



# SPOTLIGHT

Summer newsletter | July 2018



National  
Teaching  
School



## WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER NEWSLETTER

It's hard to believe another school year has come to an end. It only feels like two minutes since when we were wishing our Year 11 good luck for their exams – and now they are gone! The school has been a little bit quieter without them this last half term – especially after the business of exam time. I hope they look back on their time here fondly and we hope you all get the results you have worked so hard for come results day.

As usual, we are looking forward to welcoming our new students in Year 7. They are always so full of enthusiasm and it is lovely to see the excitement on their faces as they step through the doors on the first day back. For those of you who are a little bit nervous, don't worry - our friendly buddies will be there to guide you every step of the way.

The summer is a time to relax; enjoy the sun and come back to school refreshed in September. We will see you then!

Best wishes,

*Lesley Powell*

**Executive Principal**  
The Academy at Shotton Hall



## MINISTER VISITS SHOTTON HALL

**On Tuesday 12 June, Nick Gibb, Minister of State for Schools, visited the Academy and our teacher training arm, Shotton Hall SCITT, to tour the school and see what we do here at Shotton Hall.**

Nick Gibb was appointed Minister of State at the Department for Education in July 2014. He is responsible for recruitment and retention of teachers and school leaders, supporting a high-quality teaching profession, reducing teacher workload and more.

Nick visited several classes and enjoyed talking to students and staff to hear about life at the Academy. He also spoke with our teacher training team and learned what we do to train new entrants to the profession.



# SUMMER CHECKLIST

No plans for the summer? Don't worry, we've got you covered. Just complete the tasks below for a summer filled with fun.

1. Get lost in a different world and read a book... or two!
2. Have a clear-out (your parents will love this one!). Organise your cupboards - you're bound to find some hidden treasures!
3. Teach yourself a new skill. An instrument or a language maybe? Then teach a friend - YouTube is great for this.
4. Make a dance routine to your favourite song and dance like nobody is watching!
5. Leave your PJs on and have a PJ day - invite your friends over and watch a movie for double the fun!
6. Do a job for your parents - wash the car or make tea - they will really appreciate it.
7. Get arty and draw/paint or collage a self portrait.
8. Use your imagination and write a story. Wolves, fairies - whatever you're interested in.
9. Go outside. The sun won't be here forever - go explore and see what you can find.
10. Go outside at night and stargaze. Can you spot the North Star?

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 
- 20 JULY | BREAK UP FOR SUMMER
  - 23 AUG | GCSE RESULTS DAY
  - 04 SEP | BACK TO SCHOOL
  - 05 OCT | STAFF TRAINING DAY
  - 19 OCT | LAST DAY OF TERM
  - 29 OCT | BACK TO SCHOOL
  - 30 NOV | STAFF TRAINING DAY
  - 21 DEC | LAST DAY OF TERM

TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL NEWS AND EVENTS PLEASE VISIT:  
[WWW.SHOTTONHALLACADEMY.CO.UK](http://WWW.SHOTTONHALLACADEMY.CO.UK)



## COACH LIBBY IS ON THE BALL...

**Aspiring football coach, Libby West in Year 8, has been volunteering at a girls' football club recently, in the hope it will give her a boost in her future career.**

After deciding that coaching might be the career for her, Libby signed up as a volunteer at a 5-11 girls' football programme - 'Wildcats' at East Durham FC. It was an ideal opportunity and Libby fitted straight in even running her own session.

Football coach, Michael Gray, commented: "Libby is polite and very hard working and is a real pleasure to be around - she is a credit to your school. Today she delivered a full session to the girls on her own. She was clear and confident and the girls are really enjoying being in her company."

Well done Libby, keep up the good work!



## YOUNG HEROES AWARDED!

Congratulations to Rhys Jackson in Year 10 and Shane D'arcy in Year 11 who received Young Hero Awards from Durham Police and Peterlee Town Council.

