

HORIZON

Summer
2024



SEAHAM HIGH SCHOOL
engaging minds. broadening horizons



Welcome

I hope you enjoy our latest issue of the Horizon magazine. It once again shows the depth of work that goes on across the school to fulfil our vision statement of broadening horizons.

As always it has been a thoroughly busy year and the school continues to develop, change and improve. We are always keen to recognise and promote the positives among our student body. In addition to our Annual Awards evening at the Ramside we have held a Sports Award Evening and Duke of Edinburgh Awards Evening in school. These were successful and relatively inexpensive to organise. We intend to continue with this initiative and further develop it to increase the profile and include an SEND and Ambassador Awards evenings.

I am particularly pleased with our Community Contribution scheme and am delighted so many families have gotten involved. We are up to around 2500 positive points awarded for recognition of a contribution to the wider community. This alongside our Ambassador programme, Duke of Edinburgh scheme and Careers programme is exceptional. Add to that our figures for students who go onto further education and training which are better than regional and national figures and it is fair to say our Personal Development programmes are very strong.

I would also like to make you aware of our Acts of Praise scheme where everyone in school can nominate someone for an Act of Praise. We started this 2 years ago and it runs every couple of weeks. Thousands of these cards have now been given out to both students and staff, which is fabulous in terms of recognition and everyone's wellbeing.

Like all schools, money is becoming tighter. We have had to make substantial cuts this year to achieve a balanced budget. Next year projections are currently dire in terms of financial income. That is despite the school having a healthy reserve and being oversubscribed with an increasing number of

students on roll. Announcements are currently on hold due to the General Election and there may be some improvement following this but I doubt it will be significant. If I provide you with an example of the complexities of the current situation- we have had to set a school budget to begin in September without knowing definitively what teaching staff and support staff salary increases will be. It could be we have not budgeted enough or we have over budgeted. If it is the former and no additional funding comes in from the Government then as a school we have a problem. It is no different to every other school's problems but given these salary increases are due to start in September it does leave us with a significant challenge- I liken it to working in the dark with all the lights off. Therefore it is likely as we move forward that some of our services or initiatives may have to be cut.

The 6 week holidays are fast approaching- from everyone at the school can I wish you a fantastic and restful summer break.



*Geoff Lumsdon
Headteacher*

Foreword

Year 11 2024 have now left and as a staff body we wish them all the very best for the future. It is easy as the years roll by to forget the impact of Covid but it is worth remembering that this year group were in Year 7 when the first lockdown hit. Possibly of all the year groups since they have been the most affected all of the way through from Bubbles, Isolation and the subsequent disruption to learning. We wished them all the best for their GCSE's- they certainly have tried hard with their examinations and look forward to seeing them at their Prom and on GCSE Results day.

It will be interesting to see how the new BTEC qualifications develop. They have been a significant challenge around attendance and this is replicated nationally and locally in other schools. They have placed significant pressure on students and staff particularly when a child is ill and misses sections of the PSA's, which cannot then be easily revisited due to the exam conditions. We require your support on this issue as if your child misses parts of the PSA programme in KS4- they may not be able to continue with the course.

Attendance remains a challenge for us and you will have seen the national concern around attendance. Figures aren't improving across the country following the pandemic. As a school our attendance is in line with national figures at time of writing. This is better than regional figures for secondary schools. It is something we must maintain absolutely determined to improve upon. Too many parents/ carers seem to think it is acceptable for children to miss school regularly. The Student Guidance Team and our Attendance Officer do a fantastic job of chasing up poor attendance and we make no apologies for this. Poor attendance lowers a student's chances of doing well at GCSE and impacts on their life chances. Please be aware we are unable to authorise holiday requests without exceptional circumstances. This also requires submitting the evidence to support the exceptional circumstances.

Once again we are over-subscribed for incoming Year 7. We have had a substantial number of admission appeals for both incoming Year 7 and in-year transfers to other year groups. Other developments in terms of capacity are our continued popularity in terms of SEN provision. Nationally the figures for children with Education Health Care Plans has increased by 80% since 2016. We anticipate that in September we will have over 40 students with an Education and Health Care plan and potentially 47. At the figure of 40- this is a staggering 800% increase on when the Headteacher took over in January 2019.

Staff and Governors are very proud of our SEND provision and the success we have in integrating students and meeting individual need. This is clearly reflected in our increasing popularity. We are not aware of any other school in East Durham or indeed our own Multi Academy Trust that has figures anywhere near this. Whilst we are proud of it- we are conscious that these levels of increase are unsustainable. Securing the staffing to support students with the high level of needs an EHCP often requires is becoming a significant challenge. Funding such staffing at a time of unknown funding commitments both from the Council and during a General Election is extremely challenging.

