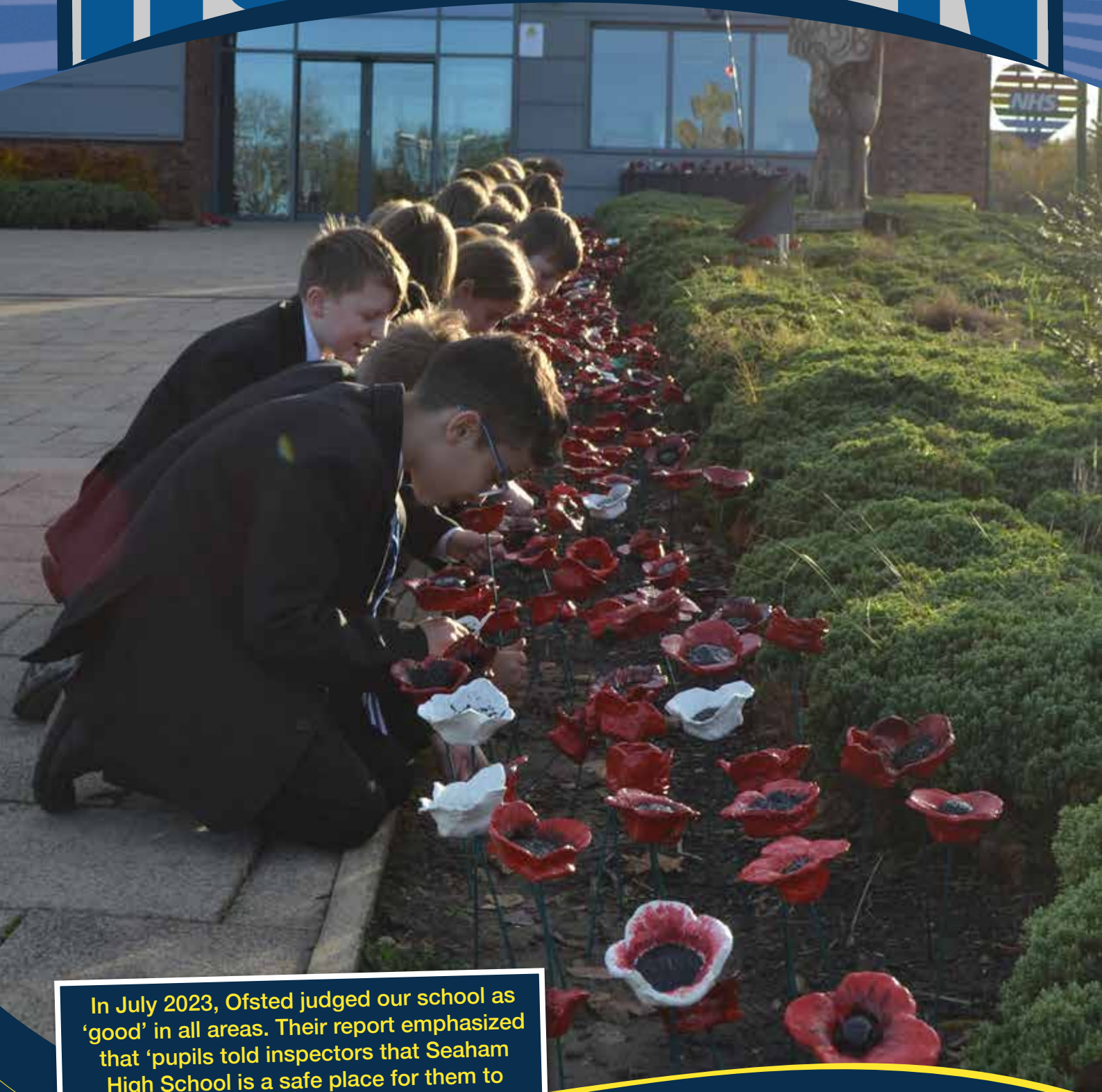


# HORIZON

Winter  
2023



In July 2023, Ofsted judged our school as 'good' in all areas. Their report emphasized that 'pupils told inspectors that Seaham High School is a safe place for them to learn', and that 'the school is a place

  
Ofsted

SEAHAM HIGH SCHOOL  
*engaging minds. broadening horizons*



# Welcome

Can I welcome you to our latest edition of Horizon, which is the first of this academic year.

We were very pleased with Year 11 GCSE results in the summer. The cohort did very well particularly in terms of attainment, especially given the levels of disruption they faced to Y8, 9 and start of their GCSE courses. Results in almost all subjects improved and were either in line with national average or in many option subjects above national average.

Similarly we were particularly pleased with the outcome of our OFSTED inspection. In January I will mark the start of my 13th year at the school- firstly as Deputy Headteacher and for the last 5 as Headteacher. In that time the school has had 4 inspections- the first in 2011 where the school came out of the Inadequate category and was awarded a grade of satisfactory (as it was then), the school then achieved a Good grade in 2013, again in 2017 and once again in 2023.

I believe that these outcomes are testament to the hard work of staff that have worked in the school over the years to drive forward the necessary changes to sustain this level of performance. I think recognition must also be given to the vast majority of students who buy into these changes and what the school has to offer. For me as Headteacher there are two statements in this report which I am most proud of and believe me when I say there are many references I am proud of.

***“This school is a place where pupils can be themselves and where tolerance and respect are understood by the pupils who attend.”***

Governors are kind enough to let me go out and do OFSTED inspections in other schools- I've been doing this for 10 years now and inspected a lot of schools. There is no statement that I think I could be prouder of than that comment about the school which I have worked in for 13 years and led for 5.

That sort of comment doesn't just happen overnight- it comes from years of developing culture, standards, expectations. It is a result of our character curriculum, difficult conversations with children, parents and staff. It is a result of implementing rewards, sanctions, lesson planning and continually reinforcing the values and standards we expect to see.

We aren't and shouldn't be an exams factory solely focussed on exam results because whilst important they aren't the be all and end all for children as they go through life. We want to create citizens who can live and thrive in modern Britain and the wider world, adapt and make a valuable contribution to the society we all live in. We need young people to be tolerant and respectful because History teaches what happens when people are intolerant and don't respect each other.

I'd never claim that we win and achieve this with every student but to achieve it with the vast majority and see this recognised by OFSTED is possibly my greatest achievement in my career.

The second statement is;

***“There are strong relationships between staff and pupils.”***

Schools are about relationships- relationships go well, they sometimes go wrong but to have that comment by OFSTED which I know from my own experience on inspection can only have come from talking to lots of students reassures me we are on the right lines. Working with young people can be challenging but it is also a pleasure and the young people of Seaham are by and large among the kindest and have the most integrity of any I know and I'm very proud of them and my staff.

Can I issue a warm welcome to Year 7 parents who might be reading this newsletter for the first time. Please work with us to resolve issues- your child is in a fantastic year group- that has made an excellent start. I said to prospective parents on Open Evening last year that “the best advert for this school is the children who come here.” The new Year 7 cohort is living up to that statement more than ever before.

Thank you for all of your support over the last academic year.



*Geoff Lumsdon  
Headteacher*

# Foreword

We have already had a series of fantastic events so far this year, not least of which have been our Sports Awards Evening, Duke of Edinburgh Awards Evening, Careers Fair, Annual Awards Evening and last night the first of our Christmas Shows.

The Annual Awards Evening at the Ramside Hotel is always a fantastic event supported by JD Fashions who fund the meal as always, along with many other private and Business donations. This year it was delayed due to two incidents which resulted in police closing the roads around the Ramside. It didn't spoil the evening as over 250 people attended to celebrate the successes of students past and present. I wanted to focus on the two students who received the Headteacher's Award as they are truly inspirational. Therefore I have included part of my speech from the evening recognising their considerable achievements.

