



SPOTLIGHT

Winter newsletter | December 2022



National
Teaching
School



MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to our Christmassy edition of *Spotlight*...

We wish you all a Christmas full of celebration, festivities, happiness and good health.

School days should not be dull and uneventful and I'm pleased to say that this term has not disappointed! Despite increasingly challenging times, extreme cold weather, various illnesses circulating and dark nights and mornings, the students have shown indomitable spirit. It is often said that young people 'today' are somehow lacking in resilience. I can assure you yours are not! The students have worked hard, with good manners and grace.

This time of year should be about gratitude, sharing time together, looking backwards as well as forwards for what was and what will be. Being around kids at Christmas is one of the real

high-points of teaching; warm nostalgic times.

'Oh, Christmas isn't just a day, its a frame of mind'
- *Miracle on 34th Street*

I hope that we all manage to carry this forward into 2023.

Best wishes from the staff at Shotton Hall,

Alex Hook



Miss A Hook
Head of School



A special festive visit

We were delighted to welcome the British Army Band of Catterick into school this month for a performance in the dining hall at break time.

Not only that, but our special visitors put on a concert for Year 7s and older music students in the hall. After the performance, they delivered an insightful presentation on life in the army and the career opportunities for musicians in the military.

Pop and rock concert

Students popped and rocked the stage at our concert earlier in December, organised by Murray Wyatt, our guitar teacher from Durham Music Service. The pop and rock concert not only featured our talented students but some special guests from St Bede's and Seaham School.



IMPORTANT DATES for your diary

20 Dec Break up for Christmas

04 Jan Back to school

17 Feb Break up for half term

27 Feb Back to school

31 Mar Break up for Easter

Stay up to date by checking our website
www.shottonhallacademy.co.uk

Checkmate

Students had a great time at the English Chess Federation's National Schools Championships in Newcastle this term.

The competition saw 10 schools, 16 teams and 96 students playing chess together under one roof. Our students were a credit to our school and Miss Ferguson noted that she was very proud of their behaviour and effort.

We're social

Did you know that our school regularly posts on social media sites, Facebook and Twitter?

Our social media pages are a great way to connect to our online Shotton Hall community. You can find photos, videos and important updates on our pages and see what your youngsters are up to in the classroom. If you don't follow our pages already, please give us a like or a follow to stay in the loop!



Everybody Writes Day



This term our much-loved Everybody Writes Day returned for our new Year 7 students.

The topic, 'being thankful', led to our students producing some beautiful pieces of writing in the form of play scripts, songs and poetry.

We were absolutely blown away by the performances and want to say a huge congratulations to Imogen for her emotional winning piece.

Poetry slam

Drama Club's 'Monologue Slam' was a total success this term. With special guest adjudicator Katie Brace from the hit musical *Hairspray*, our students wowed with one-minute monologues before receiving feedback on their style, technique and performance.

Katie said: "I really enjoyed watching all the performances; the repertoire was varied and fun. The students stayed on the brief and were highly creative in their approach to the work. Well done to everyone who participated in The Academy at Shotton Hall's first ever monologue Slam Event."



Green Careers Week

For Green Careers Week we challenged our students to create a plan to improve how eco-friendly our school is.

We were so impressed with Year 7 student Ellie B's entry whose proposal to make our school greener included advice to teachers to delete emails to lower their carbon footprint and the introduction of a composter to reduce food and cardboard waste.



The Academy at Shotton Hall remembers

The Academy at Shotton at Hall came to a stand still in November to mark Remembrance Day with a minute's silence. Shortly after the silence, our student cadets marked Armistice Day with a parade in front of the school.

Crismo Corner

JOKE

What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?

The Christmas alphabet has Noel.

Did you know?

The biggest display of lights ever made is in Australia. It has 1,194,380 LEDs covering 3,865 square metres. David Richards has used his home to raise \$20,000 for charities.



Students in the spotlight

We have so many student successes to celebrate this term. Let's take a look at just a few of them in our hall of fame...



Motocross master

Lucas has been competing since he was six years old after growing up around motorbikes thanks to his Dad and Grandad.

Some notable achievements from Lucas began in 2018 where he came 5th in Auto Masterkids UK. The following year he came 2nd in Auto British Youth Championship and 1st in Auto North East Motocross Championship.

Sadly in 2021 Lucas couldn't finish the UK championships due to an injury, however he had already won the North East Championship, Falcon MXC in the 85sw class.

This year his success continued in the 85sw

class as he placed a very respectable 4th in Masterkid UK, 6th in Bridgestone British Masters, 1st in a North East Championship, Falcon MXC, and 3rd in Weston Beach Race. Keep up the great work Lucas!



Equestrian Elin

Elin in Year 8 represents England on the tetrathlon team!

She managed to get a personal best this term when competing in Ireland where she came 7th out of 120 other competitors from across the UK and Ireland. Elin was 'plonked on a pony before she could walk' and according to her Mum, took part in lead rein shows from three years old, which she has loved from day one. Tetrathlon cross country courses are notoriously tough and not for the faint hearted. The competition features running, swimming, pistol shooting and riding.