The boys assisted a police community support officer (PCSO) in helping an elderly gentleman who had fallen and badly injured his face. It was a very cold night and the man was very vulnerable. The boys showed extreme maturity and PCSO, Michelle Burnhope, said she would not have been able to manage without their help. Members of the community and the town mayor commended the actions of the boys.

Our brilliant school choir also made an appearance at the ceremony with a fantastic performance including solo acts from Lottie Willis in Year 9 and James Middlemiss in Year 10. As usual our students were praised for their talent and mature conduct.

The night was a wonderful celebration for the brave young people in the local area. Well done to all.



## FRIENDLY 'BUDDIES' RECRUITED!

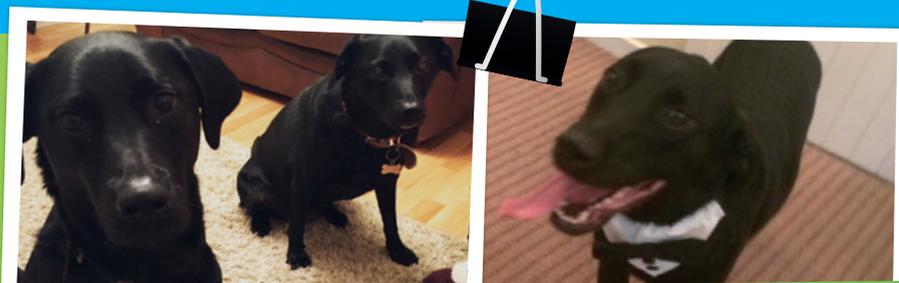
As we grow closer to the summer, we have all come to realise that we won't be in Year 7 forever. This term we have welcomed lots of Year 6 students into the Academy as part of their transition programme.

Some exceptional Year 7 students were recruited by Mr Wood and Mrs Sharpe as 'buddies' to help the upcoming Year 7s feel welcome and happy when they join us in September. Over 90 students applied for the position and nearly 60 were interviewed for the role.

The role of a buddy is very specific and if you were selected you were bestowed with duties such as: helping staff, talking and listening to the new students and informing them about life here at The Academy at Shotton Hall.

It is great to be a buddy. They are able to tell new students about so many different subjects that they will study and help them with any concerns or worries. We know they will love Shotton Hall!

*By the Year 7 Spotlight Team*



## PETS CORNER... MEET ZAC!

Mrs Eddy from the Academy's maths department would like to introduce her dog - Zac.

Zac is a rescue dog who had been a stray in Ireland and was shipped over as a puppy. No one could tell Mrs Eddy how old he was due to the plaque on his teeth and how skinny he was; they also didn't know what he was crossed with other than a black lab.

Mrs Eddy said: "Zac loves walks and his humans - so much so that he will only sleep between them in bed and not in his own bed. He is also very hyperactive and does try to talk a lot!"

In the photos above, Zac is the larger of the two dogs and the one in the tuxedo - this was because he played a very important role in Mrs Eddy's wedding last year!

## WE'RE ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK!



@shottonhall



facebook.com/  
shottonhallacademy



## YEAR 7 GUIDE TO THE ACADEMY

We are very excited for our Year 6 students to join us in September and we are here to offer the best advice to help you in your first few weeks at Shotton Hall.

You have 25 lessons a week, each an hour long. There will be homework - but it helps you learn faster and teaches you to work independently - just make sure you keep on top of it!

There's plenty to learn, lots of teachers and some fantastic experiences to get stuck into. Staff are welcoming and very caring. You may get lost a few times at first, but don't worry, you will get the hang of it!

You will definitely need equipment to be successful. Pens, pencils, ruler and planner are essential, but if you love stationery, you might want to pop to WH Smith before September.

Don't forget you will need a backpack to carry all of

your supplies in!

Now then, uniform - this will be a bit different to your primary schools. You must wear: a black school blazer, a white shirt, black trousers or A-line black skirt, a tie (don't worry, it's clip on) and leather or leather look school shoes. There is a more detailed guide on the school website.

