



# SPOTLIGHT

Spring newsletter | March 2018



## DEAR ALL,

Welcome to our spring edition of *Spotlight*. As always we have had a very busy and exciting term. Firstly, I would like to say a huge well done to our Year 10 and 11 students who took part in the mock exams, I hope they have left you feeling reassured and prepared for the upcoming GCSEs. For more exam preparation advice, turn to page six for Mrs Gardner's top tips.

This term saw the return of *Blind Date with a Book*, the *BBC School News Report* and *Pi Day* but sadly, the 'Beast from the East' made it impossible to fully celebrate *Reading Rocks Week* and *World Book Day* on time. As always, all staff and students put in a lot of effort to make sure all events were a success - well done to everyone who took part!

I'd also like to mention that next term we will be focusing on reducing our carbon footprint and increasing our efforts to reduce our consumption of single use plastics. As you will read on page eleven, such plastics have a devastating effect on our wildlife and environment so at Shotton Hall we will be making sure we do our bit to help solve the problem.

I hope you all have a fantastic Easter break.

*Lesley Powell*

**Executive Principal,**  
The Academy at Shotton Hall

## YEAR 7 SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION!

On Friday 19 January 2018, Year 7 celebrated their successful transition to The Academy at Shotton Hall.

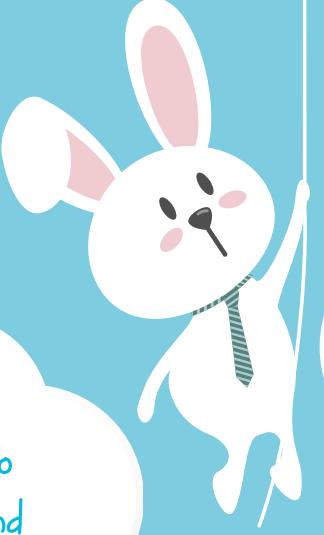
Primary head teachers were reunited with ex-students, and were thrilled to see them settling into their new environment so well. They also had the opportunity to present ex-students with awards evidencing their smooth transition to secondary school.

Sept tutors dedicated a short speech to winners, some of which were; Brogan Hetherington: "Her enthusiasm is infectious and she brings a smile to everyone's face.", Samuel Chandy was described as: "A delight to have in school!" and Sadie Hancock "has a marvellous personality which shines from her wonderful smile."

Thank you to Mr Wood and Mrs Sharpe for hosting the event, it was a great success. Well done to everyone involved.

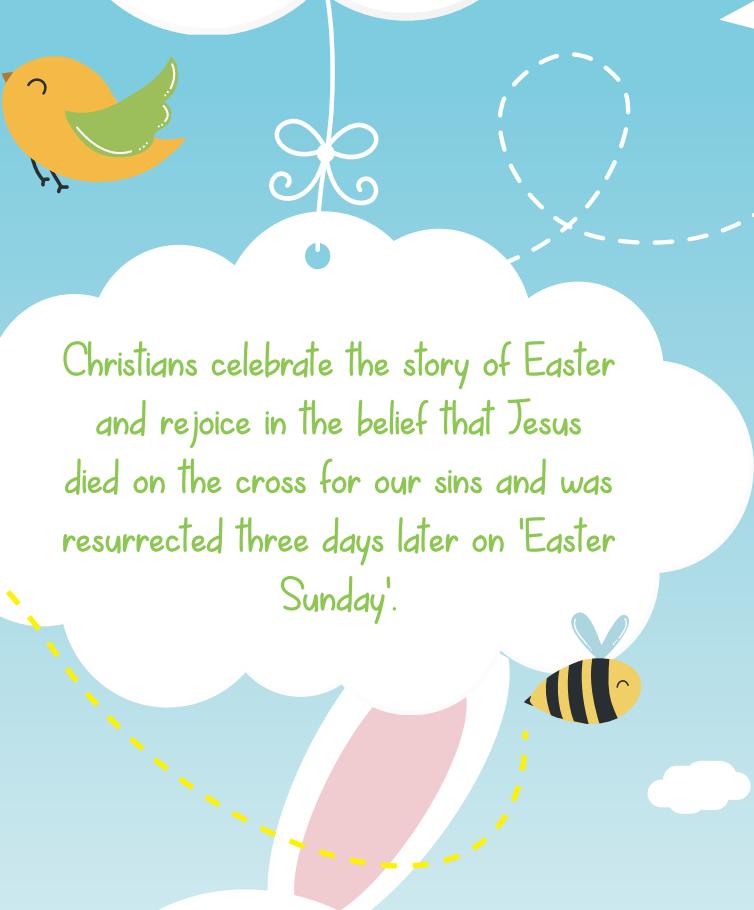
By Anna Hodgson





The tradition of giving Easter eggs has been tracked back to Egyptians, Persians, Greeks and Romans, for whom the egg was a symbol of life.

