, a movie night, Christmas jumper day and much much more. Mr Burlinson even put on his Christmas tie! Take a look at our website or social media channels to see everything that has been happening.

We dropped off another huge foodbank collection this year - dare I say perhaps the biggest one yet? Thank you for every donation we received - you are making a massive difference to people and families in our local area this Christmas.

Of course, we have been working hard again this term with Year 11 sitting their first mock exams

a few weeks ago. We hope they have helped you prepare for your exams and guide you on which areas to concentrate on for your revision. We promise all the hard work will pay off - just keep going and you will do us proud!

Uniform and attendance have been great this term from all year groups; a great start to the academic year. Well done all!

Now go and grab yourself a hot chocolate, put your feet up and enjoy the read.

See you all in the new year.

Alex Hook

Miss A Hook, Head of School
The Academy at Shotton Hall



Christmas video launched!

Last week, we launched our annual Christmas video - our wackiest, and most festive one ever.

Featuring staff and students singing, dancing and performing carpool karaoke. Pop to our website to watch it if you haven't already - you are in for a treat.



Are you on the nice list?

During our *Twelve Days of Christmas*, all acts of kindness have been rewarded with a token in a bid to find our kindest year group.

If you feel like being even kinder, here are some ways you can be kind this Christmas and all of next year.

We guarantee you will be on the nice list after this...

1. Donate unwanted clothes to charity.
2. Smile and thank everyone who serves you.
3. Hide a happy note for someone to find.
4. Offer to help someone.
5. Lend a friend your favourite book/movie.
6. Pick up litter and put it in the bin.
7. Talk to someone who is sitting alone.
8. Let someone in front of you in a line.
9. Send a nice text to five different people.
10. Practice self-kindness and spend 30 minutes doing something you love today.



THE JOKE CORNER

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Frosted flakes

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 07 JAN - Back to school
- 11 JAN - Girls' SMSC day
- 17 JAN - Year 11 parents' evening
- 01 FEB - Boys' SMSC day
- 15 FEB - Half term begins
- 25 FEB - Back to school
- 05 APR - Break up for Easter
- 23 APR - Back to school

To keep up to date with all news and events please visit:

www.shottonhallacademy.co.uk



New starters storm our stage...

October saw the annual Year 7 new starters' concert storm the Academy's stage.

Once again, the new starters did not fail to impress with singing, rapping, dancing, performing gymnastic and karate routines, conducting dramatic performances, playing musical instruments and generally being amazing.

Miss Bradley, Year 7 Learning Manager said: "Year 7 have settled in really well. I can't wait to see what else they are capable of after such a great start."



STATIONERY SHOP

NOW OPEN

Stationery stock up!

Don't you just hate weekend trips to buy stationery with your parents because your pens have run out of ink?

Don't despair, we have the answer for you... we have launched our very own **stationery shop** at the Academy.

The stationery shop is open every **Wednesday break time** and is run by our head boy and head girl. Students can buy all of the required stationery for their pencil cases including: pens, pencils, rubbers, highlighters, rulers and pencil sharpeners. As well as (of particular interest to Years 10 and 11) notebooks and flashcards to aid revision.

It costs £2 or 200 merits to replace your entire pencil case and your merits will still count toward activities week so don't panic. See you there!

We're on Twitter and Facebook!



@shottonhall



facebook.com/
shottonhallacademy



Christmas, Shotton Hall style!

Once again, in the run up to Christmas, we celebrated the *Twelve Days of Christmas* in true Shotton Hall style!

Activities this year included a school disco with Christmas jumpers and tinsel as far as the eye could see; a pyjama-wearing Christmas move night watching *The Polar Express* with hot chocolate and cookies (what other way is there to watch *The Polar Express*?); a Christmas jumper day on the last day of school and so much more!

In order to celebrate the real meaning of Christmas, the Academy also encouraged students to be extra kind over the festive period. Kindness tokens were awarded to students who went the extra mile to be nice and kind to

others. All of the tokens were placed in a jar for each year group and the kindest year group was awarded a prize at the end of the term. It really does cost nothing to be a nice person and, at this time of year, it is so important.

Also, Christmas cheer was spread around the school once again with Miss Smith and her elves delivering sacks of Christmas cheer to those nominated by their friends.

All in all, we hope every student leaves the Academy for the festive break feeling fully fuelled with Christmas cheer and ready for Christmas time!

Spooky disco!

