



SPOTLIGHT

Summer newsletter | July 2019



National
Teaching
School



DEAR ALL,

As the curtain closes on the summer term, we wave a sad goodbye to our Year 11 students but offer a friendly welcome to our new Year 7s.

The summer term is always a lively one. It starts with lots of exams and ends with multiple concerts, a musical, transition events, trips, sports day, discos, prom and lots of other fun things! Thank you to all the staff who have organised these. It's been a busy but brilliant few weeks as proven by the photos inside and on our school website - make sure you take a look.

One of the highlights of the past term for me was our celebration assemblies. Staff nominate students for various awards and it is great to see students recognised for the little things. For always handing in homework, for always being polite and kind, or generally just being a lovely student to have in class. Well done to everyone.

Year 11 students will be in school for the final time on **Thursday 22 August** to pick up their GCSE results. We wish them the best of luck and really hope they all get what they need to move onto the next stage in their lives.

As for our new students, how are you feeling? Are you looking forward to starting in September? We hope so! Our buddies are trained up and ready to make you feel as comfortable as possible.

Have a fantastic summer everyone, stay safe and make the most of it. We will see you all back at school on **Wednesday 4 September**.

Alex Hook

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



Students shine in Night at the Movies

Congratulations to all our talented students who performed in our sold-out show 'Night at the Movies'.

The outstanding production featured our favourite songs from well-known films such as *A Star is Born*, *Skyfall*, *Purple Rain* and *Armageddon*.

After weeks of rehearsals, the shows were brilliant and went off without a hitch.

Well done to everyone involved - staff and students. You certainly know how to put on a show!



Teacher hobbies

You may think that you know your teachers really well, but little did you know they have some weird and wonderful hobbies! Here at Spotlight, we decided to find out more...

If you know Miss Smith, you'll know that she is a bit dramatic! You might be interested to know that she is involved in a Community Theatre Group. Since starting in September 2017, she has been in productions of *Oliver!*, *South Pacific* and most recently The Madness musical *Our House*.

Art teacher Miss Pearson is a potter and silversmith in her spare time. She finds that these tasks help with mental health and wellbeing as well as being wonderfully fun! She owns a pottery wheel and makes her own jewellery from sheet metal.

Tap dancing is Miss Sharpe's hobby (bet you didn't know that!) She was a dancer throughout her childhood but gave it up when she went to university. Three years ago, Miss Sharpe heard about a mums' tap class and went along. She said: "My feet just remembered what to do and I love it. I have been in three shows now with my dancing school!"

Miss Pounder is branching out from her favourite pastime of running into the boxing ring. Watch this space for Shotton Hall's first female pro boxer/English teacher combo! Miss Pounder has traded in her running shoes and boxercise classes to give boxing a real go.

ICT's Mr Collins plays ice hockey. He started playing when he was only 14 years old for the under 21 *Slough Harriers* team. After a break when he finished university, Mr Collins took his hobby back up and now plays for *Newcastle Coyotes*. He said: "Most of the team are getting on a bit, we aren't that good, but it's loads of fun and keeps me fit (ish)."

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

19 JUL - BREAK UP FOR SUMMER

22 AUG - GCSE RESULTS DAY

3 SEPT - INSET DAY

4 SEPT - BACK TO SCHOOL

12 SEPT - OPEN EVENING

11 OCT - INSET DAY

25 OCT - BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM

4 NOV - BACK TO SCHOOL

29 NOV - INSET DAY

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

www.shottonhallacademy.co.uk

Transition to secondary school

Although it may seem like we only welcome Year 6 students in the summer term - this is not the case.

Year 5 students have been visiting the school throughout the year to take part in a wide range of opportunities.

Year 5 students have had the opportunity to get to grips with secondary life a little earlier than usual. Experiencing the different subjects at our school, whilst socialising with other pupils, has given the students the chance to calm their nerves before the transition at the end of Year 6.

Throughout the year students have delved into the Black Death in history; clay work in art; becoming a DJ in music; making pizzas in food tech; coding in ICT and becoming Broadway stars in dance! It has been great having you.



