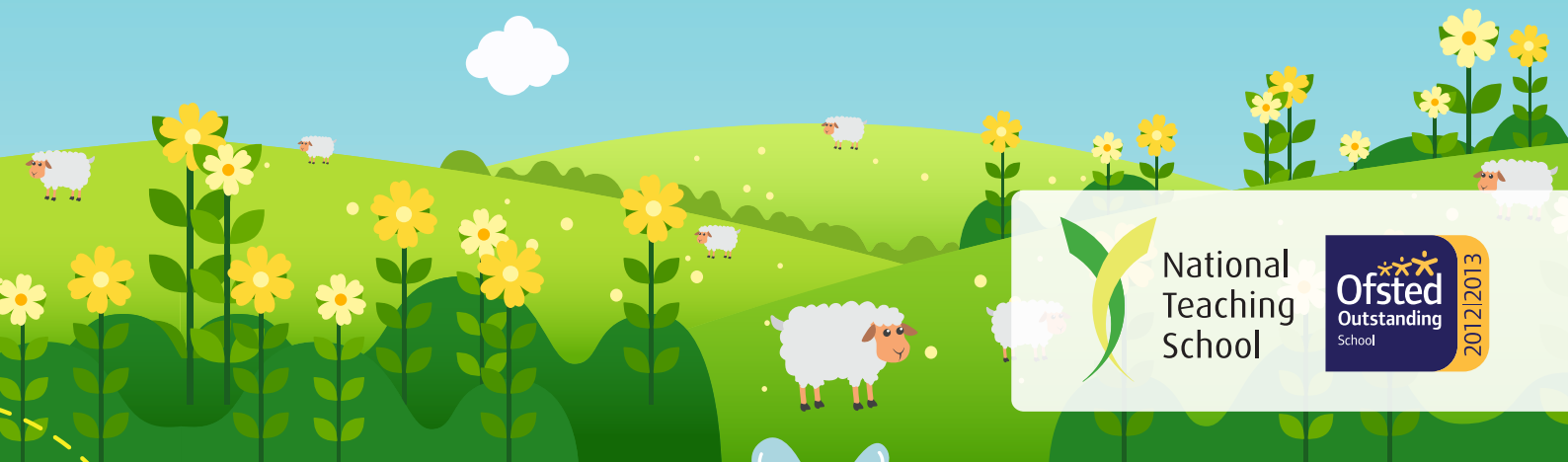




SPOTLIGHT

Spring newsletter | April 2019



National
Teaching
School



DEAR ALL,

I want to start with one of my favourite Harry Potter quotes: "Working hard is important. But there's something that matters even more. Believing in yourself."

We have seen hard work from our Year 11 students this term as they sat their final mock exams. Remember, you have been preparing for these exams for the past three years, continue to work hard but, also remember to believe in yourself, you have the knowledge and skills to succeed.

The next time you are in the exam hall, you will be sitting your actual GCSE exams. We wish you the best of luck.

Year 8 students have a big decision to make over Easter as they decide which subjects they wish to study next year. My advice would be to choose subjects you are interested in, don't choose a subject because

your friends have chosen it, or because of a particular teacher. Choose something that peaks your interest, something you are passionate about.

The rest of the school have been kept busy with lots of activities happening in school. Pi Day, Science Week and more. Read all about that inside.

Have a great Easter everyone, see you when we get back!

Alex Hook

Miss A Hook, Head of School
The Academy at Shotton Hall



Medical Mavericks

During half term, Year 11 students with a particular interest in careers in the medical sector were visited by *The Medical Mavericks*.

Our aspiring doctors, nurses and surgeons tried out ECG machines, ultrasound machines, key hole surgery, taking blood, and stitching wounds - all on models as opposed to human beings, of course!

Miss McManus, who coordinated the event said: "It was a really fun and informative session that gave the students the opportunity to try out real medical equipment and hopefully got them excited for their futures in the world of medicine."



SCIENCE WEEK

Science Week is an annual celebration that staff and students look forward to and this year was no exception.

The theme for this year's Science Week was *Journeys* so, as you can imagine, students were taken on science-themed expeditions throughout the week including: space, sea and the afterlife – spooky!

A range of exciting competitions and activities ran across the week. All students were encouraged to get involved in such as poster and door design competitions, all within the theme of *Journeys*.