Also be careful with jewellery - you are allowed to wear earrings as long as it's only in the lower lobe and they are studs. You cannot wear any other accessories as they could get lost, stolen or broken so just leave it at home.

Lastly, mobile phones are not allowed! So make sure you don't have them out in class or at break and lunchtime.

## TOP TIPS:

1. Be prepared for each day with equipment and uniform.
2. Try not to be late.
3. Ask if you're struggling.
4. Work super hard.
5. Be kind.



## UMPIRING COURSE COMPLETED

A group of 11 energetic girls in Years 8, 9 and 10 were awarded today after completing the All England Netball Get Into Officiating Course.

During the six-week course, the girls learnt about the role of the umpire, how to score a game, how to umpire a game and the many different rules it entails.

A massive thank you to their course tutor, Ailsa Hall, who has run the sessions each week.



## OUR KITCHEN TEAM ARE QUALIFIED!

Behind the scenes, our fantastic, hard-working kitchen staff have been studying for their NVQ qualifications which they passed this week.

Head cook, Angela Ward completed the Team Leading in the Business Skills Sector and 'ICT' qualification, whilst the rest of the team completed the Catering and Hospitality qualification. All ladies also completed an English and maths qualification.

Well done ladies - you are superb!



## CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONS!

**Congratulations to our fantastic cheerleaders who won the county finals, beating all other schools in County Durham.**

The talented group performed two routines in the competition at Barnard Castle School; a 90s mix and a Bollywood-style act before being crowned as winners.

Their coach, Miss Peel, said: "The girls have worked so hard in the run-up to the competition, giving up their break times and coming in after school to get their routine spot on. It was a well-deserved win. They are a fantastic group who have supported each other every step of the way. I am very proud of each and every one of them and I look forward to watching them progress even more in the next few years."



## MISS HOOK VISITS 10 DOWNING STREET

**Our Vice Principal, Miss Hook, took a once in a lifetime trip to London to visit 10 Downing Street this term.**

Miss Hook, alongside over 100 other teachers from across the country were invited to the evening reception, hosted by the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Education. The evening was to celebrate their hard work, talent and commitment to giving every child an excellent education.

Prime Minister Theresa May said: "We know that the success of every young person, in whatever they go on to do in life, is shaped by the education they receive at school.

"That's why I was delighted to welcome over a hundred teachers from across the country to Downing Street to celebrate their achievements and to thank them for the vital work they do day-in and day-out.

"Teachers are key to making Britain the great meritocracy it can and should be, and I am committed to working with them so that every child has the best possible start in life."

Well done Miss Hook!



## ETWINNING AWARDS

**We are very proud to announce that we recently won not one, but two eTwinning awards for our international work in schools.**

Our first award was for our *Erasmus* project - 'Stars', a project that challenges common negative stereotypes such as feminism and racism. The successful project saw students meet the Maltese president and travel to Helsinki, Finland and Malta. The project won one of 15 awards out of an incredible 75,000 projects in the EU.

Our second award was the eTwinning School Award, which is given to only 29 schools in the country who are beacons for internationalism and creativity. We won this award for our high quality, impactful projects with other schools in Europe and our involvement in eTwinning events and training activities.

Mr Kell collected the awards on behalf of the school at an awards ceremony at Warwick University. Huge well done to Mr Kell, Mrs Chadwick and Miss Baker, supported by Mrs Usher, Mrs Cook, Mrs Wolfendale, Ms Martinez and Mrs Goebel who all contributed massively towards both awards.



## SHOTTON HALL HOSTS SENSATIONAL NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS

The final curtain has been drawn on our magnificent Night at the Musicals spectacle, showcasing the incredible talents of students at the Academy.

Rather than picking just one musical this year, we decided to celebrate the life of musical theatre by travelling through the years, showcasing the best original musicals and songs from West End shows that we all love.

Students danced and sang their way through Matilda, Wicked, Billy Elliott and The Lion King to name but a few, leaving everyone in the audience amazed by the impeccable performances and professional show.

The students and staff worked incredibly hard to put together the show and we are extremely proud. Well done to all of you.