What's hot this summer?



Film: *X-Men: Dark Phoenix*

Book: *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson (if you're a *Pretty Little Liars* or *Riverdale* fan, you'll love this!)

Podcast: *Nerdette* (current headlines address teen issues such as celebs and online trends!)

Restaurant: Sambuca (so many offers!)

Netflix: *Murder Mystery*

Sky series: *Chernobyl*

TV: *Years and Years* (available on BBC iPlayer)

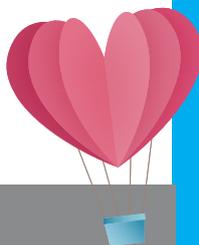
Music: Lewis Capaldi is all in this summer! Check him out on YouTube

Fashion: Neon is where it's at this summer! Go bold with vibrant yellows and luminous greens and pinks to be on trend with your fashion!

Gig: Hardwick Live is hosting bands such as Manic Street Preachers, The Zutons, James and The Sherlocks

Event: The Sunderland Air Show (July 2019)

Show: *Kynren* (July and August 2019)



We're on Twitter and Facebook!



@shottonhall



facebook.com/
shottonhallacademy



To infinity and beyond...

This term, a group of fortunate Year 9 and 10 students went to an evening discussion with British-American astrophysicist, Dr Michael Foale.

Dr Michael Foale is the most experienced British-born astronaut in the history of human space flight. He has serviced the Hubble Space Telescope and has been to the MIR platform and the International Space Station.

Students had the opportunity to hear about his education and how he became an astronaut.

They also saw videos and heard about some of his missions to the Russian Space Station and the International Space Station – a truly once in a lifetime experience. After all, it's not every day that you get to meet a person who has been to space!



Film Review: Aladdin

Boy meets girl. Girl is a princess so can't fall in love with boy. Boy gets a genie to make him a prince. Girl falls in love with boy. Evil usurper tries to ruin things. Monkeys, flying carpets and evil sorcerers come into the mix. Love conquers all. We've seen it all before. But have we?

I don't think I've ever seen anything quite like Disney's remake of their classic, *Aladdin*!

I'd watched the old cartoon version countless times when I was little; but in all honesty, I thought I'd outgrown Disney films by now! I couldn't have been more wrong; I loved it and I'm not ashamed to say it!

Colour, music, drama, dancing, singing, bursts of excitement: what more could you possibly want? The characters were just like they used to be. Disney didn't try to change a classic tale, they simply modernised it and made it better.

Naomi Scott's performance as Princess Jasmine was masterful. She portrayed a 21st century princess who is a strong, independent woman – she sends exactly the right message to the youth of today who should stand up for themselves and what they believe in.

Princess Jasmine no longer needs Aladdin to save her or her family, she does it for herself and for that she becomes Sultan at the end (a role previously reserved for men!) You go girl!

Go and see this film; you won't regret it!

New Erasmus project launched

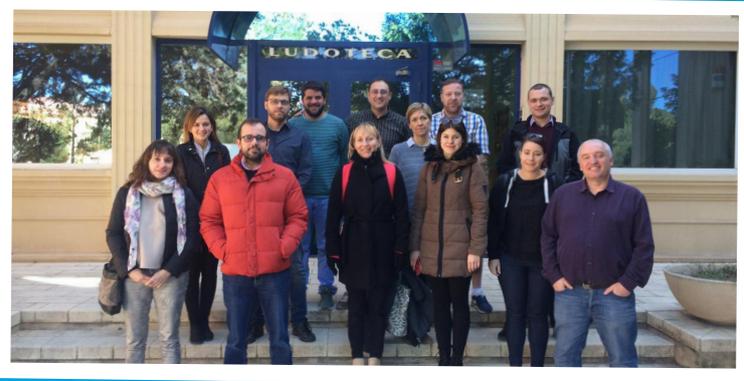
The Academy at Shotton Hall has been awarded a sizeable grant to participate in an Erasmus project called VLearning.