STEM club members hosted break time demonstrations of rainbow fizz and exploding hydrogen balloons to the amazement of onlookers. We also welcomed a range of visitors to the Academy: Marine Engineering Pathway representatives visited and spoke to KS3 students; Newcastle University lecturers delivered a session on 'Saving our Seas' and Northumbrian Water staff visited STEM Club.

All in all it was an exciting week in the science department - we can't wait to see what they come up with next year...

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 23 APR - BACK TO SCHOOL
- 25 APR - YEAR 10 PARENTS' EVENING
- 06 MAY - BANK HOLIDAY
- 24 MAY - BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM
- 03 JUN - BACK TO SCHOOL
- 27 JUN - YEAR 7 PARENTS' EVENING
- 05 JUL - YEAR 11 PROM
- 15 JUL - NELT SUMMER CONCERT

To keep up to date with all news and events please visit:

www.shottonhallacademy.co.uk



THE MERIT WALL OF FAME

rewarding students for exemplary standards in school



MERIT SUCCESS

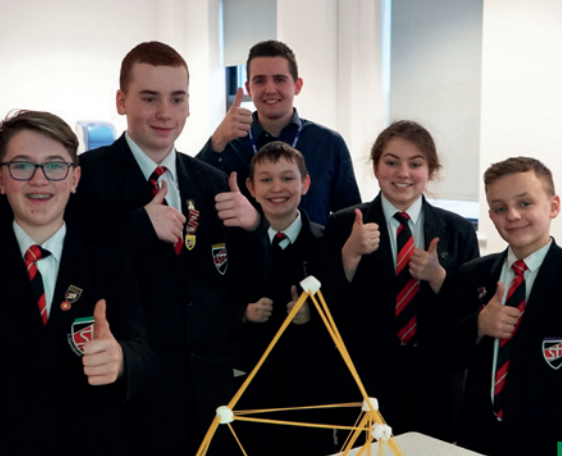
We're sure that, by now, all students have spotted our new merit wall of fame and achievement next to the food technology classroom.

The merit wall is a part of our bid to celebrate the success of our most well behaved students who put the utmost effort into life at the Academy.

As well as the wall of fame, students have received queue jump prizes weekly for being the student to achieve the most merits in their year group. Huge congratulations to everyone who has won this prize so far.

Remember, your merits all add up and as well as using them in the stationery shop, they can also be used for activity week in the last week of term. Your merits could take you swinging through the trees at Go Ape, scoffing fish and chips in Whitby or scaling Roseberry Topping with your friends.

Keep collecting to see where your Merits can take you!



STEM club welcomes ex-student

Civil engineer and ex-student, Josh Chapman, visited STEM club to talk about his job at Building Design Northern.

The session started with a quiz to test how much the students already knew about engineering. Josh then showed students the 3D models he is currently designing for a site in Durham City Centre.

He spoke about how he got his job, what skills are needed and other routes into engineering (apprenticeship vs university).

Students were then given an engineering challenge to build the strongest and tallest spaghetti tower.

All in all, it was a great session - thank you to Josh for coming in!

We're on Twitter and Facebook!



@shottonhall



facebook.com/shottonhallacademy



Eddie and Frankie...

This half term, our Year 11 students were treated to a showing of their very own animated film at the Sage, Gateshead.

Three years ago, students opted to take part in the creation of the short animated film *Eddie and Frankie* for the British Film Institution and Channel Four. The animation is the product of years of hard work from students and the Arts Council.

The animated film tells the story of a young girl and her dad in the aftermath of the pit closures of the early '90s, a theme very close to the hearts of families in the area.

Check out our website to see the full animation.



Tom tries out for the Team GB rowing team!

After years of devotion to sport, aspiring athlete, Tom Brumwell in Year 11, tried out for the Team GB rowing team in February.

We've always known Tom as an avid swimmer and it was only last year, after a knee injury, that he decided to take up rowing briefly to strengthen his knee. After being spotted at a rowing competition for his talent and remarkable height (6 foot 7!), he decided to take up the sport permanently.

Since then, Tom began to train six times a week with Durham Rowing Club on top of his

swimming training seven times a week. If you are wondering how he manages to fit it all in, well... he gets up at 4.30am most mornings to train before school. Wow!

Tom is planning on attending a rowing college in Gloucester next year and aspires to become an athlete. We look forward to watching Tom on TV in a few years.

YEAR 7 FUTSAL

This half term has seen the introduction of the Year 7 Futsal Tournament by Mr Mann, offering every sept the opportunity to compete with other groups for the champions title!