The UK's first easter egg was produced in 1873, by Fry's of Bristol.



Christians celebrate the story of Easter and rejoice in the belief that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and was resurrected three days later on 'Easter Sunday'.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- |        |                          |
|--------|--------------------------|
| 26 APR | YEAR 10 PARENTS' EVENING |
| 25 MAY | BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM   |
| 04 JUN | BACK TO SCHOOL           |
| 22 JUN | YEAR 11 PROM             |
| 28 JUN | YEAR 7 PARENTS' EVENING  |
| 20 JUL | BREAK UP FOR SUMMER      |

TO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL NEWS AND EVENTS PLEASE VISIT:

[WWW.SHOTTONHALLACADEMY.CO.UK](http://WWW.SHOTTONHALLACADEMY.CO.UK)



The name 'Easter' originates from the Anglo-Saxon goddess of light and dawn (Eostre), who was honoured at pagan festivals, celebrating the arrival of spring.

# A NOTE FROM HEAD BOY & HEAD GIRL



**Hi everyone, we've been looking forward to updating you on what we've been up to over the last term...**

At the start of the term, along with our deputy head boy and girl and the sept reps, we met with Mrs McManus to decide on the design of the Year 11 leavers' hoodies. We couldn't believe that it was finally time to start making plans for our final weeks at the Academy; it certainly is coming around quicker than we anticipated.

We've also been working, as a year group, on our year book entries which we'll receive after our final assembly. We had to state our fondest, funniest memories and our future ambitions. We're looking forward to seeing what everyone had to say.

Of course, our main focus this term has been to prepare for our mock exams, which happened in March. The snow could have held off for another week, couldn't it?! Our peers are working hard on their revision to ensure their performance in exams is up to scratch. For me (Meghan) it's been all about the flashcards. I have them coming out of my ears!

The prom committee is also in full swing, which is exciting. We worked together to set a date and venue for this year's prom, which will be on Friday 22 June at Ramside Hall in Durham. Invites will be given in assembly in the next half term.

As always, we have been in the conference room waiting for any student drop-ins on a Monday break time, so please pop in to say hello, talk about anything that is worrying you or just to have a chat.

**Meghan and Rhys**, Head Girl and Head Boy

## HISTORY LECTURES

**On 6 February 2018, students attended history lectures at our partner Trust school Teesdale School and Sixth Form in Barnard Castle.**

The lectures were given by Professors from Newcastle and Cambridge University. Topics included: Nazi Germany, Elizabethan religious settlement and the constant expansion of the American West. All of these topics will assist them in their history GCSE but also the insight provided students with knowledge that they will need beyond GCSE level.

Dr Felix Shulz, Newcastle University, Dr Simon Henderson, Teesdale School and Professor Richard Rex, Cambridge University were among those delivering lectures on the day.

By Josh Wilson



## WE'RE ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK!



@shottonhall



[facebook.com/  
shottonhallacademy](http://facebook.com/shottonhallacademy)

## FIVE STARS FOR OUR KITCHEN!

**Congratulations to our hard working and enthusiastic kitchen staff who were awarded a five star hygiene rating after an inspection from Durham Local Authority.**

All places that serve food are regularly inspected against the Food Standards Agency criteria and a five star rating is the highest achievable grade.

We already knew our school dinners were delicious, and now we know that they are also prepared in a 5\* hygienic kitchen too! Now... what's for lunch?





## 100% ATTENDANCE CELEBRATION

Here at The Academy at Shotton Hall, the attendance of our students is vital to our success.

We challenge our students to gain at least 96%, but preferably 100% attendance throughout the year to ensure their education is not negatively impacted by having too many days off.

All students in Years 9, 10 and 11 who achieved 100% attendance last term were invited to a special afternoon tea. Over 100 students enjoyed the delicious treat made up of pies, pizza, sandwiches, cakes and delicious scones.