Alongside partners from Finland, Spain and Slovenia, staff and students will create virtual and augmented learning resources for use in classrooms. From looking at planets and the water cycle in science to virtual visits to art galleries in art, the project is certain to bring a lot of excitement to the classroom.

The first step of the project was developing a partnership with Software City in Sunderland. They will offer support for developing virtual reality (VR) platforms and resources. We have also partnered up with RTC North and the National STEM Learning Network.

Dr Hargreaves, Mr Clarke and Mr Kell have already attended a training session in Ibi in Spain to learn about virtual reality.

We look forward to watching this project develop. Watch this space...



If you had the power to hire anyone in the world to be your teacher, who would you hire and why?

We asked students the above question and got a mixed range of answers!

Students in our school would like all kinds of people to teach them from Elton John or the Queen to Ant and Dec, but let's find out the reasons behind their seemingly bizarre responses shall we...

Andrew Sutton, Year 10: "Steven Hawking because he was the cleverest man in the world!"

Hope Atherton, Year 9: "Most likely David Walliams because he is a good writer and an entertainer and he's funny."

Josh Arnott, Year 9: "Albert Einstein as he was smart!"

Tyler Dunn, Year 9: "Kevin Hart because he is so funny!"

Rebecca Jones, Year 10: "The Queen to teach food tech because she is inspiring! And Beyonce to teach English just because she is brilliant!"

Alex Sinclair, Year 7: "Georgia Toffolo - she is a very confident person and she could teach us to be like that."

Beth Carlisle, Year 7: "Miss Honey from Matilda: she is kind and cares about you and you learn in her lessons".

Adam Hayes, Year 7: "My future self to tell me everything I need to know for the rest of my life."

Aiden Smith, Year 7: "Luke O'Nine, the Sunderland footballer, because he would be a great PE teacher."

Let's keep our fingers crossed that we can get some of these inspirational figures on board for September...

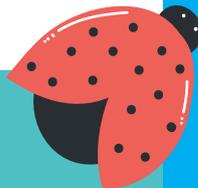
Team work makes the dream work

This half term saw Year 7 students taking part in an SMSC (social, moral, spiritual, cultural) event that tied in nicely with the anniversary of D-Day.

Year 7 students were split into their tutor groups to complete a D-Day themed challenge. Each sept was given newspaper, sellotape, scissors and the task to design a male or female military outfit for one member of the sept who was to model the creation at the end of the session.

Mrs McManus co-ordinated the day and said: "The students worked together amazingly well; their communication skills and ability to craft something out of the few resources that they had were amazing."

7P2 were crowned the official winners (but Mrs McManus declared that 7S2's design was her personal favourite!). Well done to all involved.



WE ARE SO VERY LUCKY!

How lucky are we? Let's think about it... we have it all: access to computers and the internet, a canteen that serves delicious food (with lots of choice!), beautifully decorated corridors and walls that make school a lovely place to be and, above all, teachers who really care about both our education and our wellbeing.

Let's imagine for just a second that we lived somewhere else. Pakistan for instance. The world's worst performing country in education. The country where 59% of girls have already left education by the time they reach secondary school. The country where the government is disinterested in the education system so it simply doesn't provide enough schools.

What about in Somalia? The country with the least functional education system in the world with only 10% of children even

getting to go to primary school. Haiti, Comoros and Ethiopia fare almost as badly. Before Haiti's earthquake, just 50% of children went to primary school. Now that figure is said to have fallen. Some 2.5 million children were left without a school to go to after the earthquake.

70 million children around the world don't get to go to school at all, ever.

So the next time you want to grumble about homework or you feel like not getting out of bed, just think about how lucky you are.

I for one fully intend to start looking around more often and taking in the true value of all that we have because, and it's taken a while for me to see it but...

We are SO lucky!

By Anonymous



Reigning cheerleading champions claim another victory

Congratulations to our cheerleading squad who competed in the School Games at Maiden Castle and claimed victory for a second year.