Futsal teams are made up of five students per sept and matches last for ten minutes.

You may be wondering: what is Futsal? Well, it is a variant of association football played on a hard court, smaller than a football pitch, and mainly indoors. It can be considered a version of five-a-side football making it suitable for smaller groups.

The current leadership board puts 7E1 and 7E3 in the top position – let's see if they can continue their winning streak for the rest of the year!



GAMES WITHOUT BORDERS

As part of the Academy's Erasmus scheme, a mixture of Year 8 and 9 students visited Palma in Spain where they worked on a project called *Games Without Borders*.

The hosting school was located in a small town called Sineu where all of the participants of the project met to take part in activities on the first day. Students were also given the opportunity to visit and explore the city of Palma where they had a guided tour and visited the government headquarters.

The next day, the lucky group went to Albufera National Park and Son Real where they walked the 'Necropolis' which is an active archaeological site right next to the sea: it is quite literally a prehistoric cemetery. Miss Kell said: "It was quite emotional to see the sizes of some of the graves."

On the third day, the local community celebrated the Festival for Sant Antoni and students took part in a folk dancing lesson and learned about the unique musical instruments used. To end the day, students enjoyed a barbeque, dancing, music and fireworks – this truly sounds like the trip of a lifetime!

The final day saw the multicultural group giving presentations on what they had learned about Spanish culture and Shotton Hall students taught them about England. This means that when the group visit us here in England, they will recognise some of the things that they were taught!

For information on how to get involved in future Erasmus Projects, see Mr Kell...

Students explore Italy!

A group of our students recently explored the beautiful country of Italy as part of an Erasmus trip.

The trip started with a journey to Naples, where students visited an interactive science museum before exploring the impressive city and sampling the best pizza in the city - well... supposedly, anyway!

The next day, students enjoyed a guided tour of the ancient Roman city Pompeii, followed by an afternoon hike of Mount Vesuvius.

Throughout the week, students sampled a lot of delicious gelato and made friends with students from Slovenia, Poland, Italy and Cyprus.





CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR AMAZING CHOIR!

Spotlight would like to pass on a HUGE congratulations to our outstanding school choir who were crowned North East Choir of the Year 2019 at Durham Cathedral this term!

After being awarded the title of 'Best Secondary School Choir in Durham' before Christmas, students were invited to take part in the next stage of the competition against seven other schools from all over the north east.

The schools went head-to-head but our harmonious school choir blew the others out of the water with their beautiful rendition of *Never Enough* from *The Greatest Showman*. The group will now sing at a festival

at the Sage in July.

Mr Robson said: "I am so proud, yet again, of our amazing school choir who put on a truly spectacular performance yesterday. Singing at such a beautiful location like Durham Cathedral is already an honour but to win the competition is even more incredible. Well done to each student who took part; you have made me and the rest of the school very proud."

Pi Day 2019!

Thursday 14 March or 3.14 was the centre of our Numeracy Month celebrations this term.

In true Shotton Hall style, septs were competing against each other for the title of Multiplication Superheroes! Students spent sept time in March preparing their timetables skills for a weekly test; they had three minutes to answer as many quiz questions on multiplications as possible. Students were able to complete 30 times tables in as little as 50 seconds!

It was hard not to spot the celebrations on March 14 in and around the maths corridor as it was completely taken over by paper plates decorated by Year 7 students promoting Pi (to 30 digits!). As well as this, students submitted their entries to the Pi Day Pie bake off which was judged by the maths department themselves.

To top it all off, Miss Harman introduced the first ever Hula Hoop Pi contest to see who would dare make circles with their hips in the dining hall at breaktime. A lot of students took on the challenge and won!

We can't wait to see what they come up with next year...

VOCABULARY JANUARY

January saw the introduction of our very first Vocabulary Month, created by Miss Farrell and Miss Clarke.

It is a fact that in order to be successful in your GCSEs, young people need a vocabulary of at least 60,000 words. That's right - 60,000! So we had better get a move on and eat some dictionaries for breakfast...

Remember when your parents used to read to you when you were little? That was so much more important than you could ever begin to realise because that meant that from a young

age, you were already acquiring a wide vocabulary.

As part of *Vocabulary January*, students in Year 8 and 9 completed prefix challenges and vocabulary treasure hunts around the school. New vocabulary acquired by our students included: ravenous, scarlet, equilibrium, inequality, convene and mediocre.