The Academy at Shotton Hall regularly rewards good attendance throughout the year with merits, prizes, tickets to events and more. This half term we introduced attendance badges, which you will see students from all year groups wearing with pride. Students can trade in their badge after each half term to upgrade to the next colour and to let everyone know how good their attendance is. Well done everyone and keep it up!



## EX ACADEMY STUDENT SUCCESS!

April Goodall left The Academy at Shotton Hall in 2007 and has since gone on to run her own very successful company which has just won Small Business of the Year Award 2018!

The company is called 'Prep and Deliver' and it provides meals and snacks for hundreds of customers every week. April started the company in her own kitchen after she posted a photo on Facebook, 18 months ago, of six culinary creations she devised following the birth of her daughter, to help her lose her baby weight.

April's company officially launched in January last year and she now employs five people, has around 700 customers and the capacity to produce 3,000 meals per week. April learned her cooking skills while working in the French Alps and on the Greek island of Karpathos.

'Prep and Deliver' won Small Business of the Year 2018 at the recent One Sunderland Awards.



## NATIONAL PI DAY!

No it's not an excuse to gorge on pies for the day: it is the day that is celebrated as being the beginning date of the mathematical value of Pi!

March 14th or 3.14, is the official celebration of Pi Day that the Academy

has hosted for many years now.

Art and design students created a skyline; English wrote their own pi-ku poems; music created their own symphony and other subjects were making paper chains, all using the digits of Pi! A successful Pi Day was enjoyed by all and we can't wait to see what next year brings.

# BLIND DATE... WITH A BOOK!

As part of the Academy's Valentine's Day celebrations, Miss Pounder and her reading club once again organised the popular event *Blind Date with a Book*.

*Blind Date with a Book* sees students wrap up their used books, stick on a label giving hints about the genre, plot and characters, and swapping it for a book they haven't read before.

Miss Pounder said: "The event was a real success! It is a great way to ensure students have fresh reading material - wrapping up the books and leaving hints about the content is a more exciting way to swap books and our students really enjoy it."

The Academy at Shotton Hall is trialling a new reading initiative which Year 7 and 8 students will be introduced to in the next half term. Watch this space for more information.



## STEM CLUB

The Academy's STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) club have been very busy recently...

Before half term, students learnt about flammability by looking at how flammable Coffee-Mate and methane were. They also set fire to Miss Poots! Last week, students made their very own slime and tested how bouncy it can be depending on the different chemicals used. They also created egg parachutes and tested them out and scripted and starred in their very own STEM film all to do with engineering. The group's efforts have been entered into a national competition - watch this space.

Mrs Eddy said: "The group have been working hard and we have had a lot of fun conducting experiments as well as learning how the subjects we study in STEM club all interlink."

See Mrs Eddy for more information about how to get involved with STEM club.

## MR BRADLEY'S STRAWBERRY MUFFINS

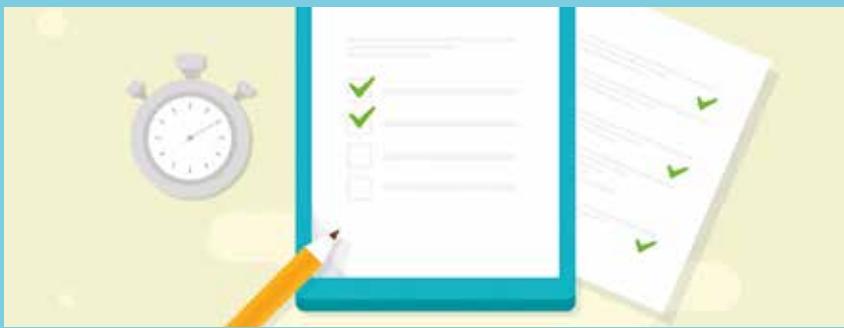


### INGREDIENTS

4 tablespoons sunflower oil  
75ml milk  
1 egg  
150grams self raising flour  
100grams caster sugar  
100grams sliced strawberries

### METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to Gas Mark 6, 200°C, or 180°C for a fan oven.
2. Line a six deep muffin tray with paper cases.
3. Mix the oil, milk and egg together.
4. Sift the flour and sugar into a bowl.
5. Add the liquid and the sliced fruit to the flour and mix briefly until just coming together.
6. Spoon into muffin cases. Bake for 25-30 minutes.