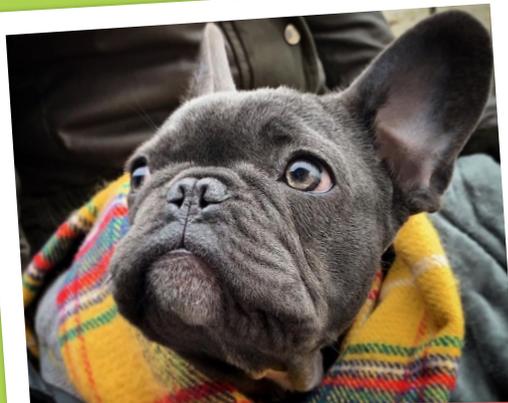
The event saw schools across County Durham compete against one another in a wide range of sports.

They performed two different routines throughout the day and were judged on dance skills, appearance, arm motions, facial expressions, jumps, tumbling skills, stunting and overall effect.

Both routines were a success receiving a score of over 90 out of 100 from each judge, leading to a combined total of 367 out of 400. This fantastic score led to the squad being crowned champions for the second year running.

We are so proud of all the hard work and commitment they have shown, congratulations on a fantastic result!

The squad also performed their winning routines at our Cultural Heritage Day and as part of the opening performance at the NELT Summer Concert. Great work!



Pet's corner - meet Walter Harrison...

Walter is a nine month old French Bulldog... and the new love of Mr Harrison's life.

What's he like I hear you ask? Well, he snores; he pinches Mr Harrison's things when he wants attention and he's not getting it; he loves playing with other dogs, until they bark when he gets scared and hides

and he adores food!

And by food, we mean ANY food including ice cream, raw broccoli and water melon... yes water melon. There's even a picture to prove it (above!).

HOW TO BE A 21ST CENTURY TEENAGER

There are so many expectations of being a 21st century teenager: do well in school, be kind, make the right decisions, be charitable, read regularly, eat healthily, exercise plenty, be responsible, dress appropriately, help out at home, keep on top of your homework, visit elderly relatives... All while you're actually going through the BIGGEST transition of your entire life.

When your body reaches a certain age, your brain releases a special hormone that starts the changes of puberty. Boys and girls have these hormones in their bodies. And depending on whether you're a boy or a girl, these hormones go to work on different parts of the body. So that's what's really happening during puberty - it's all these new chemicals moving around inside your body, turning you from a teen into an adult.

With all this going on, it really is no wonder that you sometimes feel a little grouchy, tired and snappy! But does anyone understand? Of course not! Here's some top tips to being a successful 21st century teenager whilst fending off those pesky hormones...

1) Do well in school: It might seem like the worst thing that I could have listed first but, let's face it, it's important. Doing well in school

means you'll do well in life!

2) Suss out your goals: Set yourself a target and push yourself to achieve it. Think both short and long term. Want to run 5km? Do a Couch to 5k! Want to smash your GCSEs? Start revising in Year 9! Want to be an astronaut? Focus on your science!

3) Stay out of trouble: Stick to friendship groups that make you feel happy and comfortable with being yourself. Don't allow yourself to be dragged into things that make you feel uneasy.

4) Be nice: Being a nice person will get you everywhere. This isn't just a tip for teenagers, a few adults could do with hearing this from time to time!

5) Get active: Doing a little bit of physical exercise is going to benefit you in more ways than one. Physically and mentally, you will

feel like a better, more motivated person!

6) Find something to love: Not a person. Find a hobby. Find something that you LOVE to do. Something that you couldn't survive if you didn't do it. Running, reading, fishing, dancing - think outside the box! Be unique!

7) Live: Live your life to its fullest. You're only young once. Spend your time wisely! Don't hibernate with a mountain of dishes surrounding you in your dirty bedroom - get out there and live! You won't regret time you spent well; you will regret time you wasted.

8) Be memorable: Don't fade into the shadows. Don't be a face in the yearbook that nobody recognises. Be you! Be confident and brave.

