



# SPOTLIGHT

Summer newsletter | July 2021

Ofsted  
Outstanding  
School  
2012|2013

## WELCOME to our summer newsletter

There are decades where nothing happens, and there are weeks where decades happen.' ... and there are months where centuries happen too!

This quote resonates for us. As we continue the journey with your children through their teenage years, we remain committed to maintaining a quality educational experience. Whilst school has been different this year it is far from doom and gloom, then, now, or going forward. Our thanks go to everyone involved in enabling students to continue learning. A vote of thanks must also go to you, our parents, who have been supportive, cooperative and patient – thank you!

As the summer holidays arrive, we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 11 students. We wish them well, as they move on to their future

studies and lives. We will miss them.

We hope that you all have a lovely summer time and that your loved ones stay safe and well.

As I write this, we don't know the guidance for re-opening. However, whatever form it takes be assured we will be ready for September.

As always, the content of this newsletter will celebrate the wide-ranging effort our students have put in to showcase their many, many talents. We have much to be proud of - we hope you feel the same.

Thank you and best wishes.

**Miss A Hook, Head of School**

## Goodbye Year 11!

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

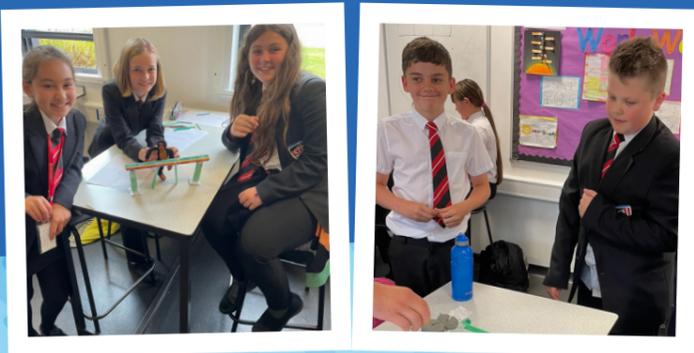
Throughout their time here they have been part of many interesting events and activities and we will always remember their contribution to our school.

Even though the last two years have been difficult with Covid restrictions, the last day of school for them was a fantastic celebration of their time at Shotton Hall. The Leavers' Assembly, shirt signing and even a picnic on the field all took place and students and teachers alike were able to say goodbye and good luck. Miss Siddle said: "It is never easy to say goodbye and saying that word to our wonderful Year 11s was very emotional for me, the tutors and of course, the Year 11 students. However, the final day was not just about tears and farewells, we also celebrated the past five years."

We all 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 achieve in whichever path you choose!



# Extra-curricular fun!



Here at Shotton Hall, there are plenty of clubs and activities for students to get involved in. As well as a variety of sports, art, music and drama clubs, Miss Ferguson has recently started running Board Game Club for Year 9s, a popular activity which lets students play games, old and new! Look at the pictures below to see if you'd like to join in...

We have also recently held our first Year 7 STEM club, where students built bridges using paper straws then tested how much weight they could take before breaking. The pictures show just how exciting clubs here can be!

Mr Raine is also running a Year 9 Debate Club where you can discuss the topics of the day with other students and develop your speaking and listening skills. The club are even going to enter competitions next year! Could you join them?



# 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

Due to the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic, we cannot commit to any fixed school events at the moment. Parents' evenings and other planned events in school are postponed until further notice.

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'!

Until then, we have been busy creating as many virtual welcomes as we can to make your transition that little bit easier. Check out our website or Facebook page where you will find: a virtual tour of your new school, welcome messages from your sept tutors, photos and messages from all of your new teachers and lots of vital information on all you will need for your start at the Academy.

Don't be nervous: everyone is lovely and you will be right at home from day one!

See you all soon!



## Making the world a better place

A speech by Maya, Year 7

The world has changed: some believe that modern day things have made the world a better place, but I think the opposite.

While some help to save the earth, others pretend it's non-existent. My speech is about change. My speech is about helping future children not to worry. My speech is about stopping the past from affecting the present. Now here's what I have to say:

Older generations have left the scraps of the earth to us and it's our choice to pick them up and build it up, or else hold a grudge against them.

