



# SPOTLIGHT

Spring newsletter | April 2022



National  
Teaching  
School



## WELCOME to our spring newsletter...

**“Concentrate on the road ahead, not on the road behind!”**

As we come to the end of very challenging times for everyone in our school community, it is fitting to thank you all for your continued support. Our students, once again, have excelled themselves demonstrating their resilience and determination. I must also commend our staff who have continued to be flexible and rise to the challenges of these extraordinary times.

Each year group has their own story to celebrate:

Years 7 and 8 have taken part in so many things in and around school. Year 9 have chosen their options ready for next year. Year 10 have received some lovely compliments from people coming into school after talking

to students about what the next steps for them can be. And finally, Year 11 have completed their final set of mocks. The next time they will be sitting in the exam hall, it will be their actual GCSE exams. We wish them all the best of luck!

Universally we are delighted at the effort and attitude shown by all.

If you have been keeping an eye on our social media channels, we are sure you will have been as amazed as we are at the efforts of our fantastic students.

We hope this newsletter will allow you to celebrate with us the wonderful talent within our school community. Enjoy!

*Alex Hook*

**Miss A Hook, Head of School**

## Hello Year 6

**We are so happy you will be joining us from September and we cannot wait to meet you all!**

We have lots of plans for you to get to know the school and for us to get to know you before you join us as brand new Year 7s in September.

We have been thrilled to welcome primary schools pupils into school this term from our feeder schools.

If you have any problems with your secondary school allocation, please contact us directly on 0191 518 0222.



# Busy Bees



## This term saw Year 7 and 8 students get green fingers as they got stuck into some gardening.

Students took to the woodland glade behind E block to plant some bluebell bulbs as part of our Gardening Club. We can't wait to see what they have planned for the space next.

If you'd like to join our budding botanists, Gardening Club meets every Thursday after school and is open to anyone who wants to get in touch with nature. We hope to see you there!



## IMPORTANT DATES

for your diary

25 APR - Back to school

02 MAY - Bank holiday

27 MAY - Break up for half term

Please keep checking our website and social media channels for the latest updates.



## Super 60

Our staff have been taking on the Super 60 challenge to raise money for World Autism Awareness Week.

Team Shotton Hall have been doing various activities to raise money for the good cause (some have even roped in their families!).

Mrs Edwards-Barkel and her children made 60 badges at home and delivered them in 60 hours.

Miss Weighill created a beautiful piece of art in support of the team while Mrs Mein and her sons took on the challenge with a football twist.

If you'd like to support the team, you can visit their fundraising page here: <https://loom.ly/ZmRTwk8>

**AUTISM**  
AWARENESS WEEK



## Were social!

Follow our social media accounts to stay up to date with all of the latest news from around the Academy!



@shottonhall



@shottonhallacademy



@shacademy

# Reading Rocks Week

We love to read here at The Academy at Shotton Hall, so students loved taking part in range of activities for the much-loved Reading Rocks Week.

As part of the week, students enjoyed a visit from author Daniel Ingham-Brown Daniel who delivered a presentation and Q&A session to our youngest students in Year 7 before holding some inspirational writing workshops with all year groups.

Students were thrilled to get their copies of his latest book signed at lunch time!



## 'Pawfect' visitors

Say hello to The Academy at Shotton Hall's new fluffy friends...

We introduced a very exciting initiative the beginning of this term involving Therapy Dogs Nationwide that students (and staff) are over the moon about!

Every week we have some special canine friends come into school to lift our spirits.

Students had the pleasure of meeting Freddie the greyhound and Maisie the labrador during the first week of the initiative.

The impact the dogs have had has been incredible!



## Bobsled visit

Year 10 sport studies students enjoyed a visit from retired Team GB bobsledder, Nicola Minichiello.

Nicola delivered an insightful workshop as part of the Youth Sport Trust 'Step into Sport' programme. The group looked at the roles and qualities of an effective sports leader and the routes they can take to become sports leaders themselves.