## DEALING WITH EXAMS

It's that time of year again... exam time! Mrs Gardner shares her top tips for dealing with exams.

You may be feeling completely calm and relaxed about the situation and have everything in hand - in which case, well done! However, I imagine that many of you may be feeling worried and maybe even a little scared about the GCSEs around the corner. Don't fear, there are some simple steps you can follow to help yourself feel ready and able to cope with exam pressure.

Bear in mind that stress is a normal emotion; it is a way of responding to a difficult situation, in this case: exams! If you are getting stressed out by a particular subject, think about what in particular is causing the problem and then talk to your subject teacher about it.

Feeling prepared for an exam helps you get a handle on your stress. If you find that you are starting to feel panicky before you head into an exam, try a simple breathing exercise, this gets rid of the body's build-up of oxygen allowing your body and mind to feel calmer.

Good luck!

*Mrs Gardner*  
School Counsellor

### MRS GARDNER'S TOP TIPS:

#### TALK ABOUT IT

Sharing a problem makes you feel less alone, and who knows what wonderful and helpful ideas the person you talk to may have to improve your situation.

#### BE PREPARED

Revising is very important to ensure you are prepared... but make sure you take regular breaks. A ten minute pause in your work gives your brain a chance to relax, allowing you to refocus on your return.

#### REVISION TIMETABLE

Planning your revision is essential to feeling prepared. Be sure to plan time for fun activities as a reward for your hard work!

#### RELAX

Try not to work right up until you go to sleep, instead have a relaxing bath, play calm music or even try a mindfulness exercise, to help you unwind.



## PICTURE THIS: IT'S 4AM. THERE'S ONLY 8 HOURS UNTIL YOUR NEXT EXAM. WHAT DO YOU DO?

The options are simple: stay up and cram or go to bed?

Believe it or not, the option that gives you the best chance of success is going to bed!

Sleep occupies nearly 1/3 of our lives, but many of us give surprisingly little attention and care to it. This is due to a misconception: sleep is not a waste of time! It is also not just a way to rest and be lazy. It is a critical part of life as sleep allows your body to regulate and catch up on itself. It supports everything from circulation to growth to your body's immune system. Most importantly though, sleep is important for the brain! While you sleep, your brain is reconstructing which has a massive impact on your memory.

So, next time you are planning a late night revision session, you might want to consider setting an alarm and getting yourself to bed at a decent time. A lack of sleep could hugely and negatively impact your performance in assessments or exams so let's not ignore something this important again.

Step away from the Xbox, turn the film off, put the books away - it's bed time!





## STUDENTS VISIT HELSINKI

A group of ten Year 9 students have just returned from an exciting trip to Helsinki in Finland as part of the Erasmus Project, STARS.

The STARS project is made up of five chapters that challenge common negative stereotypes in society. The project started at Shotton Hall last year where we looked at religious stereotypes before heading to Malta to look at feminism. The third leg in Finland, saw students investigating sexuality stereotypes.

Working with partners from Croatia, Finland, Portugal and Malta, students made a collection of movies depicting positive representations of LGBT issues.

They worked on a drama presentation tackling bullying and attended the Finnish Parliament where they were met by a deputy from the Finnish Social Democratic Party. He talked about same-sex relationships in Finland and the emphasis on equality.

The group also experienced a genuine Finnish sauna (in swimsuits!), enjoyed lessons in a Finnish school, visited the Moomin Museum, went ice skating and bowling and celebrated with a brilliant party on the final night.

Our students also formed friendships with the students from other countries and were sad when they had to leave.

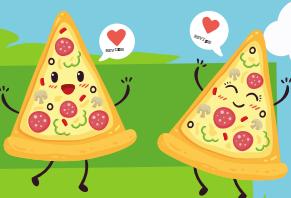
## PIZZA REVISION NIGHT

A group of Year 11 students and their parents are now feeling a lot more confident about revising for exams after attending our 'pizza perfect' revision workshop this week.

Revision has a huge impact on exam grades, but some students are unsure how to revise efficiently. The workshop showcased a range of effective revision strategies that can be easily adopted and that are proven to work. Parents were invited along too so that they can feel confident helping their child with revision.

Thank you to everyone who came and thank you to Mrs Maughan and Mrs Hickman for running the event.