Good luck Shotton Hall teens. We can get through this together!

A fond farewell

Mr Harris would like to dedicate this section of Spotlight to his Sporty Kid Year 11 students who he will miss a great deal.

Fourteen of our Year 11 students have attended Mr Harris' *Sporty Kids* sessions on a Saturday for the last three years. Since joining at the start of Year 9, the enthusiastic students haven't missed a single session! This has given them the opportunity to improve their skill and technique in sport as well as gaining confidence and friendships that will last a lifetime.

Mr Harris said: "I am so proud of this group of students; they have been a joy to work with and teach and I hope they continue to

participate and develop in their chosen sports."

Sporty Kids is a sports coaching club which takes place every Saturday from 10am-1pm. The sports include football, table tennis, cricket, basketball and the list goes on.

If you think you could fill these boots (and they're pretty big boots to fill according to Sir) then see Mr Harris on the PE corridor for more information on becoming a sporty kid!



Students get techy!

Year 8 students took part in a science and technology challenge day this term, run by MCS Projects at New College Durham.

To begin with, students programmed a robot to make it complete a perfect square. They then competed to see who could collect the most colours on the mat whilst avoiding the obstacles.

Next, students used their problem solving skills to help diagnose two ill patients; they asked a series of questions and used medical equipment on each other and a 'patient'.

Finally, they tested a software used by the police to recreate images of suspects. The students had one minute to study Miss Ferguson's facial features in detail, then she walked out of the room and they had 20 minutes to recreate her face using the software.

Sounds like a great day was had by all!



A day in the life of Dillon

Dillon Revell is our fastest student and he is getting faster!

He can run the 800m track in 2 minutes and 11 seconds, the 1500m track in 4 minutes and 33 seconds and 5km in 18 minutes and 30 seconds.

In order to inspire more runners among our students, here is a breakdown of a day in the life of our fastest student:

5:30am: 5km run before school

7am: Home for a shower and breakfast before school.

8:30 am: Start school (makes sure he drinks lots of water).

12.05: Healthy dinner (pasta on run days).

2:45pm: Finish school

4pm: 10km run before tea or gym with his dad to go on the treadmill.

6pm: Healthy tea.

And, this is all just on a school day! On a weekend, Dillon completes a Saturday morning 5km Park Run and trains with his running club, The Sunderland Harriers with whom he has been a member for the last two years. Dillon enters competitions under the name of a 'Sunderland Harrier' including inter-country and track races.

It's fair to say that we could all stand to have a little of Dillon's motivation!

Keep up the hard work Dillon!

On this day six years ago

Heat, OK, This Morning - move over! Spotlight has been around for a LONG time so we thought we'd flash it back to six years ago when we interviewed student Caitlin and her sister - Perrie Edwards...

Despite Little Mix storming the American charts, Perrie Edwards took time out to speak to *Spotlight* about her experience of growing up in the north east and becoming a superstar. Perrie comes home to see her family whenever she has the opportunity.

What were your favourite subjects in school? My favourite lessons were: music, dance, drama and English because I love *Romeo and Juliet* and poetry.

Who were your inspirations? My inspirations as a child were: Jojo, Maria Carey, Destiny's Child and TLC. My parents inspire my music because they have been performing for many years and have taught me different techniques.

What advice would you give to students wanting to be successful? Stick in, work hard and don't let anyone tell you can't because you can, you have to have confidence.

How does it feel to be a role model to young people? It's a massive compliment to be somebody's role model. I never thought it would be me; you have to try your best in everything that you do.

In this special edition of *Spotlight*, we also saw *The Great Gatsby* movie being reviewed and Mrs Armstrong had just been rock climbing with Year 10 boys!

I wonder where we will be in six more years...

TEESDALE SCHOOL IS OUTSTANDING!

Did you know that The Academy at Shotton Hall is the founding school of the North East Learning Trust - a multi-academy education trust that covers eight schools in north east England?