*"Teaching is facing a recruitment and professional crisis in the next ten years- of that there is no doubt. The challenges since the pandemic are getting greater.*

*However the Two students who I will talk about tonight are the type of student who make a person come into teaching and stay in teaching. Teaching has lots of highs and lots of lows- these two students are the highs- the ones who make you proud- the ones who make you remember working with young people is the best job in the world.*

*There are two recipients of this award this evening- one who might have an idea that they are getting it and one who doesn't. I have done this before- usually the Headteacher's award is for someone who has demonstrated our core values, faced challenging circumstances, adversity and still succeeded or for someone who has made an exceptional contribution to school life. It is often presented to an ex-student.*

*The first recipient tonight has no idea that they are due to receive this but has been selected for their outstanding contribution to school life. They are a current student but need some recognition for their responsibility, dedication and work ethic.*

*She is in Y9 achieved almost a perfect 4 in every subject in recent attitude to learning data. As a Senior Ambassador and is a leader of the Community team. She is leading on the Christmas Hamper appeal, extremely organised and proactive when it comes to communicating with both staff and students.*

*She is incredibly giving of her time to the school and the wider community- she is an active member of Durham Youth parliament, shared this experience with younger students and encouraged them to apply to join this year.*

*I believe she is doing her Duke of Edinburgh this year and every morning volunteers to staff our entrance recording students who have booked into sessions prior to school. She greets everyone who comes in after 8am with a smile and a cheery "good Morning Sir, good morning Miss"*

*I asked Mr Harbron why she should receive this award and he said " Lacey is the physical embodiment of our school's three core values- she demonstrates kindness to everybody on a daily basis, she is honest and responsible showing integrity in all she does and takes pride in her own work and the work of the school community."*

**Lacey Smith** please come and collect your well-deserved award.

*The second recipient is a young adult who has faced more significant challenges in her life than any young person has. At just 12 years old she fell following football training, came off with a nose bleed saying she didn't feel right. That was a Thursday evening I believe- she was off school as she didn't feel well on the Friday. Saturday she said she had a tight chest which parents thought might be asthma related. By mid-day parents were sufficiently concerned to take her to A&E whereupon she was transferred to the Freeman hospital in Newcastle. She was diagnosed with diluted cardiomyopathy which is a disease of the heart muscle. At just 12 years old she was told she required a heart transplant, which she underwent some 4 years ago. I can't imagine the shock of that news to a family but especially to a young girl just starting out on life's journey.*

*She had I believe 10 operations and spent four weeks in intensive care. The transplant took place on November 24th 2019. Within months like the rest of us she faced a global pandemic however for her the anxiety and worry she must have faced given her personal circumstances I'm sure will have been amplified many times over.*

*Did she let these challenges stop her- absolutely not. She has competed in the Transplant games (I think in Coventry) taking part in the 2.5 mile Donor Run because she wanted to do it for Sinead Bree who was her donor and I believe even travelling to Doncaster to present Sinead's mum with her medal.. She has campaigned to raise awareness of the importance of organ donation. She has participated fully in school life and excelled at her GCSE's in the summer being one of our best performing students in terms of both progress and attainment.*

*Imagine that- One of our top performers on progress- which is all the more remarkable given the enforced absences and challenges she has dealt with.*

*She has even managed to cope with being interviewed live on Good Morning Britain by Piers Morgan- something Boris Johnson wasn't prepared to do. I also believe he keeps in touch every now and then-*

*Kayleigh will probably stand out in my memory for the most fantastic Prom entrance ever- at Beamish Hall last summer. Paul Hill one of the team who carried out the transplant on November 24th 2019 arrived at Kayleigh's house unexpected by her to take her to the Prom in his Black Mustang. Kayleigh is now studying Health and Social care at Sunderland College as she wants to be a Children's nurse, Trauma nurse or medical practitioner to give something back and make a difference to others.*

*Kayleigh has shown the most incredible resilience and determination to recover and get on with her life and make a difference to herself and others. She has displayed a level of maturity, thoughtfulness and reflection beyond her years. She is a delightful and courageous young person who is widely respected by all staff and many students alike.*

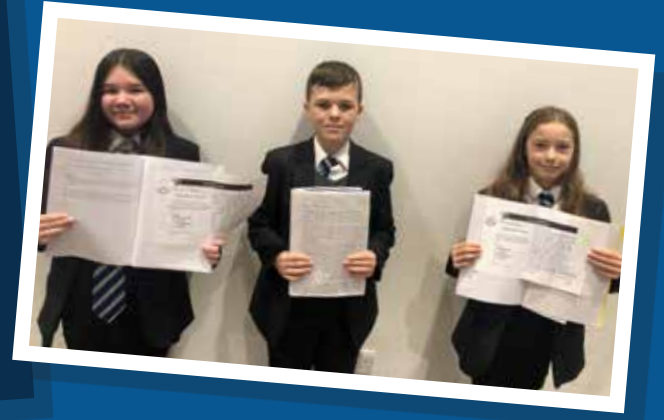
*We wish Kayleigh her all the very best for the future and thank you for all your hard work and contribution to school life.*

**Kayleigh** please step forward and collect your award."



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am thrilled to share with you the exciting developments in our school curriculum that are designed to help our students become more well-rounded individuals. Today, we will delve into the concept of SMSC education, an essential part of our school's commitment to fostering the holistic development of our students.



## What is SMSC?

SMSC stands for Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural education. It encompasses a wide range of subjects and topics, including religious education, sex education, careers, and life skills, along with a deeper understanding of the wider world. SMSC education helps students develop the values, attitudes, and skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

## Why is SMSC Important?

SMSC education is not just a new subject; it is a pivotal aspect of our school's mission to nurture well-rounded students. Here's why SMSC is crucial:

**Promoting Values:** SMSC education helps instil core values, such as respect, empathy, and responsibility. These values are essential for building character and promoting good citizenship.

**Understanding Diversity:** In today's globalized world, it is vital for our students to appreciate and understand cultural differences, religions, and beliefs. SMSC education encourages tolerance and respect for diversity.

**Preparation for Life:** Learning about life skills, careers, and personal development equips our students with practical knowledge and prepares them for the challenges and opportunities they will encounter in their future.

**Holistic Development:** A well-rounded education involves more than just academics. SMSC education complements traditional subjects and nurtures the spiritual, moral, social, and cultural aspects of our students' lives.

## Exceptional Quality of 'Connect at Home' Homework Tasks

Before I conclude, I would like to express my immense gratitude for the exceptional quality of the 'Connect at Home' homework tasks. These tasks, which many of you have contributed to, have provided an enriching and meaningful way for our students to engage with the topics covered in SMSC education.

The collaboration between our dedicated teachers and supportive parents is at the heart of our students' success. The 'Connect at Home' initiative has not only strengthened the bond between home and school but has also deepened our students' understanding of these vital aspects of education.

I am genuinely thrilled to see the positive impact of SMSC education on our students, and I look forward to witnessing their continued growth and development. If you have any questions or concerns regarding SMSC education, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or our staff.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to our students' well-being and education.

**Mr. Dunn**

**Subject Lead for SMSC**

# The Duke of Edinburgh Award

Over the past year, 31 students have completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and 15 have completed the silver award.

To do this, they have carried out over 500 hours of volunteering work in the local community, taken part in physical activities, developed their own skills, and participated in an expedition. Local youth groups have praised our students and the help that they have provided to younger children in the area as young volunteers, running activities, crafts and games to enhance their lives.



All students involved have shown real resilience, especially when completing their expeditions. Carrying everything they needed in the packs on their backs, students had to be fully self-sufficient for either two or three days. They completed a range of tasks including map reading, cooking their own food, pitching tents, and producing photo journals of their experiences, developing great teamwork skills.

The Duke of Edinburgh award is internationally renowned. Through the DofE programme young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CVs and university and job applications. Top employers recognise the work-ready skills Award holders bring to their business.

**As we approach the end of term, it's my pleasure to provide you with an update on the exciting and successful last three months here at Seaham High School. Our Year 7 pupils have truly embraced their journey, making the transition from primary school to Seaham High a seamless and positive experience. Let's take a moment to reflect on some of the key highlights and accomplishments of our wonderful Year 7 students.**

## **Transition and Embracing the School Ethos**

Our new Year 7 students kicked off their journey with us after a series of fantastic transition events, including the Transition Day and the memorable disco in their final year of primary school. I've been incredibly impressed with how our pupils have settled into school life. They have quickly embraced our core values of kindness, integrity, and pride, which form the foundation of our school ethos. This has created a positive and supportive environment for all our students, where they are encouraged to be the best versions of themselves.

## **Homework Completion and Its Importance**

Homework is a vital component of a student's education, and I am pleased to report that our Year 7 students have demonstrated a strong commitment to completing their homework assignments. It is crucial for their progress in school, as it reinforces the knowledge and skills taught in class. Consistent homework completion is not only an essential part of their learning journey but also a reflection of their dedication and responsibility as students.

## **Good Links with Parents**

Strong collaboration between school and home is pivotal to a student's success. I would like to express my gratitude to all parents and guardians for your continued support in ensuring our students' progress. Effective communication between school and home is key, and together we can provide the best learning experience for our students.

## **Assessments and Preparation**

At the end of November, Year 7 students completed their first set of assessments. They worked diligently and put in a lot of effort during the preparation, demonstrating their commitment to academic excellence. These assessments help us monitor their progress and identify areas where they may need additional support.

## **Celebration Assembly and Awards**

As we conclude the term, we look forward to our Year 7 Celebration Assembly. During this event, students will be recognised and celebrated for their outstanding performance in several categories, including Attitude to Learning, Homework Submission, and Attendance. Additionally, tutor awards will be presented to students who have accumulated points throughout the term, acknowledging their hard work and positive contributions.

In conclusion, the first three months of Year 7 have been a success, and our students have displayed remarkable growth and resilience. I'm confident that the rest of the year will bring even more achievements and memorable experiences. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education, and here's to a bright and promising future for our Year 7 students.

Wishing you all a joyful and restful holiday season.