We will be hosting similar events in future - watch this space...



## ANNUAL PRIMARY PERFORMANCE

The Academy's popular, annual primary drama performance took place on Monday 19 and Tuesday 20 March 2018.

Year 4 and 5 pupils from South Hetton Primary, Hutton Henry, Acre Rigg Academy, Howletch Lane Primary, Shotton Primary and Shotton Hall Primary performed in the event.

Pupils researched tales such as Ali Baba, Jack and the Beanstalk and Robin Hood; they improvised themes of the play; developed characters; read and spoke in rhyme and developed confidence in rehearsals that eventually lead to a celebratory performance.

# BBC SCHOOL NEWS REPORT

Thursday 15 March was the official, annual BBC School News day which the Academy's newspaper club has taken part in for many years.

BBC School Report gives 11-18 year olds across the UK the chance to develop their media literacy skills and produce their own stories about subjects that matter to them.

The Academy at Shotton Hall's newspaper club worked together this year to produce a news report based on: plastic usage, climate change, the Olympics and the 'Beast from the East'.

Miss Smith and Miss Farrell, who organised the event, said: "We are over the moon with how well our student reporters approached the day - they were professional and seemed to have learned a lot about a real life day delivering the news!"

Students had been working tirelessly in preparation for the day completing tasks such as script writing and planning, prop preparation and green screen rehearsal. See Miss Smith and Miss Jamieson in the English corridor for more opportunities to get involved in creating the news at the Academy. A big well done to everyone involved!



## ARMY CADET CAMP

Not everything is as it seems with the Academy's Josh Gowland, one of our lovely Year 11 students...

Josh is a Corporal Three Star in the Army Cadets and is already preparing for a future career in the British Armed Forces.

Josh has been a Cadet for many years and recently attended an Army Cadet camp. At Stainton Camp, Josh worked on field contact drills; he patrolled on a road, zigzagging and dropping on the floor to fire a gun, and completed fire and movement drills. Josh's favourite part was the opportunity to fire a machine gun. He said: "The gun has to be held firmly while lying on the ground in order to keep in steady - this is needed for an introductory shoot for star grading."

## READING ROCKS!

Despite the 'Beast from the East' doing its best to ruin the Academy's World Book Day plans this year, we are pleased to report that its attempts were futile and that the English department still celebrated with *Reading Rocks Week*.

English teachers encouraged students to get involved and pick up a book. Mr Favaro's 'Never Ending Story' took residence in reception where students were invited to add entries to the story. *The Great Shotton Hall Quotation Quest* was organised by Miss Farrell and involved students locating five quotations from famous books around the school and identifying the name and author. Miss Fearon coordinated a *Reading Rocks* raffle in which students received raffle tickets as rewards for good behaviour.

Miss Clarke hosted the famous 'Higher or Lower' game in a literary style in sept and Miss Jamieson's classroom became a huge Twitter board that gradually became full with Year 7 and 8's book recommendations!

*Reading Rocks* was, once again, a very busy week! The question is "why bother reading?" Here's some reasons:

Reading keeps your brain active; it is exercise for your mind. Like any muscle, if it is not exercised then it

will become lazy!

Reading allows you to discover worlds beyond your own.

Reading helps you to understand our history and issues in the world. There are moments in history that should never be forgotten.

Reading develops your language skills. Those who read in their spare time are more likely to do well in maths and English: FACT!

By Jack Curry



## SUCCESS FOR OUR HOSPITALITY AND CATERING STUDENTS!

**Our Year 11 students hosted their very own afternoon tea event 'Tea is Served', as part of their hospitality and catering GCSE.**

As part of the students' practical assessment they successfully completed everything from making the dishes, designing the room layout and serving the customers. They got a real taste of the industry, being on their feet from 8.45am – 2.45pm, but it was all worth it!

Our lovely teaching staff popped along to enjoy sandwiches, cakes, Eton mess, scones and some rather delicious bubbly... alcohol free, of course! There was also an amazing looking cake (layered mango and raspberry sponge cake, with chocolate soil sprinkles and mint garnish) that would give Mary Berry a run for her money!

Well done to everyone involved!



## CAREERS WEEK

**As part of our careers advice here at Shotton Hall, we eagerly participated in National Careers Week (5-9 March).**

Throughout the week, students participated in career-focused assemblies and lessons, encouraging students to think about their futures. Students learned about the pathways open to them post-Shotton Hall, and considered what skills and interests they have which could guide their choices at college and university. The day was filled with lots of creativity including self-portraits of students in ten years' time.