At time of writing we are still awaiting planning permission for the 3G pitch. Our bid for funding has been granted and we are ready to go in terms of construction and will shortly be advertising for a Lettings manager to coordinate bookings of school facilities. We are about to submit a planning request for a new Dining Hall to the right of the building (as you look at it). We have secured matched funding from the Eden Learning Trust to help us construct this facility and are at an advanced stage of design. As these projects are completed hopefully in the next 12 months we then intend to develop other areas of the school and its environment including our reading bus, a woodland area, upgrading football pitches and fencing. We have had a delay on our Vape alarms in toilets and they are not yet operational but we have been ensured they will be fitted over the summer.

The school gym lease is coming to an end this term and we are renewing this meaning all our gym equipment although only three years old will be replaced with new. Our minibuses are now in regular use and saving substantial money on travel costs.

In terms of Behaviour we have continued to develop our rewards system. We have issued 2,758,566 positive points at time of writing. This makes up 97% of all points recorded on class charts. This compares with 3% negative points. We have continued to develop rewarding students for the basics of positive attendance, bringing in homework, wearing the uniform with pride and being fully equipped to learn. We have had a significant focus over the last two years on developing recognition of the positives. We have brought in an Act of Praise system where anyone can recognise someone else's positive contribution, the Headteacher sends out letters to the top 6 points winners each week, every morning the groups with positive attendance and points are celebrated in Morning Briefing. We have also started to develop in school Awards Evenings such as Duke of Edinburgh and Sports Awards, which we intend to expand to other areas in the coming academic year in addition to the annual Awards Evening. In terms of Year 11 we offer the bespoke Prom/Hoodie and Yearbook rewards scheme, which financially is becoming increasingly challenging but we will aim to support this in some way as long as we can. We continue to complete Student voice which tells us students value the rewards and recognition we offer.

We continue to take a tough line on students refusing to attend detention. We have seen a sharp increase in suspensions due to this. Students do not have the right to refuse to attend a detention and parents/carers do not have the right to refuse to allow their child to attend a detention. Similarly, we have taken a tough line on students recording fights and made this an automatic suspension. Ever since the Headteacher took over Behaviour responsibility as Deputy Headteacher back in 2015 we have taken an extremely tough line on fighting suspending both parties in virtually all cases. It is extremely upsetting for a child to be involved in a fight, it is extremely upsetting for a parent to think their child has been involved in a fight. That distress is made so much worse if someone records it and posts the incident on social media. It leads to a loss of dignity and feelings of utter humiliation. Students are warned about this regularly and we will continue to take such strong action and earnestly hope you understand our reasoning for this. It is all about protecting the children.

Student Presidents

Hello everyone, I'm Charlotte Hazel and I am extremely lucky to be Seaham High School's student president. It really is an honour!

Students throughout all ages are all treated with respect and are welcomed with open arms in order to make sure everybody feels comfortable in the safe, school environment we strive to create on a daily basis. Teachers are more than happy to support you in anything you need in and out of the classroom and aim to build positive relationships with every individual student. Because of this, I feel that students are really comfortable enough to come to staff with issues so they can offer advice or solutions on things from mental health to homework. I hope that every student comes out of our school confident enough to take the next steps in their life due to this support.

In my opinion, our school is such an amazing place for students, like myself, to feel comfortable and express themselves in whichever way they choose. This can be during school time during lessons or through the several clubs the school has to offer after school or during lunch and break. I can say first hand that these clubs can help to form strong friendships and distractions from the stress that school can sometimes bring.

As soon as you step through our door, you are a part of our wonderful community and that to me is something extremely rare and special. We are all in this together and teachers and students prove that every day!

I have loved my time at Seaham High School so far and I can't wait to see the positive impact I can have during my time as President. I am excited to see what the future holds and I'm so glad you are going to be a part of it!



D-DAY



Northern Echoes: A Young Artists Exhibition

Dead Dog Gallery

Durham Sixth Form Centre DH1 1SG

In celebration of the life and works of Norman Cornish and LS Lowry, young artists across County Durham have been collaborating on an exhibition inspired by their works. People, places and landmarks from the North East and North West are integral to the work of Cornish and Lowry and inspired themes within the exhibition.

45 students from Seaham High School have had their art work selected for physical and digital display for the Northern Echoes exhibition at the Dead Dog Gallery. Students and parents/carers were invited to attend the preview event.