I believe if everyone helps bit by bit, we can become better not just for the earth but for ourselves, this is our speech. One person can change tomorrow, but the whole world can change the future.

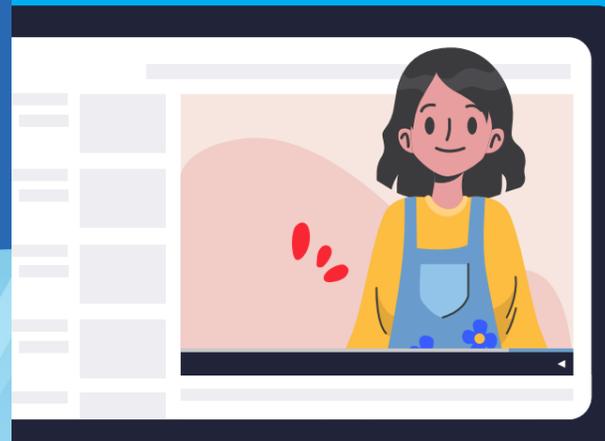


# Leaving virtual school

By Daniel, Year 8

Since we have returned to school in person, students and staff have had to contend with a range of changes due to Covid. Throughout these changes everyone has been so resilient and adaptable.

First of all, I personally think it is much easier to do the work in person at school than at home because you do not have to deal with internet crashes or not being able to join the lesson call. Secondly you get to play and meet with your friends in person instead of being stuck in the house and being alone all day. Finally, I think that it is better to be at school similarly to being outside than inside and it is much more enjoyable and easier to learn at school than online.



## Cruella: A a film review



Cruella, starring Emma Stone, is an amazing new film. Packed with the best songs of all time (which everybody knows), the film has the best plot twists: you will be on the edge of your seat the whole time!

With dazzling costumes, a great soundtrack, and a pair of terrific performances from Emma Stone and Emma Thompson, Cruella shows a classic character in an entertaining new light. Set in 1970s London amidst the punk rock revolution, the film follows Estella, a clever and creative girl determined to make a name for herself with her designs.

She befriends a pair of young thieves who appreciate her appetite for mischief and together they are able to build a life for themselves on the London streets. One day, Estella's flair for fashion catches the eye of the Baroness von Hellman, a devastatingly chic fashion legend played by two-time Oscar winner Thompson. But their relationship sets in motion a course of events and revelations that will cause Estella to become the raucous and revengeful Cruella we all know from the classic Disney story.

By Layla, Year 9



# Marking Pride Month

Here at the Academy, and throughout the rest of the world, we have spent the month of June celebrating Pride and the LGBTQ+ community.

We have had assemblies, watched videos during SEPT, and discussed a range of issues affecting LGBTQ+ people in this country and around the world. Some of our students have used this time to reflect on the position of gay communities around the globe.

Here is a short excerpt from a piece of work by Katy and Rebecca, Year 9.

"The pandemic has restricted us from doing so many things this past year, but it can't stop us from celebrating Pride Month 2021. If you're not already aware, June is Pride Month, a celebration all

around the world with festivals and parades. Whilst it is not yet possible for these gatherings to take place in person, this does not mean that Pride can't be celebrated.

The 1960s were not the safest time for gay people. Same-sex relationships were illegal and many things straight citizens could do, such as showing public displays of affection were outlawed.

Pride Month is a way for us to celebrate the coming together of the LGBTQ+ community and the acceptance of diversity in society. Of course, there are no

restrictions on who is allowed to join in the celebrations: anyone, and I mean anyone, whether they are part of LGBTQ+ or not, can join in and support others who may have struggled. Whoever you are, wherever you are, you can help to eliminate any discrimination and injustices shown towards people because of who they are!"



# The history of Peterlee



Peterlee was founded in 1948 as a new town to house local coal miners and their families. It was named after celebrated Durham miners' leader, Peter Lee. Peterlee is unique amongst all new towns founded after WWII in that it was the only one requested by the people through their MP.