Last month one Trust school, Teesdale School and Sixth Form in Barnard Castle, was awarded as an 'outstanding' rating from school inspectors, Ofsted - the highest award a school can be given.

This is not only great news for Teesdale School, but great news for all the other schools in the North East Learning Trust too, including The Academy at Shotton Hall. It shows that we are sharing our knowledge and skills with other schools effectively and making a difference by helping them to improve. We think that being part of a Trust is a great idea because when one school does something well we can share their ideas and experience with all the other schools. Congratulations to everyone at Teesdale School from your friends at Shotton Hall!



A tribute to our lollipop man Harold

We were very sad to learn of the death of our beloved lollipop man, Harold Wilson, who had worked on our school crossing patrol for 26 years.

Our students penned this tribute to Harold:

Dear Harold,

Every morning, 1500 students enter our school gates. Every single one of those students knew that they were safe in your presence because you would wait until every single one of us had entered the school to ensure our safety...

A friendly "hello" or "good morning" brightens a young persons' day; a wave to a parent seeing their child into school for the first time puts them at ease and a smile when you see a person looking sad might be the thing that makes them feel better. You knew all of this. You knew it because it's what you did every single day.

Every morning and night, come rain or shine, you stood there with your Kindle, wishing passers-by well and never asking for anything in return. You made it your mission to ensure every sleepy teen saw a happy face at the beginning of the day and you offered them a warm smile after what might have been a stressful day! Though you may not have realised it, it was these little things that made your mission to make people happy a successful one.

So now as we walk over an empty road and our hearts break just a little, we hope you cross to heaven safely and peacefully.

Rest in peace Harold.

All our love,

The students at The Academy at Shotton Hall

New teachers graduate from Shotton Hall SCITT



85 new teachers have joined the teaching workforce after graduating from The Academy at Shotton Hall's outstanding school-based initial teacher training course - Shotton Hall SCITT.

Of the trainees, 99% were graded good or outstanding, the highest outcome to date for the SCITT, with 15% gaining employment within the North East Learning Trust.

If you're thinking of becoming a teacher, Shotton Hall SCITT still has places available for a September 2019 start. Visit www.shottonhallscitt.co.uk for more information.



USEFUL MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE FOR PARENTS

Did you know that 80% of parents have reported that they do not feel equipped to deal with mental issues their children might show signs of including anxiety?

To help combat this *Action for Children* and *The Children's Society* have put together a helpful guide for parents that contains information that can help including: symptoms of

anxiety in children, talking to children about anxiety, techniques to help your child with anxiety, tips to encourage your child to confide in you, nurturing optimism in children and anxiety tools for children.

You can access the full guide here: <https://tutorful.co.uk/guides/the-expert-guide-to-help-your-child-with-anxiety>



SUMMER CONCERT SPECTACULAR!

Well done to all the talented students who performed in our annual summer concert this term.

As always, it was a spectacular show showcasing just how talented our students are. The line up included solos, duets, brass band, guitar, choirs, violinists and more!



Introducing our new head boy, head girl and deputies

Congratulations to our newly appointed head boy, head girl and deputies – William Turner, Lydia Matterson, Jude Race and Emma Brown.

It was a very difficult decision to make, with candidates going through a rigorous, multi-stage process before the final four were selected.

Lydia Matterson, Head Girl said: "I'm over the moon to be chosen as head girl and I can't wait to be a role model to the other students and really make a difference."

William Turner, Head Boy, said: "I'm looking forward to helping others have an experience as good as mine here at Shotton Hall."

Emma Brown, Deputy Head Girl, said: "I'm so happy and excited to be able to work alongside all the year groups."

Jude Race, Deputy Head Boy, added: "It's my passion to bridge the gap between staff and students."

Congratulations to all of you, we are sure you will do an amazing job in your new roles.