BUDDIES WANTED!

Are you responsible? Are you a good ambassador for the school? Are you a friendly person with the ability to make others feel comfortable and welcome? Yes? You sound like Buddy material!

Mrs Sharpe will soon be advertising for Year 7 students to become buddies to help with the Year 6 transition period over the summer term. Look out for her appearing in septs and assemblies in the coming weeks to explain more about the hugely important role.

We all remember what it was like to be new to the school so let's work together to ensure our new cohort feel just as welcome as we did!

BELGIAN STUDENTS VISIT SHOTTON HALL

This term, we were delighted to welcome a group of 14 Belgian students into school as part of the new Erasmus project, *Story I.D.*

Story I.D is a project about story-telling with multiple schools in Portugal, the UK, Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands, joining together to produce stories that reflect the culture of the different countries. The project runs over two years and involves many exchange projects and teacher meetings. The next phase of the project will see a group of students visit Italy.

On their first day at Shotton Hall, students worked with a rap artist who helped them construct a song about British and Belgian culture. It became apparent that, although we have some different cultural norms and ideas, we are also very similar in many ways!

The Belgian students taught us about their language, school system and food and were very impressed by our modern school building.

After this, with the help of a professional animator, students created a short animated film using their own drawings. This short film encapsulated the idea of British and Belgian characters meeting and sharing ideas and stories.

Well done to the Year 9 students who helped out all week and made our visitors feel at home.



Year 7 Caterpillar experience

15 carefully selected Year 7 students visited Peterlee's Caterpillar Plant this half term as part of their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) training.

The students were given the opportunity to look around the plant and discuss their future career paths with professionals in the company. Sharon Grant, Senior Training Consultant at Caterpillar commented: "It was an absolute pleasure to have your Year 7 pupils here for their STEM event. The 15 children were an absolute credit to your school. They were enthusiastic, engaged, respectful of each other, they communicated really well and the teamwork was outstanding. There are definitely some stars of the future in that small group. Honestly, it was probably my favourite STEM event to date!"

Of course we know that our students are amazing but it's always nice to have this recognised by outside agencies so a huge well done to the Year 7s involved.

JOKE CORNER

HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE EASTER BUNNY IS REALLY SMART?

BECAUSE HE IS AN EGGHEAD!

WHAT KIND OF BUNNY CAN'T HOP?

A CHOCOLATE ONE!





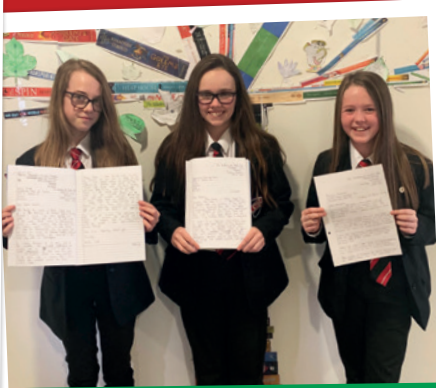
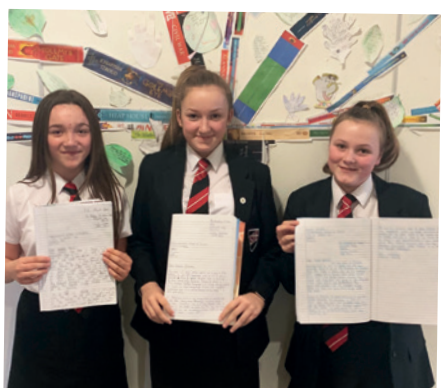
Rowing scholarship success!

Congratulations to Hannah Davidson in Year 10, who was awarded an 8-week scholarship at the Durham County Rowing Club after competing in competitions with the school.

Hannah has attended Shotton Hall rowing club for two years and was awarded the scholarship after finishing in fourth place in the County Durham finals before Christmas. Since then, she has been training once a week with the team and has enjoyed the experience.

Mr Harris, Rowing Coach said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for Hannah to gain experience and knowledge from the best rowers in the area. I am sure she will be an asset to their team, as she is to ours."

Well done Hannah!



International acquaintances!

A friend of Miss Smith works abroad in Arizona, USA. Part of his requirements as a teacher with a working visa in the US was that he needed to keep in touch with a school in the UK. As luck would have it, he thought of Miss Smith at The Academy at Shotton Hall.