**“ There are strong relationships between staff and pupils ”**

*Ofsted, July 2023*



# Careers Fair

**We are extremely proud of the success of our 2nd annual Careers Fair at Seaham High School which took place in November. We were delighted to have welcomed over 40 exhibitors attending our event - a fantastic exhibition for our students!**

Every year group took part throughout the day and we hope it went a long way to develop the confidence, knowledge and communication skills of our young people when it comes to their own career journey. As we emphasised to students in assemblies leading up to the event, 'soft skills' such as communication and leadership are not things that they will receive a GCSE certificate in when they leave us in Year 11, but they are vital skills that need to be practised in order to be successful in today's competitive labour market.

Local colleges from Newcastle to Middlesbrough were represented, alongside Sixth Forms and training providers each there to inform students about the courses they offer.

North East Raising Aspirations Partnership (NERAP) represented the 5 North East Universities to promote higher education pathways to students.

A range of employment sectors were

present from Construction industries to the Armed forces, Marketing, Travel and Environmental services. Durham County Council promoted their apprenticeship schemes, and Britain's biggest employer, our NHS were on hand to promote over 350 health care professions. Many of our exhibitors had lots of information to hand and interactive activities for students to engage in, helping us to understand more about their industry and roles.

On the evening, the careers fair was open to the community encouraging parents/carers to come along with their child to see it for themselves. It was extremely pleasing to see how many students returned to continue the conversations that they had started during the school day, making positive impressions upon the exhibitors and the organisations they represent.

A huge thank you to all of our exhibitors who gave up their time to give our future workforce such a valuable experience to take away and think about their careers.



**“ Pupils have a trusted adult in school and value the pastoral support and guidance that they receive ”**

*Ofsted, July 2023*





**YEAR 8**

# YEAR 9

## Looking back, the end of Year 8 came with a bang as students had Exams right till the last week, showing every day really does count.

That made our annual trip to Flamingo land all the more satisfying, and it was great to see so many students had achieved the high amount of positive Class Charts needed to secure a place on the bus. Indeed many students made the trip cheaper by turning points into money off the trip cost, and in turn showing hard work really does pay off. A fantastic day was had by all, although we could have done without the downpour as we left. Trying to shelter a couple of hundred students under a few picnic umbrellas was never going to work, but a whole lot of water did little to deter the students' high spirits as the end of term approached. The last day of term gave us time to reflect through our Celebration assembly with a large range of students winning prizes as we celebrated the year's biggest achievements. The raffle prizes seemed to be the biggest draw with students using points to buy tickets. It was good to see one of our Year 9 students making off with the Electric Scooter for their efforts and I know this will be another hotly contested raffle this year with similar large prizes on offer each term. One such scheme to look out for sees students get tokens each week to enter for big prizes simply through their presence in school.

Students are now well and truly into Year 9 with the large upheaval of class changes that permeated the beginning of the year settled momentarily. I say that as we have upcoming exams in the New Year and

I know plenty of students are pushing themselves to improve their class positions. Most of that comes ahead of the students midway point in their time with us and the crossroads they find themselves at. I am of course referring to the preference process. Now is a great time for them to begin thinking about what they might like to do in the future, or more simply the subjects they are good at or like. This can already get students talking to teachers about what's involved, and where possible older students in the middle of that journey and able to explain it in plainer terms. With options looming in the coming months students will notice a focused shift in form and classes towards talking about choices and plenty of guidance will be available to help them make an informed choice that is right for them. Its

At Seaham it's the students that really help make the school and I was able to see this firsthand recently as I spoke to a number of Year 9 students about the Poppy Project. Here the Art department and our students have put in a huge effort to make around 800 clay poppies which have been planted at the front of the school in a display echoing that at the Tower of London a number of years ago. Talking to our students as they left one evening they explained to me the significance of the Red, White and Purple poppies, reminding me that learning really is a two way street. It was a fantastic project and great to see how proud the students were of their work and the understanding it had given them of an annual event that forces us all to take a bit of time to reflect on how lucky we are.

**Mr McCracken**

“ Leaders provide many opportunities for pupils to develop their talents and interests ”

*Ofsted, July 2023*

**It gives me great pleasure to start the new school year as the Year Achievement Leader for Year 10. My motto for the year group is 'Believe in no limits and be the best version of you'. I have explained during an assembly that I expect all students to be brave, kind and true to one another. I consider these to be the basic foundations in order to build success on.**

As Year Achievement Leader it is my job to ensure all students are making good progress. Therefore, I will continuously support all students, but I expect the best from everyone. All students must be prepared for the day ahead with the correct equipment and have a good attitude to learning in all lessons. Otherwise, if students are unprepared, they are reducing their chances of achieving their true potential.

We have had a great start to Year 10 and staff comments support this, with the majority saying how many of their students are 'ready to learn' and how amazing the students are.

Well done, let this continue throughout Year 10.

The next two years at Seaham High School are going to contribute greatly towards our future paths in life. It is important we focus our energy, work hard and give it the best in everything we do. They aren't going to be the easiest years, so communication between staff, students and parents/carers needs to be stronger than ever.

If at any time there are any questions, please don't hesitate to contact myself or the school.

Let us work together as a team and support one another to achieve the excellent results our children deserve.

**Mr Green**

**Year 10 Achievement Leader**

**“ Pupils are proud to be school ambassadors, and feel that leaders listen to them ”**

*Ofsted, July 2023*



As we approach the end of the term, it is with great pleasure that I reflect on the remarkable journey we have undertaken over the past three months. The ethos of kindness, integrity, and pride continues to be the guiding force for our school community, and I am immensely impressed by the way our Year 11 students have embraced these values in their daily lives.

### **Homework Completion: Building Blocks of Progress**

A heartfelt commendation to our Year 11 students for their diligence in completing homework assignments. The importance of homework cannot be overstated, serving as a vital building block for academic progress.

### **Strong Links with Parents: The Pillar of Academic Success**

Our collective success is deeply rooted in the strong links between the school and parents. Your support and engagement play a pivotal role in fostering a conducive learning environment. By working together, we can ensure that each student reaches their full potential. The year 11 preparing for success evening was well attended and very informative for parents. Thank you for attending.

### **Mock Examinations and Period 6 Revision: A Testament to Dedication**

At the start of November, our Year 11 students faced the challenge of mock examinations with exemplary dedication. The preparation and hard work invested in revision did not go unnoticed. Furthermore, the outstanding attendance at the Period 6 revision sessions speaks volumes about the commitment of our students to excel in their academic pursuits.

### **Celebrating Achievements: End of Term Assembly**

As we approach the end of the term, I am excited to announce that we will be hosting a celebration assembly. This will be an opportunity to recognise and reward outstanding achievements, including prizes for Attitude to Learning, Homework Submission, Attendance, and Tutor Awards for points collected. Your continuous dedication to embodying our school ethos makes us proud.

In conclusion, let us continue to uphold the values of kindness, integrity, and pride, ensuring that our Year 11 students thrive both academically and personally. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of our students in the coming weeks.

Best regards,

**Miss Reichard**

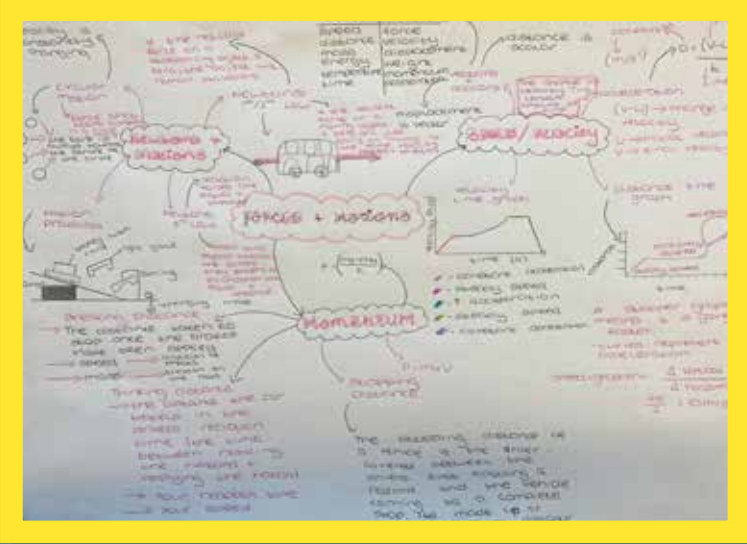
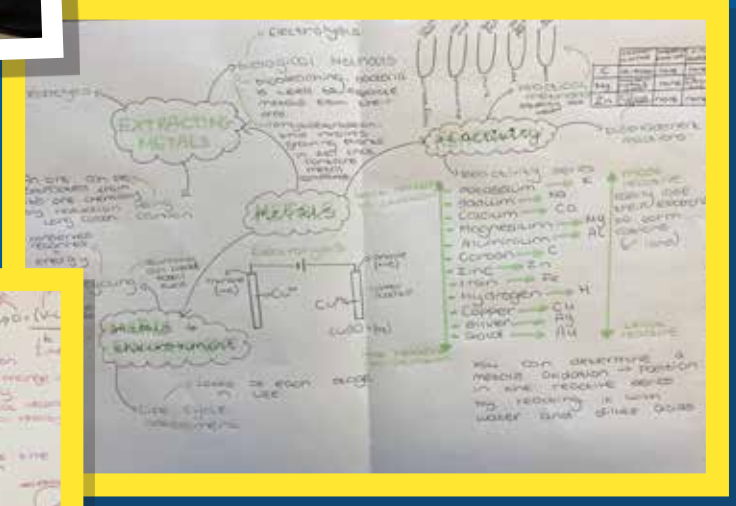
**Year 11 Achievement Leader**