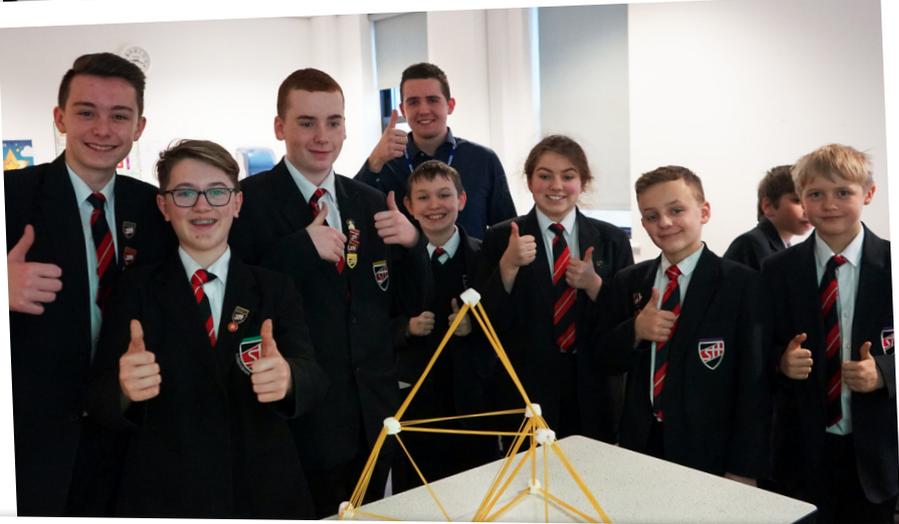
Prom 2019

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

A 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.



Goodbye 2018-19





Summer time checklist

July 2019 sees the Academy's staff and students break up for what will hopefully be six glorious weeks of sunshine! Here is *Spotlight's* guide to summer to make sure you make the most of your time off (come rain or shine!). Tick off as many as you can...

- 1) Ouseburn Farm:** Meet the farm's lambs, goats, pigs, rabbits, guinea pigs and more. This is a free attraction suitable for all of the family.
- 2) Take a selfie with the Angel of the North:** Did you realise that you can get up close to the Angel? We drive past it so often that most of us don't realise that you can actually park up and get right up to the dominating symbol of the North East!
- 3) The Discovery Museum:** A free to enter museum in Newcastle that is hosting all kinds of summer activities every day of the holidays – look online for more details.
- 4) Castle Eden Dene trail:** Conveniently close by and a lovely activity for a summer's day with your friends. Follow the trail's many arrows to keep you on track!
- 5) Hartlepool Marina:** Take in the view of the boats in the harbour and the smells from the multitude of restaurants along the marina. You could go for a look around the shops while you're there or even walk to Seaton for some chips!
- 6) Seaham Beach:** Seaham is a truly beautiful spot for a walk along the beach! Take the dogs and get lost in the beauty of the seaside.
- 7) Seaton Beach:** Currently Seaton is going through a re-vamp; a mini golf is being built alongside the seafront as well as new beach houses. You can always hit the multitude of arcades and ice cream shops while you're there!
- 8) Durham Cathedral and river boats:** The Cathedral is free to mooch around and the river boats cost £5 per boat. You could take a picnic and chill by the river when you're tired out!
- 9) Plastic collection:** want to do your bit for the environment? Why not collect a bag full of plastic and pop it in your recycle bin?
- 10) Peterlee Rocks:** Let's create a new craze. Tyneside did it so why can't we? Paint some rocks with messages and hide them in different locations around the area for others to find. Use the hashtag #Peterleerocks

So long, farewell!



We waved goodbye to another set of lovely Year 11 students this term after they completed their exams.

Mr Spence, once again, created a showstopper video montage of the Year 11's time here at the academy that depicted their journey from day one. As you can imagine, emotions ran high as staff and students took this in! Students then collected their hoodies, prom tickets, year books and signed shirts before they left the academy for the penultimate time. Tears and smiles were plentiful as students realised how quickly the time has passed; lots of students commented that they had changed their minds and didn't want to leave anymore!

Good luck Year 11!

Whatever you choose to do, don't waste the summer sitting in the house! Get out and get some fresh air; you'll feel better for it!

Enjoy everyone!