We celebrated Halloween in style this year with a super fun disco that encouraged the craziest and spookiest of outfits!

Both staff and students came in full Halloween fancy dress with Arthur Golden Shillaw, Bille Deluce and Jack Curry taking home prizes for best costumes.

Miss Bradley, Head of Year 7 said: "All of the costumes were absolutely amazing and some were completely terrifying; one student literally had a pencil going through her face!"

By *Jack Curr*



Loyalty to sports

In a bid to encourage students to attend extra-curricular sports clubs, Mr Harris has set up a sports loyalty card scheme.

When students attend a club, they receive a stamp on their loyalty card. Students can receive numerous cards over a half term which are then placed into a prize draw. You can have up to four cards in the draw if you attend plenty of clubs, increasing your chance of winning!

Sam Bendelow in Year 7 was the first winner of a gift card this half term. Well done Sam. If you want to be the next winner - start attending more sports clubs!



The Big Shotton Hall Bake Off

The Academy took part in the national MacMillan Coffee Morning with staff and students creating some scrumptious cakes and treats for our bake off and cake sale

This year, Mr Bradley cranked the stakes up a notch and offered snazzy t-shirts and aprons as prizes.

In first place was Miss Gallagher with her carrot cake; in second place was Mrs Brennan with her chocolate orange cheesecake and in third place was Mr Elstob with his mint chocolate chip delight. A special prize also went to Year 8 student, Sam Chandy, who created a *Nightmare Before Christmas* themed cake.

The event raised over £300 for MacMillan Cancer Care so a big well done to all involved!



ONLINE SAFETY ADVICE

It's up to all of us, teachers, staff, students and parents to be aware of online dangers and do what we can to protect against them.

There are 1000s of apps available that pose a serious threat to young people and the following features are present on some of the most dangerous apps being used today:

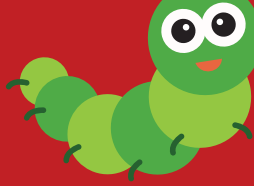
- Some apps have no privacy setting options and no way to block users
- Anonymous commenting apps can be used to cyber-bully children
- Many apps act as platforms for users to meet new people instead of just connecting to people they already know
- For some apps, over 18s are blocked from contacting younger users, however many apps do not verify ages upon sign-up
- Some apps have location features allowing potential 'friends' to view the exact location of the user, along with the user's age and other personal information

These are just some of the worrying features of apps available on the market today.

The best advice for parents is to talk to your child regularly about what they are doing on their phone and to jointly agree apps that can be downloaded onto their device (you can control download access in the phone settings). Also encourage them to speak to you if they see something upsetting or concerning.

For more information please visit:
www.nspcc.co.uk/preventing-abuse

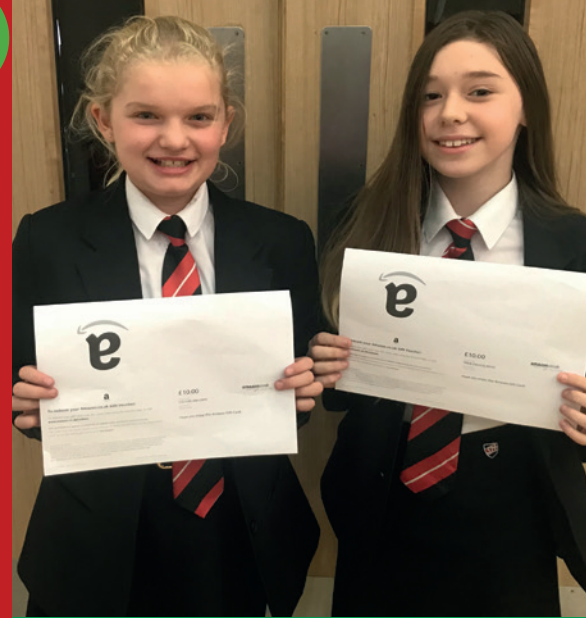
Win for book worms!



Reading can take you to places that you have never been before: to the bottom of the ocean, to the top of the Empire State Building or even to space. Yet, so many of us waste the opportunity to travel to these incredible locations.

Our top library borrowers have been to all of these places and more and have been rewarded for their excellent attitudes toward reading.

Rihanna Evans, Ragesh Kantharuban, Riley Fleetham and Shane Quinn borrowed the most books in the first term of this year. Well done!