“ Leaders have prioritised a sharp focus on curriculum development ”

Ofsted, July 2023





# GEOGRAPHY

**What an exciting half term it has been since we returned back to school in September. First of all the Geography GCSE results of summer 2023 have been the best the school has had since 2018! Over 15% of students achieved the top grades of 9-7 this was an increase of 4% from last year. Huge congratulations to Neida Venckunaite who achieved the greatest progress in the subject and Evie Bowen, Mollie Foster, Charlie Geary and Thomas Sliwinski who achieved grade 8. Miss Murray and Mr Henderson are extremely proud of you all; the resilience all 75 of you showed over the 5 years at Seaham High School paid off in dividends at the end of your time here.**

Looking forward the department has welcomed two new members of staff, Miss Riding and Miss Lodge to the department; both members of staff teach Geography but also SMSC. It is great to welcome two new members of staff who are extremely keen to work with our students to ensure they progress in all areas.

Mr Spencer has been running the Antarctica Flag competition, this is a project where students design flags to be sent to Antarctica. They are then photographed in Antarctica by our team of volunteers working at stations such as McMurdo and Rothera, or aboard ships such as the RRS Sir David Attenborough, they then send the photographs back to Mr Spencer to pass onto our students. A piece of artwork designed by students at Seaham will make its way to Antarctica! How exciting!

Miss Murray and Mr Spencer ran the Yr11 Geography Parent/Carer evening. This evening was designed to help support our students and parents/carers with the up and coming mocks and the summer exams in 2024. Feedback from the parents was great with 93% saying they found resources useful and 100% said they wanted events throughout the year. SO watch this space Yr11 and Yr10 as we will be running more very soon!

Over the past half term Miss Murray carried out behaviour analysis and want to give a huge shout out to the following classes who have had a great start with over 96% positive ratio in the subject 7X2, 7X4, 9Y3, 9X1, 7Y2, 8Y2, 7X1, 10X2, 8Y1, 7Y1, 8X1 7X3, 8X1, 7X1, 9Y1, 7Y1, 11X1, 8Y1, 9X4, 7Y2 and 8Y3.

Yr11, Yr10 and Yr9 have all completed end of unit assessments this half term and all teachers were thrilled to see the level of effort towards revision pieces. Especially in 9Y1 Izzie Preston Lucy Gallagher and Emily Mitchell!

This half term Y7 will be studying natural resources, Yr8 Rivers, Yr9 Plate Tectonics, Yr10 will be carrying on with Changing Economic World and Yr11 will be completing Living World after the mock exams.

As always keep an eye out on the geography instagram account for all update activities that are being completed by our students and staff @seaham\_highschool\_geography

**“ The personal development programme prepares pupils well for life in modern Britain ”**

*Ofsted, July 2023*

# HISTORY

## 2023 Year 11 examination results

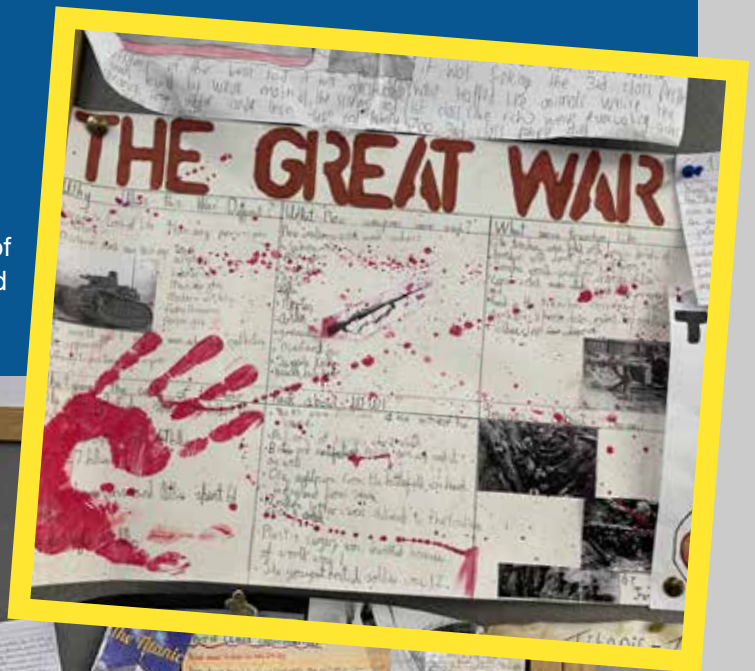
126 pupils from the Class of 2023 Year 11 cohort received their History grades in August. Students and teachers were delighted that all Seaham History students achieved a GCSE and that Seaham had a higher Grade 9-4 pass rate than the national average.

## Open Evening Thursday 5th October

The History Department invited parents, carers and pupils from local primary schools to experience the medieval Black Death room! Fantastic volunteers from Years 7 and 8 took to their roles with incredible enthusiasm. Visitors learned about the four humours, how medieval doctors would taste urine (urgh!), and how people tried to prevent the Black Death. There was even a re-enactment of the surgical techniques of the barber-surgeon - the medieval doctors who would cut hair and perform operations!

## Year 8 WWI homework

Pupils in Year 8 have been busy studying the causes and events of the First World War. Fantastic homework focussed on the conflict was submitted in November. This coincided with Remembrance assemblies for each year group and a collective whole-school act of commemoration on Friday 10th November.





# PROM 2023



# ENGLISH

## A Christmas Carol Performance



We are thrilled to announce the outstanding achievement of one of our talented students, Kathryn M, who has earned a coveted place in a national poetry anthology. Her exceptional entry stood out among numerous submissions! This recognition is a testament to Kathryn's dedication and creativity, and we couldn't be prouder of her accomplishments.

In English we believe it is important to broaden the minds of the students by not only reading some of the most significant literary texts but also by bringing them to life. In the run up to the GCSE 2023 exam series we welcomed London based Quantum Theatre into school to deliver a performance of the GCSE text currently being studied in Key Stage 4, A Christmas Carol. It did not disappoint. Our Year 11s were exposed to a live retelling of this classic text through a superb performance which brought to life the text they had been studying in the classroom. The stage alone was wonderful and the three actors masterfully presented themselves as each of Dickens' famous characters throughout, enabling the students to see each character in action. The show was almost like for like with the text making this not only a spectacle to enjoy but a brilliant revision experience. After its success in engaging the students we have organised for this year's GCSE students to watch a performance of Macbeth, bringing Shakespeare's classic tale of murder and corruption to life right here in Seaham.

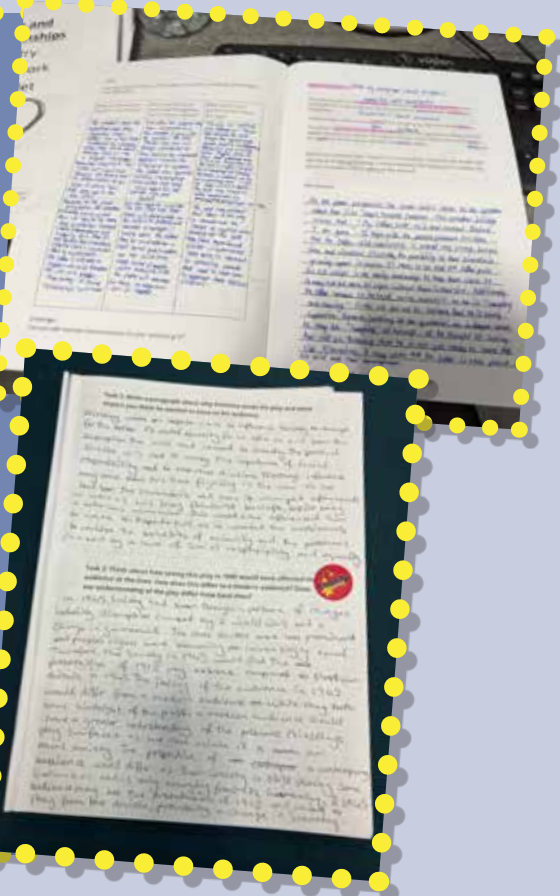
## Celebrating Homework

Over the last few months, the English Department has moved to using homework booklets. These booklets have been designed around the principles of skills, knowledge and creativity. In English, homework is designed to help students practise and consolidate the skills and knowledge they need to succeed, but also to extend their creative thinking and application. Completing homework outside of school awards children academically but it also helps them foster a love of English and understand the wider world around them. We hope by introducing homework that promotes critical thinking and creativity, that the children will be given knowledge and skills that allow them to be successful both inside and outside of the classroom.