The Apollo Pavilion is a piece of public art in Peterlee. The Pavilion was designed by British artist and architect Victor Pasmore, and was completed in 1969. Recently, the Pavilion celebrated its 50th anniversary and in December 2011 it was listed Grade II by English Heritage.

Durham County Miners' Gala is a large annual gathering and labour festival where all mining towns come together and march through Durham City with bands and banners. This takes place on the second Saturday in July every year and was inaugurated in 1871. Most banners represent lodges of the National Union of Mineworkers in the Durham County Area, however, unions from around the country and the world are also represented. The banners are made of silk as it is seen as a symbol of worth and it is carried between two members and guided by guide ropes.

By Caitlin, Year 9

# Alyssa's chop for charity!

We'd like to give a special mention to Year 8's Alyssa, who chopped off a whopping amount of hair for charity.

Alyssa, donated a whopping amount of hair (over 25 inches!) to donate to the Little Princess Trust, who create wigs for children who have lost their hair due to cancer. Well done Alyssa - what a kind and compassionate gesture.



# Come dine with us!

By Katie (and her family!)

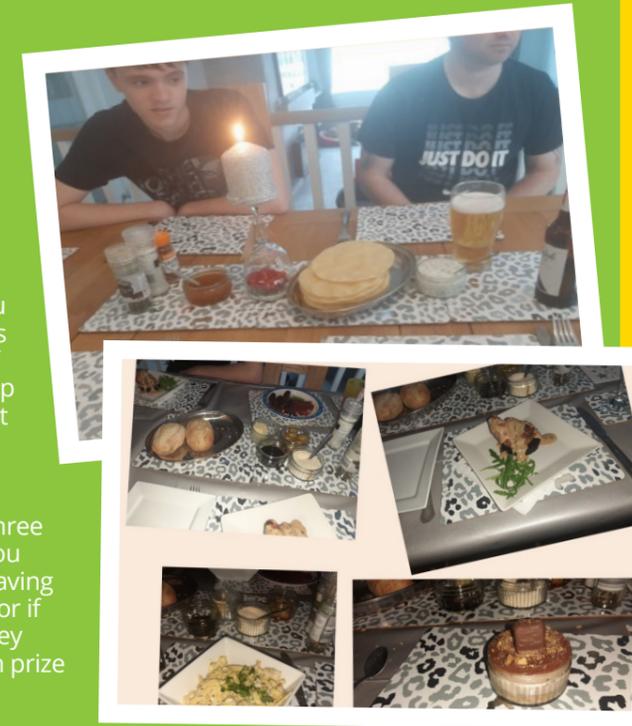
During lockdown, no restaurant was open, so I decided to bring the restaurant home with a 'Come Dine With Me' week.

Every night someone from your family makes a three-course meal and you and your other family members vote on a score out of ten, but you must keep it a secret until the last night.

At the end once everyone has made three three-course meals you could win a prize of having no chores for a week or if your parents want, they could put a small cash prize in for the winner!

Over the course of four days, each one of my family members made a three-course meal. To keep it fair, each person picked a number between 1-4 and then used a random number generator to decide on the order of cooking.

After each meal, we all scored the chefs out of ten and once everyone had cooked, we put photos on social media and let them decide which meal looked the best!



Here are some ideas for meals:

**Starters:** onion bhajis, prawn sandwich, potato bacon sour cream, black pudding

**Mains:** carbonara, enchiladas, tika masala, lamb skewers, burgers, garlic chicken and bacon, lasagne, sticky BBQ chicken

**Deserts:** cookie dough, cookies and ice cream, Terry's chocolate orange cheesecake, salted caramel cake, Daim chocolate cheesecake, crunchie cheesecake, brownies

# Summer jokes

**What is brown, hairy and wears sunglasses?** - A coconut on holiday.

**Where do sheep go on holiday?** The Baaa-hamas.

**And where do sharks go on holiday?** Finland!

**Why did the elephants get kicked out of the pool?** They kept dropping their trunks.

# Ask the students!

We asked our students: "What are you most excited to do this summer?"