Alongside career-focused activities, students participated in voluntary work campaigning for a cause they care about. This involved students seeking petition signatures and sharing their work and research. Some campaigns included fightings against UK arms trading and animal testing and for first aid training in school. This experience has been a great opportunity for students to

build content for their college applications and CVs, and develop key presentation and communication skills.

If you want to know more about pathways into college, sixth form, university and apprenticeships, then visit Shotton Hall's website (found in the careers section of current students). On this site you will discover lots of information to help you understand the range of options, courses and certifications that are now out there.

If you didn't manage to participate in *Careers Week* due to mock examinations or other commitments, don't worry, you will have plenty more opportunities to explore and discuss your career ideas and journey throughout your time here at Shotton Hall.

## DID YOU KNOW...

### THAT WE HAVE AN INDEPENDENT CAREERS ADVISOR HERE IN SCHOOL?

If you would like some one to one support, advice and guidance please book an appointment with Richard in the LRC who will be more than happy to help you!



## PET'S CORNER

**OWNER:** MISS PRIMROSE  
**NAME:** KITTY KAT  
**AGE:** 2 YEARS

This term's edition of *Spotlight* would like to introduce you to Miss Primrose's cat: Kitty Kat

Kitty Kat was two in February and, technically, belongs to Miss Primrose's daughter, Nancy. She joined the family as a last minute birthday present when Miss' auntie acquired two kittens - they kept one and Miss took the other.

Miss Primrose said: "Kitty Kat loves to cuddle in, but hates being stroked! She loves to hunt: we quite often come home to a feather filled hallway or are greeted by a mouse lying on the doorstep!"

Kitty Kat's most peculiar and cutest habit is that she follows Nancy's bedtime routine; she sits in the bath while they brush teeth, sits on the bed while they read a chapter of her book then finds her favourite spot on the bed and goes to sleep with Nancy every night. How cute!



## BOOK REVIEW FROZEN CHARLOTTE

**AUTHOR:** ALEX BELL  
**DATE PUBLISHED:** 1 OCTOBER 2014  
**GENRE:** THRILLER / HORROR

When Sophie's cousin, Rebecca, dies under mysterious circumstances, she sets off to stay with her other cousins. Sophie meets; Piper, a girl who is almost too perfect, Cameron, who has a scarred hand, and Lilian, a peculiar girl with a fear of bones. When she arrives she is asked to follow a series of strange rules such as: not mentioning Cameron's accident, never leaving the front gate open and, most importantly, she should never speak of Rebecca again. Her death seems to have corrupted the whole family and her mysterious disappearance has traumatised them.

This was all very strange to Sophie, but when she discovers the frozen Charlotte dolls in Lilian's room, things start to get even more weird! Questions run through Sophie's mind like: why would someone be so scared of bones? How did my cousin die? Is Piper who she seems? Am I insane or are the frozen Charlotte dolls slowly killing me?

I loved reading this book because it was filled with frights and shocks. I love the genre and I would recommend this to anyone who likes a good plot twist.

By Jasmin Mahil

## RACISM AWARENESS

Year 7 and 8 students took part in a racism awareness programme in a bid to raise students' alertness and sensitivity to the subject.

Racist behaviour is not and will not be tolerated within the Academy and the session was centred around developing our students' understanding of what is classed as racist behaviour.

Students were shown a video where a young, Muslim girl was a victim of racist abuse following the terror attacks in France. The video detailed the girl's inner turmoil and her journey to educating her peers on her

religion and beliefs; she planned and delivered her own assembly explaining her cultural beliefs which led to the understanding and acceptance of her peers.

Matthew said: "It was really interesting because we got to see and discuss examples of racist behaviour and the type of language associated with racist behaviour - we were asked whether we had heard it, used it and whether we thought it appropriate."

Staff assisting with the event complimented members of the group for their excellent work and commended the conscientiousness of students and how effective their sharing of ideas was.

# LET'S REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF PLASTIC WE USE!

A truckload of plastic is entering our oceans every minute. We have produced plastic as heavy as one billion elephants since the 1950s and only 9% of this has ever been recycled.