Since the homework booklets have been introduced, both KS3 and KS4 students have produced some phenomenal homework that demonstrates both their skill level, knowledge and creative flare. A special commendation to Lois W, Sophie S, Rosa P, Lucy G and Izzie P whose homework submissions have been featured in this current issue of Horizon. Well done and keep up the hard work!

If you have any questions concerning your child's homework in English, please feel free to contact their English teacher directly.

Miss Thompson, 2nd in English

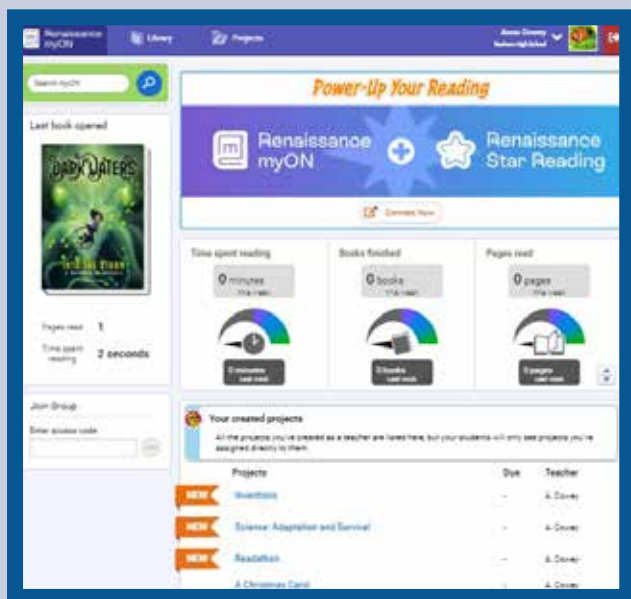


## Intervention and its successes

As part of our continuous commitment to the success of the students in English at Seaham High School we have introduced a number of personalised intervention sessions in order to support and challenge the students. The intervention sessions we run in English are tailored to the needs of the individuals and are

completed in small groups to allow for very focused and effective learning to take place. These sessions rotate regularly and are adapted to address emerging needs, our swift and regular monitoring of these sessions have allowed us to support a large number of students in personalised areas to contribute to their success.

## MyOn



We are delighted to share the news of the successful launch of our new digital library system, MyOn! In our continued efforts to enhance the learning experience for our students, we have introduced this innovative platform to encourage a lifelong love for reading and support our young readers' literacy journey.

MyOn is a fantastic digital library that provides our students with instant access to a vast collection of high-quality eBooks and digital resources. With an extensive range of titles spanning various genres, reading levels, and interests, MyOn caters to the diverse tastes and preferences of our student body.

MyOn offers interactive features such as audio narration, highlighting, and annotation tools, making the reading experience interactive and immersive. These features support students in developing essential reading skills, comprehension, and critical thinking abilities.

We encourage parents to support their children in utilising MyOn both at school and at home. The platform can be accessed from various devices, allowing students to enjoy reading anytime, anywhere. We believe that this initiative will not only enhance our students' reading abilities but also inspire a lifelong love for learning and discovery.

## The KS3 Reading Challenge

Over the last few years, the English Department has run a KS3 Reading Challenge open to Y7 and Y8 students (it is being opened up to Y9 students this academic year - more information concerning this is to follow). The aim of the reading challenge is to deepen students' understanding of core ideas that are central to success in the subject. In addition to this, the Reading Challenge was created to foster a love of reading and to develop students' understanding of the wider world around them.

To be successful in The Reading Challenge, students have to read as many books as they can from the reading list (these can be found on the Reading Challenge Google Classrooms - all children have been invited to the relevant one for their year group). After reading a book, students have to submit a task linked to that particular

book. These tasks have been designed to develop student reading and writing skills as well as to foster a love for creativity. Once the tasks have been completed and quality assured, ClassCharts points are awarded. These ClassCharts points feed into the Go for Gold incentive that runs across the school to reward positive behaviour attributable to the 6Rs.

Last year, Katie B and Andrew S were our worthy winners. Both received a certificate in their Celebration Assembly to reward their efforts.

If you would like your child to take part in the Reading Challenge this year, please see the information on the Google Classroom your child has been invited to. Alternatively, please contact [L.scott@seahamhighschool.com](mailto:L.scott@seahamhighschool.com) for further information.

# SCIENCE

## Celebrate Science

During the October half term, 7 of our STEM ambassadors took part in Durham University's "Celebrate Science" event on Palace Green in Durham.

Students planned an activity around cells and microscopes, worked out the equipment they would need and organised themselves into groups. They then spent half a day sharing this activity with members of the public and primary school students, teaching them about how to use a microscope to look at slides and helping them to make models of cells using paper plates and craft materials.

Durham University staff commented on how knowledgeable, keen, polite and confident all of the students involved were, running the activity independently and really helping members of the public to learn more about science.

Celebrate science is an annual event run by Durham University during the October half term. It aims to engage and inspire young people, showing them the range of interesting activities and jobs that Science can lead to, as well as sharing some of the University's recent research.



# Modelling Cells

During September, students from years 8 and 9 showcased their creativity and innovation by constructing model cells for their homework assignments.

Their imaginative approaches to crafting intricate animal and plant cells included working with papier-mâché, salt dough, Lego, pizza and cake. One student took their work a step further by utilising a 3D printer to add more detail and precision to their cell model. While another thought one cell wasn't enough, and so managed to crochet a collection of cells, including specialised reproductive cells.

These projects demonstrated a great depth of understanding from our students and highlighted their resourcefulness and ability to take risks.

Pictured are some of the remarkable creations that reflect the dedication and ingenuity of our young scientists, and we look forward to more innovative projects in the future.



# SKI VISIT

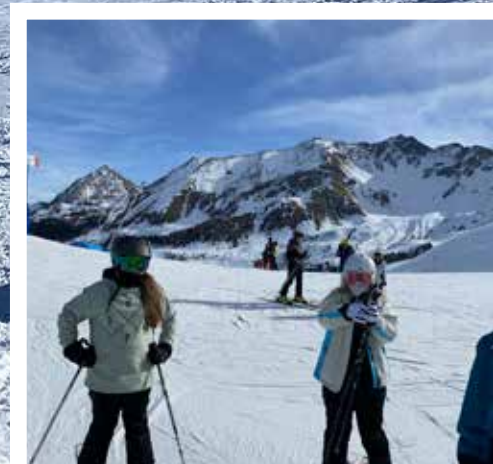
**On the 18th February 2023 64 students and 8 members of staff set off to the resort of Pila in Aosta, located in the Italian Alps for a week of skiing.**

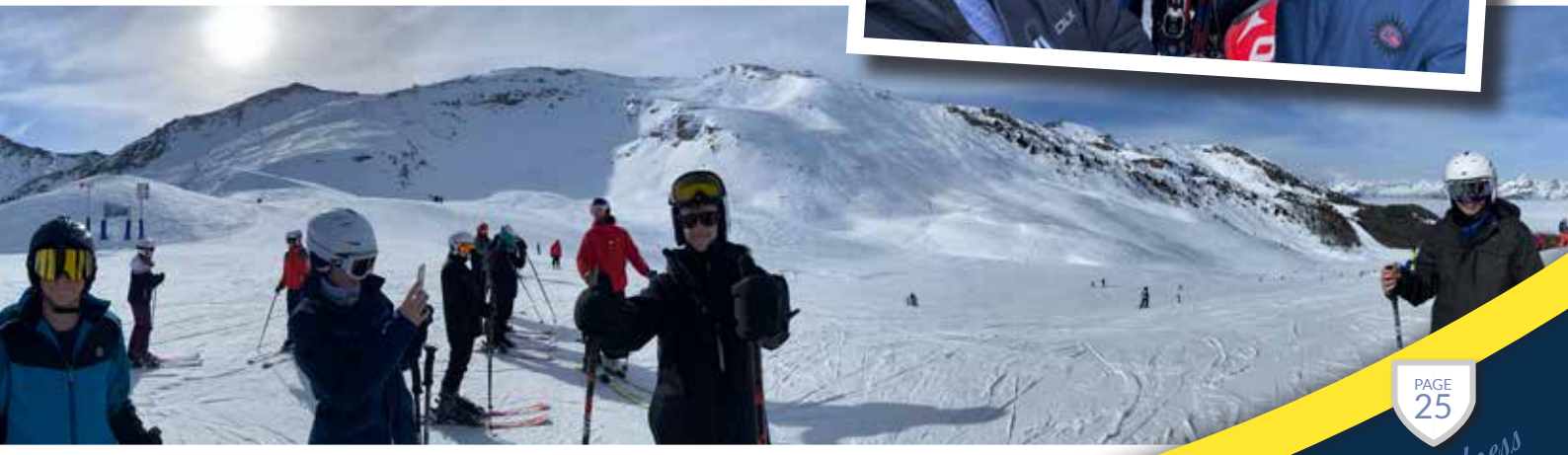
The group consisted of students of all levels of skill, from first-timers to experienced skiers. It was amazing to see the progress made by all of the students over the course of the trip. By the end of the week, many of the beginners were skiing down intermediate runs with ease, while the more experienced students challenged themselves on the more advanced black runs.