The gallery will be open to the public every Thursday from 9am to 3:30pm for the rest of the summer term if any students or parents/carers wish to attend to view the fantastic work submitted.

Organisers the Dead Dog Gallery curators were blown away by our students' entries, and told us;

'We received such a vibrant and exciting range of work and have been really impressed by the creativity of young people across County Durham. The students from Seaham School submitted work of a very high standard and it's a privilege to be able to acknowledge their success amid the 450+ submissions we received.'

Well done to the students selected! We are very proud of the work everybody submitted!



Be In, To Win

This year has seen us launch our new attendance reward scheme. Each student that has 100% attendance in any given week earns a token which they use to enter a half termly prize draw.

The most popular prizes have been Air pods, Kindle and £100 shopping vouchers.

The final draw for this academic year will be Tuesday 23rd July.

But remember you have to be in to Win!!



Careers Fair



In November 2023, we had our most successful careers fair with 47 exhibitors attend our school throughout the day. Students from Year 7 through to Year 11 had the opportunity to meet and speak with global and local employers, further education colleges, training providers and Universities.

We welcomed visitors from many organisations and sectors who gave up their time to provide positive experiences to students through talking to them about their jobs and roles within the organisation, the courses and programmes they offer at college. Many organisations were able to enlighten students with some interactive and immersive experiences to give them a taste of what to expect in the world of work and learning.

Our guests commented on the superb behaviour and engagement from students across the school, and we were delighted to know many will be happy to return to support our next event.

The careers fair is the largest event we have in school involving all year groups. The planning and preparation has much thought and time dedicated to the day to ensure both the students and our visitors get the best experiences possible.

We are hugely grateful to all of our guests who supported our school Careers Fair, and gratitude to our students for their positive attitude and pro-active work to engage with all the organisations.

Seaham High school teaching staff also had the opportunity to connect with the organisations to help support their work in the curriculum. Geography were able to get to know some of the local environmental organisations, while Maths linked with Financial Services and Science and Construction had the opportunity to meet with many construction and engineering firms. We opened up the event to the community after the school day where parents/carers, family and friends could come along to meet the exhibitors. Keep an eye out for our next Careers Fair coming in 2024!



The Duke of Edinburgh Award 2024

In June, the scenic landscapes around Durham became the testing ground for twenty students undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award expedition. The students, carrying all their camping gear and supplies, embarked on a journey that demanded endurance, teamwork, and resilience.

The adventure began early Saturday morning with the students gathering at the starting point, their backpacks heavy but their spirits high. Divided into smaller groups, each team set off with maps in hand, ready to navigate the challenging paths of the Durham countryside.

The first days hike was a true test of their map-reading skills and physical stamina. Despite the persistent drizzle that soon turned into a steady downpour, the students remained determined. They trudged through muddy tracks, dense woodlands, and open fields, their laughter and camaraderie echoing their resilience.

By late afternoon, the groups arrived at the campsite, a serene spot amidst rolling hills. Setting up tents in the rain became an exercise in patience and teamwork. Cooking on portable stoves in wet conditions was challenging, but the students rose to the occasion. From pasta to rice dishes, each group managed to prepare a hearty meal to refuel after the day's exertions. As night fell, they huddled together, sharing stories and laughter, the sense of achievement evident despite the dampness.

Sunday morning brought a renewed sense of purpose. After a quick breakfast and dismantling their campsites, the students set off on the return leg of their expedition. With every step closer to Durham, their confidence grew, bolstered by the knowledge that they were overcoming a significant challenge.

As the groups neared Durham, the sight of the city's landmarks served as a beacon of completion. Mud-splattered and weary but with broad smiles, the students crossed the finish line, greeted by cheers from waiting family members and friends.

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition is designed to push young people beyond their

comfort zones, fostering qualities such as resilience, teamwork, and self-reliance. The weekend's adventure around Durham was no exception. Each student faced the elements head-on, learning valuable lessons about perseverance and the rewards of hard work.

Despite the soggy weather, the expedition was a resounding success. The students' ability to remain positive and support one another in challenging conditions was a testament to their character. As they celebrated their achievement, it was clear that the memories made and the lessons learned would stay with them far beyond the wet and muddy trails of Durham.

This expedition not only marked a significant milestone in their Duke of Edinburgh journey but also highlighted the strength and spirit of these young adventurers. The resilience they demonstrated in the face of adversity is sure to serve them well in future endeavours, both on and off the trail.