Elin has been fortunate to represent northern England in national competitions and she even took part in an international competition last June where she and her team came second.

Elin adores her pony Henry and due to the bond they have he really tries for her. Elin said: "I love competing it is my favourite thing to do and I would love to get better and pursue in the sport of eventing and tetrathlon to get to the top levels."

Magnificent Maisie

Maisie started dancing at age 3 at Greenhaff Dance School and entered her first competition aged 4 and has never looked back since.

Maisie has performed at some brilliant venues and achieved some great accolades like dancing at the Winter Gardens Opera house stage in the Grand final of That's Showbiz, placing first in the Star search talent competition, dancing in the LA Supreme final six Junior category and she's even auditioned for Les Mis!

Not only that, but she has taken part in many workshops with professional dancers from hip-hop, commercial and Royal Ballet Swan Lake.

Maisie is currently injured but is looking forward to dancing again in the new year - we wish her the best of luck.



The kickboxing kid

Maddison C scooped a silver medal this term at the North East Kickboxing Championships. A great achievement!



2020 student of the month

A big well done to Lewis R for being awarded Student of the Month for our '2020' literacy programme.

Lewis has an excellent attitude to learning and always works hard. Keep up the great work.

And the winner is...

Year 8 Niamh came out on top at a dance competition this term.

Niamh bagged 1st place in the Under 14 beginner slow dance section and senior beginner section before being awarded slow dance overall winner!

An England debut

A big round of applause for Year 11 student Amelia who made her debut for the England Under 16s football team this term.

An amazing achievement Amelia, we're all so proud of you!



Double gold

WOW! Madisyn has been very busy recently representing Team England in martial arts.

She competed in four divisions where she gained two gold World Champion titles and two silver medals. We are super proud!



Ella takes the gold

Ella recently flew to Italy to represent England in the European boxing championships, even stepping up as team captain and participating in the open ceremony. Ella won two rounds before facing Ireland in the final and coming out on top! Ella was also selected for the young achievers sports award and won the overall sports category.





Cross country champs

Students recently braved the cold weather to compete in the East Durham Area cross country competition at East Durham College.

The Year 7 girls' team, the Year 7 boys' team and the Year 8/9 girls' team came a close 2nd with the Year 8/9 boys' team coming 3rd place overall.

We had some excellent individual performances where students were awarded medals for finishing in the top three of each race.

A total thriller!

Check out some snaps from our thrilling Halloween disco!



Christmas recipe

Why not make snowy crackle chocolate biscuits during the Christmas holidays? Don't forget to ask permission from an adult first - maybe you could even bake together!?

What you'll need:

- 200g dark chocolate, chopped
- 125g unsalted butter, softened
- 300g soft light brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 150g plain flour
- 60g cocoa powder
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2-3 tbs milk
- 100g icing sugar



Method

STEP 1 - Melt the chocolate in a bowl set over a pan of barely simmering water (make sure the base doesn't touch the water), or in a microwave in short bursts. Set aside to cool.

STEP 2 - Beat the butter and sugar together, then beat in the eggs, flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and chocolate. Pour in the milk to make a soft dough, but don't overmix it! Cover and chill for 1 hr.

STEP 3 - Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line one or two baking sheets with parchment. Put the icing sugar in a bowl. Scoop heaped tablespoons of dough and roll each ball in your hands before dropping it into the icing sugar and rolling it around. Put on baking sheets and repeat, spacing the balls apart.

STEP 4 - Bake for about 12-15 mins until the biscuits feel firm when touched. The biscuits should puff up and cracks should open up, too. Leave to cool on the trays, then transfer to wire racks to cool completely. Will keep for up to a week in an airtight container.





North East
SCITT

Train to be a teacher in 2023

Primary and secondary
courses available in a
range of subjects.

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up to £26k available in
some subjects.

Train in schools across
the North East from
day one.

A nine month course
with qualified teaching
status on completion.

Train in partnership
with Newcastle
University.

Train with experienced
teachers from day one.



Find out more at: www.northeastscitt.co.uk

Making the move to teaching is easier than you think...

Did you know you can train to be a teacher in our school? Training to teach in our school with North East SCITT takes less time and is more affordable than many people realise. Our nine-month courses begin every September meaning you could be starting out on a new career before you know it. Many people worry they don't have what

it takes to make the move into teaching, but with training and support from our team of experienced, outstanding teachers who are right beside you from day one, we always prove them wrong. If you have a good degree and the desire to learn new skills and make a difference, then we'd love to talk to you.

Thinking about training to teach?

Come and spend the morning at The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee or Browney Academy in Durham to get a taste of what teacher training is like with North East SCITT.

19 th	January	2023
8 th	February	2023
10 th	March	2023
18 th	April	2023
19 th	May	2023
8 th	June	2023
27 th	June	2023

Virtual taster days also available. Please check our website for more details.



Newcastle
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