The trip was not only a fantastic opportunity for our students to develop their skiing abilities, but also a chance for them to experience a new culture and bond with their peers. The group enjoyed traditional Italian cuisine, explored the picturesque mountain town of Aosta while sampling delicious Italian gelato and even squeezed in a game of bowling.

We are proud of all of our students for their hard work and positive attitudes throughout the visit, and we would like to extend a special thanks to our staff members for their tireless efforts in organising and supervising the trip.

We have already planned our next trip for the 2024 February half term and are pleased to be taking 43 eager students to ski in the beautiful Italian Alps.





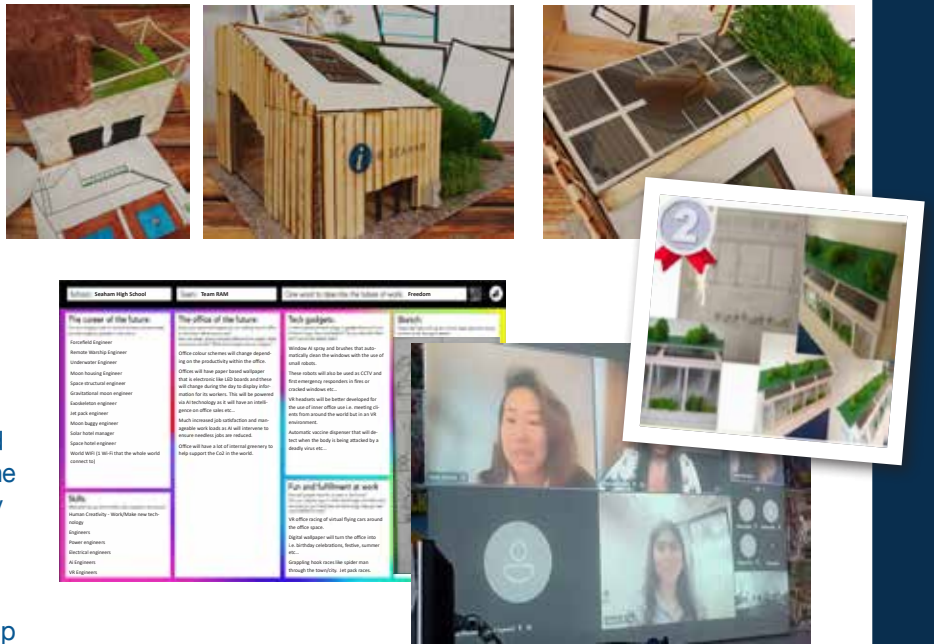
# TECHNOLOGY

## International Women in Engineering Day 2023

Students in Y7 and Y8 took part in a form competition in which they had to produce an ECO house made from recycled materials as well as consider the environment in their design.

Some of the Y9 students who were interested in a career in Engineering took part in an online meeting with women who work at a company called Wood as part of the promotion of INWED 23.

Congratulations to 8JRL who came runners up in the national competition.



## Parental Engagement Evening

In July Mrs Kay held an evening with students and parents in which they produced a series of dishes to take home for their families.



“ Pupils with SEND have access to safe and sensory-rich spaces in school ”

Ofsted, July 2023

## Royal Navy Day with Y10 Catering students

Back in February the Royal Navy activity saw both Catering groups take part in a Ready Steady Cook activity in which students had to produce a series of dishes along side our guests from the Royal Navy. The idea behind this is for students to see career possibilities in catering in the Royal Navy along with the types of team work skills that are involved.



# Keepmoat building site trip with Y10 Construction students

Students studying BTEC Construction took part in a morning walking around a building site at Houghton Le Spring which allowed students a hands-on revision experience for their Unit 1 exams.



# PE

## PHENOMENAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION EVENTS AT SEAHAM!

It has been wonderful to see our amazing students embracing the culture of sport throughout an array of opportunities that have taken place during 2023.

### National School Sports Week

The National School Sports Week this year fell between the 19th-25th June, where students were encouraged to 'pledge to play for 60 minutes' each day to meet the health ministers recommended amount of exercise, with the winning student in each year group receiving a £10 Amazon voucher. To emphasise the importance of exercise and encourage students to hit their 60 minute target the PE department ran a number of different events throughout the week, including the ever popular dodgeball lunchtime activities. Students in years 7 - 9 also had an opportunity to compete for their form group in the rowing and cycling challenge. The winners from each year group were 7FEE, 8CUJ and joint first 9KAG and 9LOW.



### Sports Rewards Day

Tuesday 4th July saw the PE department host our first annual Sports Rewards Day, which has been established to acknowledge and congratulate those students who have shown enthusiasm, dedication and a positive attitude in lessons and extra-curricular endeavours, having represented our school in an abundance of sporting tournaments and competitions throughout the year including netball, football, cricket, dodgeball, athletics and dance.

Throughout the rewards day students participated in boxing, rugby, basketball and tchoukball and were highly praised by the external coaches for their talent and passion for sport. It was a pleasure to see their commitment and resilience when embracing new challenges.



### Race for Life Cancer Fun Run

We also saw a number of high number of students supporting a very worthy cause running in our annual Cancer Fun Run which was held after school with students completing laps of the school premises, some for their own fun and fitness and others in memory of others affected by Cancer .



### Extracurricular activities - Clubs and School Teams

What a fantastic year we had last year with teams in years 7-11 representing the school in boy's football, girl's football, netball, athletics, basketball, cricket, dance and cross country. As always, the commitment and dedication of these students made us very proud. We are looking forward to further success in the new year! Watch this space!

Our extracurricular timetable is out now and there are plenty of sports and activities for you to get involved with! Please book online via school cloud for before and after school sessions

### Tennis tournament

We also ran the Annual Tennis tournament, this year crowning Josh Thompson winner of the singles for the second year in a row, and it was a victory in the doubles for Harry Purvis and Jake Humble.



### Sports Awards Presentation Evening

On Thursday, 28th September we had the inaugural Seaham High School Sport Awards in school, to recognise the achievements of some of our most gifted students across a wide range of sporting and fitness disciplines.

Our main hall was at full capacity as a specially invited audience heard all about the hard work of our students, and the evening was a great chance to recognise the talent we have in the young people of Seaham and shout it from the rooftops.

### 'Alternative Activities Day'

Furthermore, 20 students from year 7 and 8 also had the privilege of being selected to attend an 'Alternative Activities Day' at Maiden Castle on Friday 23rd June, to again encourage students participation but to also broaden their experience of different sporting activities including yoga, archery and fencing.





Our incredible ambassador team took charge of presenting the evening, leading the tributes to our junior sports stars and inviting them to the stage to collect their awards. They showed the same composure under the stage lights as our young athletes have on the fields and courts of competition, and kept things running along smoothly.

We were joined on stage by Becky Herron from Easington School Sports Partnership, who spoke about the young leaders academy and presented the Young Leader of the Year award to Libby H. Seaham currently has the most young leaders in the county, which shows the students commitment to developing sports among their own peers.

A specially choreographed dance routine led us into the interval, as our dance troupe of Ava, Amber and Molly wowed the audience with their skills.

After the break, we welcomed a bona-fide World Champion to the stage as our very own Jennifer L stepped up to receive her very much well deserved award. Jennifer was described as “an inspiration and role model for other students, (who) shows you can manage high level performance in sport and school when you have the correct mindset and ambition.”

Overall we presented over 30 awards to more than 40 worthy winners, and everyone had a great time and did themselves proud. We can't wait to do it again next year!



## DANCE EVENTS

### An Evening of Dance

This was an annual show that we will be running each year. Students are able to showcase their dance talents and are also able to perform pieces they have been working on in Dance club or through our very successful KS4 exam course.

The night was filled with colour and excitement, from contemporary to jazz to musical theatre and street dance. The night explored these styles of dance with great emphasis and enthusiasm. Students loved putting on costumes and make-up and performing for their friends and family. The audience left buzzing with excitement and full of pride from seeing their son or daughter perform. Well done to all that performed, hopefully we can make it bigger and better next year.