As a school, we are contributing to this with the 230 bottles of water we sell (on average) each week. Not all of these are recycled and we want this to change.

## WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

- Bring your own water bottle to school – use the water fountains to re-fill it.
- If you do buy a bottle of water (in or out of school), make sure you put it in the recycle bin.
- Encourage your friends and family to recycle more.

## WHY SHOULD I HELP?

It's estimated the total weight of plastic in our oceans will exceed that of fish by 2050.

## HOW DOES MY PLASTIC END UP IN THE SEA?

A lot of people think that if they put their bottle in the bin, it isn't their bottle in the sea killing wildlife - but it is. Plastic ends up in the sea in three ways:

1. **Litter in our streets** can be blown into drains or rivers which flow down to the sea.
2. **Down the plughole:** everything from the beads in our toothpaste, to

- flushing baby wipes/cotton buds down the toilet ends up flowing into our sea.
3. **Landfill:** mountains of plastic in open land fill sites can be blown into the sea.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE RUBBISH I RECYCLE?

It is collected and taken to a recycling centre where it is separated into different types of recyclables. It is then melted down and used to make a number of new things including playground equipment, carpeting, clothing or even new bottles.

The bottle caps can also be used to become tough kitchen bowls and cutting boards, car battery cases, toothbrushes, storage bins and more.

Plastic lasts for more than 500 years. This means that every single bit of plastic you have ever used still exists somewhere in the world, in some form or another. How much of it have you recycled?



## SEVEN TIPS FOR LIVING WITH LESS PLASTIC

1. **BRING YOUR OWN SHOPPING BAG**
2. **CARRY A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE**
3. **BRING YOUR OWN CUP**
4. **PACK YOUR LUNCH IN REUSABLE CONTAINERS**
5. **SAY NO TO DISPOSABLE STRAWS AND CUTLERY**
6. **SKIP THE PLASTIC PRODUCE BAGS**
7. **STORE LEFTOVERS IN GLASS JARS**

## MORE INFORMATION:

[www.greeneducationfoundation.org](http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org)  
[www.plasticoceans.org](http://www.plasticoceans.org)  
[www.greenpeace.org.uk](http://www.greenpeace.org.uk)  
[www.theworldcounts.com](http://www.theworldcounts.com)





## DID YOU KNOW...

**Shotton Hall SCITT, based here at the Academy, runs a teacher training course and that we still have places left for September 2018?**

Shotton Hall SCITT is one of the most well respected and successful teacher training providers in the region. In 2015 we were ranked 4th in the country for the quality of ITT provision by The Good Teacher Training Guide and in 2016, we achieved Ofsted outstanding for both our primary and secondary courses - the highest grade that can be achieved.

Placement schools for our courses are spread right across the north east from Hartlepool in the south to

Northumberland in the north and right across to Teesdale School in the west. This means that the majority of your training could be somewhere much closer to home as we try to match trainees up to the most appropriate locations.

If you have ever thought about teaching as a career, you can come to one of our Back to School days to get a taste of what it is like to be a teacher or you can get in touch with us to talk through your options and find out more.

For more information visit [www.shottonhallSCITT.co.uk](http://www.shottonhallSCITT.co.uk)

## PETER WOOD

Geography trainee

### Tell us about your route into teaching

I've worked in the food industry for over 20 years after falling into hospitality after university. It's now 18 years since my degree, but, since I started the course, everything has come flooding back. Being "slightly" older can help when it comes to the general knowledge needed!

### What inspired you to be a teacher?

I've got two great kids at home who are now at school. Helping them at home was exciting and I realised that I was good at it. It made me remember that when I was at school, great teachers were good at explaining content. They were also patient yet firm and always fair. They set high expectations, knew how to motivate and, most importantly, they made a difference. That's what I want to do. I feel that I can make a difference in this job.

### Why did you choose Shotton Hall SCITT?

I drove past the Shotton Hall SCITT sign outside The Academy at Shotton Hall every day for years and I kept thinking, "should I do it?". I finally decided to ring up and have a chat. From there it got lots easier and the next thing I knew, I had a place on the course. Shotton Hall SCITT was my only choice, their professionalism was brilliant and I got the feeling that I would be well looked after and trained to a high standard.

### What would you say to anyone else thinking of becoming a teacher?

Do it, do it now. It's never too late! You'll honestly have the best time. It's hard work but massively rewarding.