## EX-FOOTBALLERS VISIT SHOTTON HALL

On Friday 24 April, ex-professional footballers, Gary Bennett and Dean Gordon, came into school to work with Year 10 students in a 'Show Racism the Red Card' workshop.

After a team building football session on the field, students spent some time reflecting on their attitudes towards minority groups as well as considering what is and isn't racist or discriminatory.

Many of the students commented that they thoroughly enjoyed the day and it had challenged views and misconceptions about different groups within society.

The staff from Show Racism the Red Card were very complimentary about our students, actively praising them for their high levels of engagement and thoughtful ideas throughout the day.

We hope that a some of the students involved in the workshops will now become Diversity Ambassadors to promote equality throughout the Academy. Well done to all involved!



## COURTNEY APPEARS ON AMERICA'S GOT TALENT!

Super talented singer, Courtney Hadwin, appeared on America's Got Talent earlier this term with her powerful rendition of Otis Redding's 'Hard to Handle'.

After blowing away the whole audience and judges with her performance, judge Howie Mandel pressed the 'golden buzzer' meaning she automatically goes straight to the live show.

As always, we are incredibly proud of Courtney and her achievements. Well done!

## GOODBYE FROM HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

We can't quite believe that this year has come to an end. Everyone told us when we first started here at the Academy that the time would whizz by in the blink of an eye but we never, even for a second, imagined that our time would go by this quickly.

The last five years have been a whirlwind that has ended on a real high! With our Leavers' Assembly and, of course, our prom.

Yes, we have had our ups and downs - we have had to work so hard over the last few months to make sure we were ready for our exams, but we both feel like the hard work has really paid off and, hopefully, we will be really proud of what we achieve come results day in August.

We'd just like to say thank you before we sign off for the last time. Firstly, to Miss McManus, our wonderful head of year. You've been there for us since day one - you've been one of the only constants that we've had in the last five years of changing timetables and changing friendship groups and for this we can't thank you enough. We speak on behalf of the whole year group when we say how incredible you have been and we count



ourselves to be the lucky ones! Next, our lovely sept tutors. Again, most of you have been with us since right back at the start. We were scared Year 6 students the first time that we met you and you have helped shape us into the students we are today so thank you for everything! Finally, to all of the teachers who have taught, supported, listened and generally been around for the last five years. Your patience with us is appreciated and we all want to say a big THANK YOU!

Lastly, all that is left to be said is goodbye to our fellow students at the Academy. We hope you have as much of a positive experience here as we have had. Get involved in everything, be friendly to everyone and, for goodness sake, listen when teachers tell you to revise: it's necessary!

Good luck everyone! And goodbye!

Rhys and Megan

## GOODBYE FROM THE SPOTLIGHT TEAM

The time has come for us to say goodbye for this year. This is unfortunately our last *Spotlight* of the school year and we have had such a fantastic time; we don't want it to end.

From reporting on daily events to being involved in the *BBC School Report*, taking inspiration from the fantastic Miss Smith and interviewing staff and students that have experienced some fantastic news worthy events. It's been a blast! If you have an eye for news, enjoy journalism and want to be involved... take a trip to A70 on Tuesdays after school.

BYE!

## NEW TERM RESOLUTIONS

All of us from Spotlight wish everyone a very relaxing summer and remind you to be ready to come back with positivity for the upcoming year. We have spoken to some of our students to see if they have any new term resolutions.

"Do homework in plenty of time. That way if I get stuck, I can ask." Madison Drewett

"Help out the new Year 7 when they haven't grasped the map of the school." Niamh Metcalf

"Do homework quicker and better." Anna Hodgson

"Be kind and helpful to everyone." Katie Elves

We hope everyone has a great six weeks off and comes back on a high note!

# PROM 2018

After a lot of hard work, our Year 11 students celebrated finishing their exams with a lavish prom at Ramside Hall in Durham last month.

Huge thanks to all the staff who helped organise such a special evening and good luck Year 11, we wish you the best in your future endeavours.