### East Durham Schools Dance Festival

Students were invited to perform for other schools in the East Durham area, at the Glebe Centre in Mutton. The students who attend Dance club on a Tuesday after school, worked on a number of different performance pieces and decided they would perform ‘You can't stop the beat’ from Hairspray the musical. The piece is upbeat, full of tricks and turns and full of colourful costumes. They performed with energy and enthusiasm showing off their talents as dancers. Another piece the students decided to perform was a duet by Amber and Ava, the piece was a creepy piece of music, quite haunting at times. The movement matched the music as well as the make-up and costumes, the audience of primary school students really enjoyed this thrilling piece. Well done to everyone that performed.



### ‘Feet First’ Performance

Each year schools from across the whole of Durham are invited to perform at the Gala theatre in Durham. This is an excellent opportunity for students to perform on a huge stage and really understand a bit more about the performing arts industry. When our Dance club team of dancers arrived they were welcomed into their own dressing room. Excited and at the thought of doing their make-up in real show biz style mirrors they got to work. Singing songs, making new friends and becoming a really close team the dancers were ready to perform.

We were given 3 different slots, the group performed ‘You can't stop the beat’ from Hairspray, a contemporary piece to ‘Lovely’ by Billie Eilish and finally Amber and Ava performed their creepy duet to Christina Aguilera’s ‘Enter the Circus’. Fabulous performance by all, we were then able to go into the gallery and watch the other schools perform their piece in the second half of the show. Great experience for our students to see other types of dance and see how a large scale show is put together.



# MUSIC

## Year 11

In the summer term we said goodbye to one of our most talented year groups to date. The students had worked remarkably well, and managed to receive some outstanding results. We had 3 students who went on to complete their grade 6 singing examinations too, all passing comfortably.

## Music In the Community

The music department has been busy as ever, and we have been out into the community, with the school choir, and our brass band. Our school choir keeps on being a popular choice for students with nearly 40 participants. The Choir spent time in two retirement homes singing songs for the elderly people. This is something that we as a department are doing regularly which allows people to see what we are doing within the school, give the students a chance to perform out in the real world, and most importantly bring real joy to the residents in our local community. The choir aims to be out again this Winter to bring joy to our local residents. Choir takes place on a Wednesday morning in the Drama room, and if anybody is interested in joining, they can see Mr McGuire in the music department.

Our brass band has been out and about too. We visited one of our lovely primary schools for the first time in the summer term for a joint performance with our now year 7 brass players. The performance was a huge success and it was great to get out and see what was going on in other schools. The students who performed are now part of our very own brass band and are currently working towards the Christmas production.

## Co-Curricular

As well as the brass band and choir, we have lots going on within the department, and the numbers are increasing all of the time. We currently offer tuition in, Violin, Brass, Piano, Guitar, Drums, Vocals, and Woodwind. We now have 9 violinists at the school, which is something to watch out for. The students are currently working towards the Christmas show, which will be our first time offering violin as a performance. Our guitar lessons are still going strong with a few students achieving grades 2 in their trinity music exams, and more looking to participate in them moving



forward. If you would like to receive lessons, please speak to Mr McGuire for more information, or register your interest on the Durham Music Service Website.

Students visited New College Durham to participate in a number of sessions, including MIDI sequencing, song writing, and recording. The students were given a chance to see what college life would be like and open up new opportunities for further education.

## Future Events

So far this year the school have entered into the Durham School Choir Competition, and are hoping to make it through to the next round which will be taking place at Ushaw College in December. This is the first time we have entered a competition as a choir, but whatever happens they have been amazing so far this year.

The next performance coming up is the Christmas Showcase where we are trying to involve almost 100 students in various roles from production roles to performers. We aim to follow this with further performances at Easter and in the summer.

Anyone interested in participating needs to contact Mr McGuire.



# MFL

**Hello everyone! I'm Lucía, the new Spanish Language Assistant. As some of you know, I'm from Málaga, in the south of Spain. I have a degree in Translation and Interpreting (English and French) and two master's degrees; one for English teaching and the other one for teaching Spanish as a second language. During these two master's degrees I've done internships both in a Spanish high school (teaching English as a second language) and in a language academy, teaching Spanish as a second language.**

As I've dedicated most of my life to learning languages I can assure you that languages open doors to many opportunities, not only in the workplace, but also socially. Learning a language is not only learning its grammar

or vocabulary, but also learning about the history of different countries, their customs, food, etc. Even knowing a bit of a language can help you get around in the country where that language is used!

I came to England through the British Council language assistant programme to work in Seaham High School. I'm here to help students improve their speaking skills and feel more confident speaking in a foreign language. Another reason for me to be here is that I want to improve my English and immerse myself in British culture, so I can travel around the country visiting different cities.

Although I have not been working in Seaham for long, I have been able to meet many Spanish students who are interested in learning the language and who make an effort to do so. I'm glad that I could come to Seaham and I must say that I'm enjoying my time here so much!

P.S. If you have any questions about Spain or about the Spanish language don't hesitate to ask me!

# BUSINESS STUDIES

**This summer's results were very pleasing. Of the 50 students who studied Enterprise: 1 student achieved a Level 1 Distinction, 9 students achieved a Level 2 Pass, 18 students achieved a Level 2 Merit, a further 18 students achieved a Level 2 Distinction and 4 students achieved the highest possible grade of a Level 2 Distinction\*. It was a source of great satisfaction that several of our students have opted to take Business Studies courses at college this year.**

Our current Year 11 are the first cohort to undertake the newest version of the BTEC Enterprise course. At the time of writing, they are completing their second Pearson Set Assignment (worth 30% of their overall grade). They have generated two realistic ideas for a micro-enterprise and chosen one of these to plan within budget. Shortly, they will individually present their business plan for their idea and review the

production and delivery of their presentation to make recommendations for improvements. This will give them their first taste of pitching an idea and provide invaluable experience for their appearance on Dragon's Den in the future!

Our current Year 10s have started their academic journey within Enterprise in a purposeful and mature manner. The students have acquired much of the knowledge that underpins an effective use of skills, such as the activities, skills and characteristics of enterprises and entrepreneurs. Shortly, they will be examining the internal and external factors that can affect the success of an enterprise. In addition, they will develop their understanding of the process of developing a business plan and using and applying marketing and finance knowledge. Furthermore, they will develop the key skills that provide aptitude in planning an enterprise idea, including market research, planning, carrying out financial transactions, communication and problem solving. Their first Pearson Set Assignment (worth 30% of their overall grade) will begin in January and we have high expectations, as do they!

**Year 11 are working on developing their Interactive Digital Products (IDMP) which they have been researching using a range of examples from industry to look at the new technology we are exposed to and how this impacts on consumers.**

Period 6 has been running all term for year 11, this has allowed the students to complete some more complex tasks, they have also been introduced to new software called 'Canva; to develop graphic products and audio/video. Students have commented on the ease of use of this, we are looking forward to seeing their final products.

Year 10 and 11 have been learning techniques used to plan and design IDMP and have successfully developed their own ideas for these creations.

In KS3 Year 9 we have been looking into **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** and how this impacts on many areas of life, even some where we have not recognised the use AI before. Although Sophia the Robot, (the first Robot Citizen) was not welcomed with open arms by all students. I think the future may lie with the students in work, rather than with the robot future. AI is the future for some developments but not all.

### **Year 8 Competition**

Four teams of Year 8 girls will be participating in CyberFirst Girls Competition, a competition from the National Cyber Security Centre. The CyberFirst Girls Competition aims to inspire girls interested in technology to pursue a career in cyber security. Tackling challenges from cryptography and logic to artificial intelligence and networking for the chance to be crowned cyber security champions. Every girl from the winning teams will take a brand-new laptop home, and have a chance to win prize money for their school.

Girls will have 10 days (20-29th November) to complete as many challenges as they can. This will be completed both in school and at home. We wish them well and hope they are successful in their inaugural attempts.

Look out for the results in the next edition.

### **Year 7 E Safety**

Year 7 have been learning about E-Safety in their computing lessons. Moving to secondary can be stressful for both students and parents. Especially as students begin to become more independent in their own lives. This is a short guide for parents to help with the transition.

#### **What are children doing?**

- It's a time when children are beginning to make deeper social connections for the first time and learning how to interact with each other online which can be overwhelming.
- The Smartphone becomes an important tool to stay connected to their friends, school apps and homework but it also puts them under pressure to interact.
- School interactions with friends cross over into the online world and at times it can be challenging to balance this with school work and other activities.

#### **What risks and challenges do they face?**

Almost 9 in 10 children (89%) aged 10 to 15 years said they went online every day.

While the majority of children told us they only spoke to or exchanged messages with people online who they knew in person, around one in six children (17%) aged 10 to 15 years spoke with someone they had never met before (equivalent to 682,000 children) in the previous 12 months.



“ Teachers have high expectations of pupils’ behaviour ”

Ofsted, July 2023

An estimated 1 in 50 children (2%) said that they spoke to or messaged someone online in the previous 12 months who they thought was their age but later found out were much older.

An estimated 5% of children aged 10 to 15 years met up in person with someone they had only spoken to online (equivalent to 212,000 children) in the previous 12 months.