"I am getting a puppy so I am excited to raise it." - Leah, Year 8

"Spend some time with family." - Ellie, Year 8

"Go to Alton towers with my family." - Hollie, Year 7

"To go to the beach and have a swim in the water, have barbecues and play outside a lot." - Daniel, Year 8

"My 12th birthday and to spend time with my family on holiday." - Stevie-Louise, Year 7

"Spend all day at the farm." - Taylor Casson, Year 7

"To play football as I absolutely LOVE football! I'm excited to move into Year 8 and meet my new class and teachers." - Scarlett, Year 7

"Go out with my new puppy!" - Holly, Year 8

"Going to the Lakes and going out places. Everything to be honest!" - Imogen, Year 9

"Play football, go out with friends and play games." - Heather, Year 7

"Hang out and go on holiday with family and friends." - Amy, Year 8

"Go to the beach and kick sand with my siblings." - Macey, Year 8

"Go out with my friends." - Summer, Year 9

"Spend time with my family." - Luca, Year 8

"Sleep!" - Kian Smith, Year 8



# Advice for new Year 7s

From our current Year 7s

Here at the Academy, we are looking forward to welcoming our new Year 7s this September. We have asked our current students for the advice they wish they'd had when they were in Year 6 and about to start at Shotton Hall...

"It doesn't matter if you came here by yourself, with a couple of friends or even quite a big group; it is easy to make friends! Most people are scared and nervous as well, but the teachers and older students are always happy to help – even if it is just getting you to your next lesson." - Melissa

"One great thing to do when becoming a Year 7 is keeping organised. Make sure to bring appropriate equipment such as

the following: pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, highlighters, glue stick, scissors and a calculator." - Sophie

"The school provides loads of opportunities to meet new people and try things, such as music lessons, extra-curricular clubs, reading clubs and many more." - Ella

"When you first start Shotton Hall, it can be very scary as it is a big change to go from primary to secondary school. However, I can inform you that everything gets easier once you have a routine and get used to where you're going in and around school. Once you've been a student for a few weeks, you will slowly begin to learn the corridors your classrooms are on." Kelsey

"When entering Year 7 you should check your emails daily to make sure you have the information you need for the year! Getting into the habit of checking INSIGHT is also good, to make sure you don't miss your homework." - Autumn



# We love planet Earth!

Since 1970, every year people celebrate Earth Day around the globe and this year was no different...

As always, our school came together to think about our impact on the planet, what we can do to create a clean-living environment and how to promote a healthy, sustainable habitat for people and wildlife together.

Celebrating Earth Day acts as a reminder of just how fragile our planet is and how important it is to protect it.

Students were tasked with a range of fun activities from designing their own 'save the planet' t-shirts to taking nature walks. Check out some of their brilliant work.



# FOCUS ON THE Good

## Boredom cures!

By Ellie

Now that the summer is approaching, I am sure we will all be excited to finally relax in the golden sun. Sadly, the Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact, but slowly our lives are returning to normal.

With travel restrictions and social distancing, our summer will be quite different from what we are used to. However, this does not mean we have to cancel summer, so I have compiled a list of entertaining activities to do in the warmer months.

### 1) Have a holiday-themed activity day

Try your best to recreate a holiday at home. Why not test your cooking skills and attempt to make the cuisine of the place you were supposed to visit? Or listen to the local music, you might find a new favourite. You could even keep your mind active and learn the language of your dream destination, so you are prepared for when restrictions are lifted.

### 2) Have a self-care day

Why not buy yourself some relaxing face masks? Or you could even make one with some honey, avocado, water and aloe vera.

### 3) Go on an adventure

There are many exciting places around us where you can relax on the beach or adventure in the wild.

### 4) Have a games night

You could have a virtual games night with as many people as you'd like or an in-person one with up to six people. Why not make some snacks to have as you play games like bingo.