Everybody Writes Day 2018

Fish and chips, the Royal Family, rainy days and manners - what do all of these things remind you of?

Well, they are all things, decided by Year 7 students on *Everyone Writes Day*, that make up British culture.

Each year, the English department uses the national *Everyone Writes Day* to celebrate British culture. Year 7 students work in groups to discuss and share their ideas about what makes us British; before working in smaller groups to produce a speech.

This year saw exceptional performances from some wonderfully talented students who not only wrote persuasive speeches but bravely performed them in front of their peers.

Well done to Poppy Attenborough, Alyssa Lawton, Sam Bendelow, Anna Carlisle and Mae Collier who were awarded as our *Everyone Writes 2018* champions!

By *Poppy Attenborough*
and *Alyssa Lawton*



100 years on...

11 November 2018 marked 100 years since the silencing of explosions on the WWI battlefield.

After four long years of suffering, people around the world could breathe a sigh of relief and start to piece their lives back together. Can you even imagine how this felt?

Students at the Academy created a beautiful remembrance display in reception, made up of

personalised poppies (photo above) and our cadets performed a march in their honour.

Well done to everyone involved, in particular; Miss Ingram, Miss Gunn and Miss Weighill who were the creative masters behind the display.



Our teachers' FAVOURITE books...

You may think that our English teachers are the only ones who love literature and reading but you couldn't be more wrong!

Spotlight's roving reporters took to the corridors to discover their teachers' favourite books...

Mr Whitbread

1984 by George Orwell

Miss Siddle

Wild by Cheryl Strayed

Mr Harrison

Racing through the dark by David Millar

Miss Weighill

The Subtle Knife by Philip Pullman

Mrs Calvert

Stig of the Dump by Clive King

Mrs Scott

Where Rainbows End by Cecila Ahern

So why not take inspiration from one of your teachers' favourite books and head to the LRC to loan it today!

By Shannai Chapman and Olivia Sheargold

A taste of life after school...

Students in Year 9 took part in an application process this term which saw 15 selected to take part in an engineering programme with Nissan in Sunderland.

On 29 October, students participated in the event at Nissan's Sunderland plant. When they arrived, they were warmly greeted and introduced to the project leader. They were then given a presentation which required their involvement: they learned about the different job roles at Nissan, the history of the company and their plans for the future.

They took part in engaging activities including quizzes and team building games. After the initial introductory presentation, students

commenced a tour of the factory production line where they saw the car making process, how engines and dashboard were installed and also the final testing in specialised rooms that simulated harsh weather conditions.

Holly Cockcroft said: "We found the experience very informative and interesting. We would love to go back!"

By Holly Cockcroft and Lauren Race



Basketball champions!

A huge congratulations to our amazing basketball team who have won every single one of their recent games... some by a mile!

Thomas McKinney, Mason East, Brandon Revell, Dillon Revell, Oliver Wylie and Adam Goodwin (pictured above) have come together to make a fantastic team this year.

The scores were as follows:
Shotton V Seaham – Won 13-10
Shotton V Easington – Won 16-2
Shotton V Wellfield – Won 4-2
Shotton V Dene – Won 16-5

Shotton V St. Bede's – Won 16-4

The boys will now represent Easington in the Level 3 County School Games in the summer - best of luck.

Their coach, Mr Mann, said: "I am extremely proud of the boys. Their teamwork and great attitude has resulted in many fantastic wins - keep it up!"





CASE STUDY: MR TIPLADY

We spend a lot of time with our teachers, but how well do we actually know them?

In a bid to know more about our teachers, we've decided to interview one teacher per issue. First up is computer science teacher, Mr Tiplady:

How long have you worked at Shotton Hall?

I have worked at Shotton Hall for three months, but I was on the school's teacher training programme last year - so I was here for a little while last year too.

What did you do before you became a teacher?

I worked as a buyer for a construction company. I would buy products and materials for the company when they were needed - it was very exciting.

What is your favourite thing about your job?

All teachers would probably say this, but I would have to say that my favourite thing is that no two days are the same. Every lesson is always different - thanks to my fantastic students!

What do you love about your subject?

I love programming- it is definitely the best part of my subject. I love that part so much that I run a coding club for all students every Thursday. I really enjoy seeing students develop their programming skills and use these skills to make complex and creative programs.

What do you do in your spare time?

I love going to the cinema and watching films - I have a real passion for movies.