Around 1 in 10 children (11%) aged 13 to 15 years reported receiving a sexual message, while 1 in 100 reported sending a sexual message, in the previous 12 months.

Girls aged 13 to 15 years were significantly more likely to report receiving sexual messages than boys (16% compared with 6%) in the previous 12 months.

The majority of parents or guardians of children aged 10 to 15 years (64%) had some sort of rules about the length of time and when their children can go online.

Source <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/bulletins/childrensonlinebehaviourinenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020>

## Screen Time?

Screen time ‘Everything in moderation’ applies to the screen time debate when it comes to ‘How much is too much screen time?’. Research tells us that children, brains, behaviour and sleep can be affected by how much time they spend on screens. 12 to 15 year olds are spending over 20 hours per week using screens.

## What can you do to help?

The challenge is helping children to be able to focus on what they are meant to be doing online

- Discuss how screen-time is affecting their overall wellbeing • Set some digital boundaries and help them be in control of their tech
- Make them aware that most apps, games and devices are designed to keep them watching and playing
- Stay engaged in what your child is doing to help them use a wide range of media from safe sources.
- Stand your ground & apply rules to counter any negative peer pressure
- Use a news story or something they can relate to discuss potential risks of peer pressure
- Help them build the confidence to say no if they are asked to do something that puts them or others at risk.

## Sexting

Exploring sexuality has always been a part of a child’s development so it’s important to have age appropriate discussions about healthy sex and relationships so they have the right advice. Children take part in sexting for a range of reasons, to fit in, as a joke, to express feelings in a relationship or as a result of peer pressure.

## What can you do to help?

- Discuss the risks of sexting and what to do to resolve the situation if it does happen
- Encourage them to be critical about people’s intentions
- Make sure they can come to you or a trusted adult if they need support without judgement
- Create potential responses if they are asked to share a nude – Try Zipit app for support.

## Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying Research shows that children experience more cyberbullying as they move through secondary school. As they are new to the social world online, it can be tricky to see how their words and online actions can impact others. A video created by BBC Own it showing students reading the nicest and nastiest comments shared by others online brings to life how words can have a real impact on children’s wellbeing. Cyberbullying can affect children’s mental health, learning and can lead to legal consequences in some extreme cases.

## What can you do to help?

Getting to grips with ‘netiquette’ of what is acceptable to post and having coping strategies are essential to help children make smart choices online.

- Discuss the difference between banter and bullying
- Discuss the influence of school culture in how friends relate to each other
- Teach them how to report or block people

## Remembrance Clay Poppies

The Art department at Seaham High School have created clay poppies with students inspired by the Tower of London display in 2018. Approximately 750 students have created the poppies in clay, fired and glazed them and attached stems. The poppies have been planted outside the front entrance of Seaham High School for Remembrance Day.

Students have really enjoyed the experience, many have relatives that have been affected by war and this has been a great opportunity to learn about Remembrance Day in a creative way whilst reflecting on lives that have been lost. Some students decided to create white poppies to symbolise peace and other students painted theirs purple which represents the death of animals during conflict.



## North Yorkshire Photography Visit

Year 10 GCSE Photography students have recently completed their first major photographic shoot of the North York Moors. This photographic shoot was hugely successful as students photographed landmarks throughout North Yorkshire and Cleveland. The areas visited allowed students to photograph key landmarks in the footsteps of the famous photographer "Joe Cornish". Students had studied the work of the photographer before the visit which helped when visiting the sites. There were six groups that embarked upon the photographic journey, each group took photographs for a full day, over a three day period. The sample of images displayed show the quality of the work produced, that will contribute to student portfolios and overall grade at GCSE.



Jessica Kelly - North Yorkshire photography examples.

## Newcastle Photography Visit

Year 11 photography students visited Newcastle in the summer term to take photographs for their second Landscape project in the style of photographer Steve Mayes. Students behaved exceptionally and were a credit to the school. Photographs taken were of an extremely high quality and will count towards 60% of their overall grade.



## Year 6 Open Evening

Once again Open evening in the art department was a great success with year 6 students getting involved in a large scale drawing inspired by the game Cluedo. An exhibition of current students' work was also displayed which really shows off the talent that we have at Seaham High school.



# RESULTS

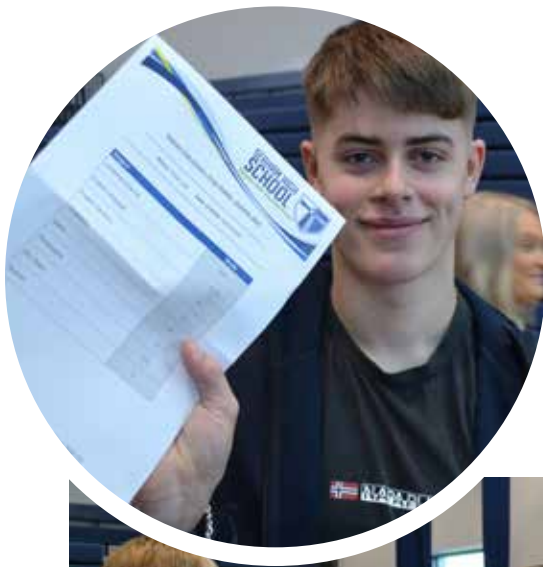


## Technology

### Exam success for Y10

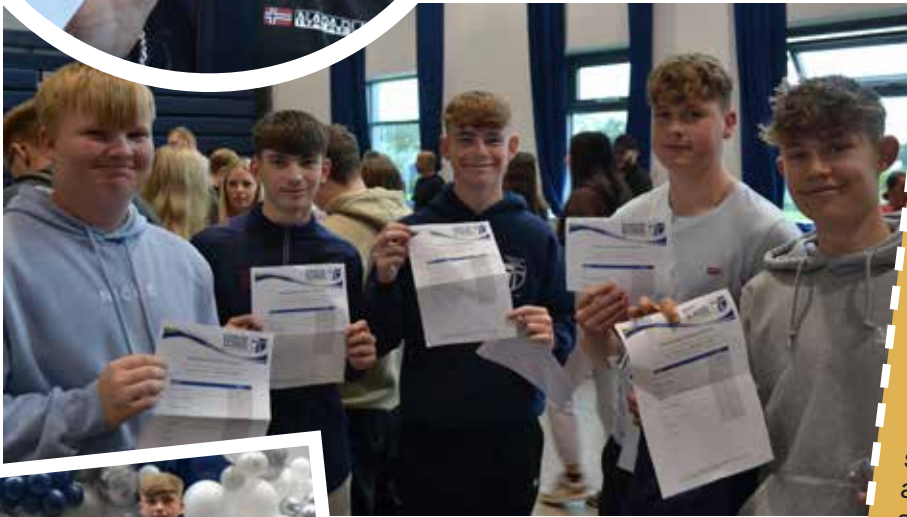
Both our option subjects in technology Hospitality & Catering and Construction and the built environment saw fantastic success in the Unit 1 exams this summer. Not one student out of the 77 combined students from the two courses got lower than a L1P which is fantastic meaning that each student can now go on to potentially get some fantastic grades in the summer of Y11.





## English

This year we celebrated another fantastic set of English results from our year 11 2023 leavers. We are so proud of all they have achieved and we are delighted that their hard work and dedication paid off. As you'll be aware, students' education has been disrupted in the past and so it is particularly rewarding to see that our students continue to strive hard to fill any learning gaps in order to fulfil their potential. Despite periods of absence and remote learning when they began their GCSE study, our students demonstrated their resilience and determination to succeed. We wish all of our 2023 leavers the best of luck for the future. We know they will go on to achieve great things.



## Art

2023 Year 11 Art and photography results were once again outstanding. Art students achieved 35% Grades 7 and above and 97.8 % of students achieved a grade 4 or above. Photography students achieved 55% Grades 7 and above and 100% achieved a grade 4 or above. This is an amazing achievement as results were once again well above the national average. The exhibition of work displayed for the moderator looked fantastic. Last year's year 11 cohort should be really proud of themselves! Well done! An exhibition of year 11 2023 work will be displayed in the hall for certificate evening and students will be allowed to take sketchbooks home.



# YEAR BOOK

We recently had the Class of 23 back in school as our leavers dropped in to pick up their certificates and celebrate their achievements. The evening was a good chance for them to reconnect with classmates and the staff who helped them through their time with us.

While they were here, they were also able to pick up copies of their yearbook – hot off the press. Our yearbook is truly one of a kind, as it is designed in-house, bespoke for each Year 11 class towards the end of their time with us. It is a time capsule that covers everything from fresh-faced Year Sevens right up to the young adults who leave us at sixteen, and we hope that the students will enjoy looking back at it for years to come, remembering their time with us fondly.

Current Year 11 who will be the Class of 24 are able to earn reward points toward their own yearbook next year, or purchase them directly from the school, more details will follow next term.