His sixth grade class, which is the equivalent of Year 7 here in the UK, wrote pen pal letters to our students. They told us all

about their lives including the crazy temperatures in Tucson, their run-ins with mountain lions and what their average day at school is like. It was brilliant to find out about people from the other side of the world and now we have friends there!

Our students wrote back earlier this month and they can't wait to hear their responses.

A few of our favourite things...

Eggs, bunnies, baby lambs... Easter is well and truly on its way but we couldn't help but wonder: what is The Academy at Shotton Hall's FAVOURITE part of the Easter celebrations. Here's some of our teachers' ideas in response to the question: 'What's your favourite part of celebrating Easter?'

Mr Whitbread: "Eating my own body weight in chocolate eggs."

Miss Farrell: "My favourite part of Easter is going back to the Lakes to visit family and friends - it's usually quite sunny too which is always a bonus!"

Mrs Sharpe: "I love decorating my house with mini fluffy rabbits and chicks. They are put on shelves and on tables all over the place. I always did this when my son was little and now I've carried on even though he is 14!"

Miss Ingram: "Eating lots of chocolate - of course!"

Miss Wearmouth: "I am always abroad for Easter and my favourite part is seeing how others celebrate it. Spain takes it very seriously (it's more important than Christmas) with processions, carnivals, fireworks and fiestas. Everything is shut on Easter Monday and often Easter Sunday in France, Germany and Belgium. Families go out together and all dress up in their Easter finery. Easter eggs are not the big deal they are here and children hunt for real eggs and small gifts in gardens."

Miss Jamieson: "I love Easter because it feels like the official start of warm weather, longer days and sunshine! Spring is finally here and we have made it through winter! Bring on the BBQs..."

Getting ready for exams!

For many of us, the pressure of exams can make us feel worried. So, we have come up with five top tips to help you.

1. Get a good night's sleep: If we regularly don't sleep enough it can make us feel anxious, lower in mood and make it more difficult to concentrate and remember things. Set yourself a regular bedtime and wake-up time and stick to it. Aim to get at least 8 hours sleep every night. Switch off mobile phones, computers and televisions at least one hour before you plan to sleep.

2. Get some fresh air: Time outside in the fresh air is known to improve our mood. Aim to get outside for at least 20 minutes a day.

3. Make a plan: Breaking tasks down into small steps can make them feel more manageable. Writing a plan down and telling other people about our plans makes us more likely to follow them.

4. Reward yourself: Rewards help us to feel motivated to do things. Don't wait until your exams are over, or until you get your exam results to celebrate. Plan a small reward each day or week to recognise the hard work you are putting in as part of your exam preparation. It might be going to the cinema, your favourite chocolate bar or time playing your favourite computer game.

5. Focus on the here and now: When we are anxious, worried or stressed we often spend time thinking about what has happened or what might happen rather than what is happening right now. Mindfulness can help to slow down our thoughts and manage feelings. You can use an App such as Headspace (www.headspace.com) or Calm (www.calm.com) or you could spend a few moments sitting quietly noticing what you can see and hear.



MP, Grahame Morris visits Shotton Hall

Grahame Morris, the MP for Easington and the surrounding area, came into school this term after being invited by our Year 10 GCSE citizenship class.

Grahame's visit began with a presentation, by Kian, Kai, Kieran and Oliver, about the impact of industrial pollution on the environment. The four students then asked Grahame a number of questions about regulating pollution from factories and what incentives could be given to companies to encourage them to become greener.

Following that, all GCSE citizenship students from Year 9 and 10 were invited to a 'question and answer' session with Grahame. Students asked thought-provoking and interesting questions around the current political climate in the UK; mainly focusing on Brexit and the initiatives that Grahame is involved in.

Students were able to hear Grahame's thoughts on Brexit and what the possible outcomes of us leaving the EU would be. He talked to students about

his involvement in trying to improve transport links in the region and his passion for providing better radiotherapy equipment to hospitals to improve treatment for cancer patients.

Miss Chadwick, Head of Equality and SMSC, said: "This was a fantastic opportunity for students to engage directly with a politician to better their understanding of UK politics and current political issues. I am very proud of the students for the academic nature of their questions and I am also especially proud of the four boys who were confident enough to present and lobby an MP."

"We would like to thank Grahame and his team for taking the time, during this incredibly busy political period, to come into school and educate and inspire the next generation of voters."