### 5) Take a 'you' day

Sometimes it is just nice to have a day all about you. So why not write a list of all the tasks that you need to get done? You will feel like a weight has been lifted from your shoulders, so it is easier to relax and enjoy the rest of your holidays. Whether it's exercising or watching your favourite movie, do something to put a smile in your face.

# Poetry corner

They're everywhere  
By Thomas

Life's guardian awakens from its slumber,

Yet all I see is smog.

It furnishes its children with warmth and glow,

Yet all I feel is cold.

Amorous winter has come and gone,

I long for it to cure me.

But the frosted sun is merciless,

So I struggle through its bleakness.

Ubiquitous eyes relentlessly pursue, with a

Hunger to fuel the feeding paranoia.

I'm walking alone, yet I can sense their presence,

As they surround me with sadistic companionship.

The sun-baked path is surely anomalous, for the

White sun could never conjure such intense heat.

Every part of me recognises irrationality, for

I know that the visages are brilliantly selfish like the rest of us.

But the quivering limbs shiver with such fear that

Their trick isn't corrected.

Questions fire out of the friendly supporting face at the head,

I know I know the answer, but the demons won't allow that satisfaction.

Oh why was such a spirit dreamt up by the lonesome god in the clouds,

And when will it tire of oppressing myself?

Tomorrow, for I know it cannot stay,

This hotel is vacant,

And the price is too much to pay.

# Staying safe this summer

## Five tips from Neve

### 1. Suncream.

Although we may not feel it, the UV rays from the sun are a lot harsher than we think. Even if it's a little bit cloudy, or doesn't feel that warm, the sun can still be extremely harmful. You should always remember to put on suncream so you can enjoy burn-free days at the beach.

### 2. Ocean safety

Although playing in the ocean is lovely and refreshing on a hot summer's day, it is important to remember that the waves and riptides below the seas surface can be very strong. We should always remember to play safely and refrain from swimming too far out into the sea.

### 3. Hydration

We might forget from time to time to stay hydrated in the sun, but we all should try to drink more water and

eat water-rich foods like watermelon and cucumber. This can be a tasty way to cool yourself down when playing in hot temperatures.

### 4. Sunburn

If you forgot tip number one, and have sore sunburn, a great way to help it is to put on aloe vera, as this soothes and neutralises the sunburn. As an added tip, you could put it in the freezer for a few minutes before applying it to cool your skin down. Remember to keep out of the sun for a couple of days to let your skin heal too.

### 5. Litter

We all love fun days out by the seaside, but we also have to remember to pick up rubbish after ourselves. If we don't, we could harm the animals at the beach or hurt people who are walking on the sand, causing injury. Make sure that everyone around you can also enjoy their day at the beach!

## Fast fashion awareness

**Sustainable fashion is clothing designed and made in a way that considers the environment. The opposite to this is fast fashion, which is clothing designed and made with the main focus of producing many garments quickly, without taking environmental impacts into consideration.**

The fast fashion method of fashion prioritises quantity over the quality of the clothing whereas sustainable fashion takes more time and care into the quality of the clothing along with any environmental, economic and social impacts.

Approximately 150 billion pieces of clothing end up in landfills each year due to the popularity of fast fashion.

Within the fast fashion industry, sweatshops result in cruel working conditions with low wages and tiring, long hours. This differs to sustainable fashion where the working conditions and

pay are fair meaning that sweatshops are not permitted. Along with this, there is transparency in the supply chain.

### Here are some characteristics of fast fashion:

- These clothing pieces are not climate friendly.
- The clothing is more affordable.
- Due to the fast rate of production, there is lots of choice.
- This type of production is easy to find.

### The characteristics of sustainable fashion are:

- Long life span.
- People are prioritised over profit and quantity of produce.
- This type of clothing production is more expensive due to the extra consideration put into it.
- There isn't as much choice as sustainable fashion is not as popular as fast fashion.

### Ways to be more sustainable:

Purchase from more sustainable brands (many clothing shops are bringing out eco-friendly ranges), recycle clothing (donations or redesign), buy second-hand clothing (this can also be a lot cheaper!) and check the quality (this may help you buy