What do you enjoy the most about Christmas?

I enjoy the food mainly, but I also really enjoy spending time with family and friends. The school holidays are great as I get to spend a lot of time with them.



Movember!

Two friends, Travis Garone and Luke Slattery, from Australia, sparked the idea of Movember. The moustache had all but disappeared from fashion trends. Could they bring it back?

They found 30 men willing to take up the challenge and since then, 5,542,507 people have taken part in the *Movember* challenge.

Mr Kell is one of those to have taken part this year. November 2018 saw the growth of Mr Kell's moustache in aid of the *Movember Foundation*, a charity supporting men's health. Unlike most charities, the *Movember Foundation* focus on a range of health issues concerning men. Well done Mr Kell!

Organising your knowledge ...

Revision may seem like an endless task, but it really doesn't have to!

Miss Maughan and Miss Ingram have delivered sessions to every year group this half term showing how best to revise. Believe it or not, revision isn't just for Years 10 and 11, it's for everyone. Everything you learn over your time at the Academy is vital to success.

A key feature of your revision throughout your time at the Academy should be the use of *knowledge organisers*. We have *knowledge organisers* for each topic that you are taught and they can be used to revise key elements of that topic in preparation for your assessments.

You can use them to 'look, cover, check' the information; create revision spider diagrams or you could have them stuck up on your bedroom wall to remind you to keep revising!

See Miss Maughan or Miss Ingram for more information on how to effectively use your knowledge organisers to revise.



It's Christmas time...

Each Christmas edition of Spotlight sees the Academy's favourite teachers respond to a Christmas themed question.

This year we asked our teachers: "What is your favourite memory of Christmas?". Let's see what they came up with this festive season...

Miss Smith: "Thinking that you have opened all of your presents and then waltzing into the kitchen and BAM! You own a fluorescent green mountain bike. THANKS SANTA!"

Miss Jamieson: "Being a child, sitting at the top of the stairs and waiting for my dad to tell us if Santa had been!"

Miss Siddle: "When I got the smallest wrapped gift from my Auntie Lynn when I was ten. I was devastated as my brother's and sister's gifts were huge. Mine turned out to be a camera. A very valuable life lesson was learned that Christmas day."

Mrs Mein: "Watching Santa Claws the movie on Christmas Eve..."

Mrs Armstrong: "Having amazing Christmas mornings with my mam and two brothers as well as having everyone over for dinner; also, the fact that my brother would have his breakfast first just to annoy me because my mam said we couldn't start opening until we were all ready. He used to eat each mouthful so slowly just to prolong the agony - now I'm older I find it amusing - at the time not so much!"

Miss Cleckner: "Sharing Christmas day with my grandparents is my most precious memory; when you're older and don't have grandparents anymore, it's not the same. Cherish it while you can."

Here are our Spotlight reporters' favourite Christmas memories:

Jack: "Getting a new dog for Christmas is my all-time favourite memory!"

Maddison: "Getting a PlayStation when I really didn't expect it was amazing!"

Shannai: "I once got a Barbie... but quickly found out I was allergic to it."

Ella: "My baby sister was born the week before Christmas: she's been my best gift yet."



Enterprise opportunities

Our BTEC Tech Awards Enterprise course kicked off to an excellent start this term with visits from various entrepreneurs.

Throughout November, students in the Year 9 class received visits from a brick-laying company owner, a personal trainer, a beautician, a Subway franchise owner and a recycling company owner. The visits aimed to aid students in both their coursework and also in inspiring them in their own future endeavours.

Fred Wood, Year 9, explained: "We have been spoken to about the different aspects of running a business such as the fact that most businesses' main aim is to survive and expand; you must firstly have the characteristics and drive to have what it takes to run a business and secondly, the skills which you learn whilst running a business to help it improve. Your business needs to be unique to stand out from competitors and meet your customers' needs. I found the Fat to Fit owner, Callum Donnelly, really helpful; he was inspirational."

Leah Sanderson, also in the Year 9 class, commented: "I like these sessions because they inspire me to think that I could run my own business after learning about what all of these different people have done and how they did it."

Thank you to Miss Stewart for organising such a great experience!

YOUR FREE BREAKFAST BAGEL!

Starting in January, all students will be able to collect a free buttered bagel every morning from the dining room between 8am - 8.30am.

Breakfast is proven to improve concentration and productivity - exactly what you need ahead of a day at school. See you there!