Thank you Nicola!

# Sporting success

This term has seen some brilliant sporting achievements from our students both in and out of the classroom.

**Cricket** - Our Under 13 girls' cricket team bowled away the competition at their first tournament, winning all four of their games despite only having been a team for few weeks before competing!

**Netball** - Our Year 7 girls were on fire when they beat Seaham High 8-3 this term.

Our Year 9 girls were also triumphant this term winning the East Durham Schools Netball League. Throughout the season they played each school and worked well together

consistently to get the results to win the overall league.

**Basketball** - Our basketball team had a fantastic neck-and-neck match against Easington Academy this term. A special mention to MVP, Aidan!

**Horse riding** - Outside the classroom, equestrian superstar Elin galloped her way success in the British Riding Clubs Arena Eventing National Championships. Elin did incredibly well finishing in 3rd position in the junior 80cm section!



Did you know? **The UK's first chocolate egg was produced in Bristol in 1873.**

## Alfie's kindness to Ukraine

You may remember that kind student Alfie, supported his local community by making packs for those in need during lockdown.

Alfie has now been organising some of his packs to go to Poland to support children in the midst of the current conflict.

Shotton Hall students wrote messages of support and encouragement, which Alfie added into the packs.



# Tasty treats

Our Student Leadership Team organised a charity bake sale to raise money to support people in Ukraine and for our Wildlife Club.

We raised a whopping £645.27! We'd like to say a big thank you to those who baked, donated and organised the event - it was a huge success!



# Shakespeare style!

Year 7 students celebrated National Shakespeare Week in style!

The group created freeze frames of iconic scenes from Shakespeare's plays, focussing on arguments and conflicts. As you can see the students thoroughly enjoyed taking on the roles of The Tempest's Prosperus and Caliban!



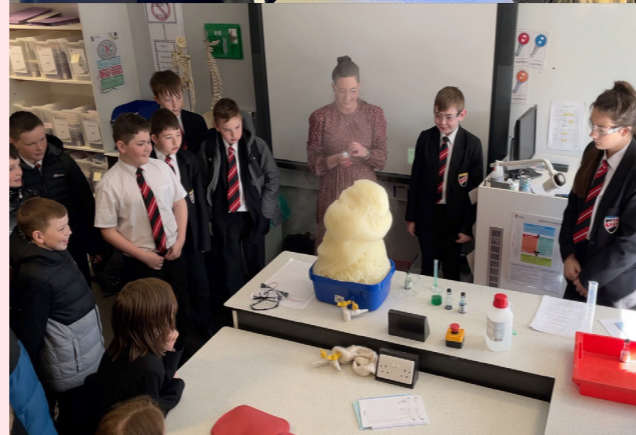
# Pi Day - yum!

We celebrated Pi Day in style this term with none other than a 'Pi pie' baking competition!

The pie certainly went down a treat with our hula hoop competition working up students' appetites.

The tasty treats didn't stop there. We were joined by Year 5 students from several of our feeder primary schools for Pi Day!

Pupils started off their visit by investigating the properties of the circle including circumference, area and diameter before looking at the value of Pi to 30 decimal places and icing Pi onto chocolate cookies!



# Fizz, bang, pop

British Science Week was a hit with students as they got involved with all sorts of fantastic activities both inside and outside of the classroom.

Students saw a spectacular exothermic reaction to create 'elephant toothpaste' - a huge foamy reaction where hydrogen peroxide decomposes rapidly in the presence of a catalyst.

They were also wowed by 'rainbow fizz' - a reaction where acids and alkalis combine in a neutralisation reaction to create a fizzy array of colours!



# Boogie wonderland!

Did you dance the night away at our sell out disco? We loved seeing you all bust your best dance moves in your favourite party outfits. We can't wait for the next disco, but until then, enjoy some of the snaps we captured of the big night!