As the Year 7 Achievement Leader at Seaham High School, I am delighted to share with you the incredible journey our Year 7 students have embarked upon this year. From their first day at secondary school to the vibrant community members they have become, this year has been filled with remarkable achievements, growth, and memorable experiences.

Growing in Confidence

The transformation in our Year 7 students from their transition day in Year 6 to now has been truly inspiring. Many of them arrived feeling apprehensive about the new environment, but they have blossomed into confident and enthusiastic learners. They have developed resilience, independence, and a sense of belonging. Their journey of growth is evident in their increased participation in class discussions, willingness to take on leadership roles (including those lucky year 7 students who were successful at applications to our Ambassador team), and overall positive attitude towards school life.

Celebration of Success

We believe in celebrating the successes of our students, both big and small. Our bi-monthly online newsletter keeps parents/carers and the school community connected by sharing highlights and achievements. In our termly Celebration Assemblies, we proudly distribute certificates for Attendance, Homework, and Attitude to Learning. Staff nominate Star Students for their exceptional efforts each half-term. To round off the year, we will have a final Celebration Assembly in July, followed by a fantastic trip to Flamingo land theme park for our "Going for Gold" rewards program. This event is a much-anticipated highlight and a well-deserved treat for our hardworking students.

Homework

To support our students in their academic journey, we have established two homework clubs specifically for Year 7, held on Wednesdays and Thursdays. While we have seen good attendance, we encourage even more students to take advantage of this resource. Homework is a critical component of the learning process, reinforcing concepts taught in class and fostering

independent study skills. We urge parents/carers to collaborate with us by encouraging their children to attend these clubs and to establish a regular homework routine at home. Your involvement is key to ensuring that students understand the importance of homework and stay on top of their assignments.

Assessments

This year, Year 7 students have undertaken two sets of assessments. It has been gratifying to see how they utilised the revision resources provided and embraced the emphasis we placed on effective study habits. These assessments not only help us track academic progress but also teach students valuable skills in preparation and time management. The dedication shown by our students in revising and performing to the best of their abilities has been commendable and is a testament to their hard work and the support they receive both at school and at home.

Looking Ahead

As we reflect on this fantastic year, we are incredibly proud of what Year 7 has achieved. Their transition into secondary school has been seamless, and they have laid a solid foundation for future success. We look forward to seeing them continue to thrive academically, socially, and personally as they move into Year 8.

A heartfelt thank you to all parents/carers and guardians for your unwavering support throughout the year. Your involvement and encouragement have been vital in making this year a success. Together, we will continue to nurture and inspire our young learners, guiding them towards a bright and promising future.

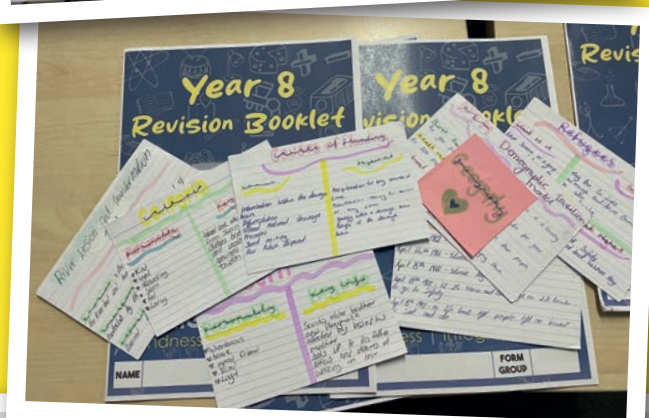
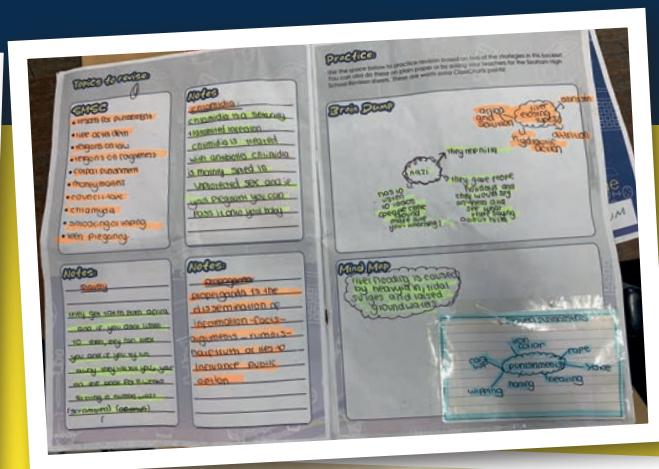
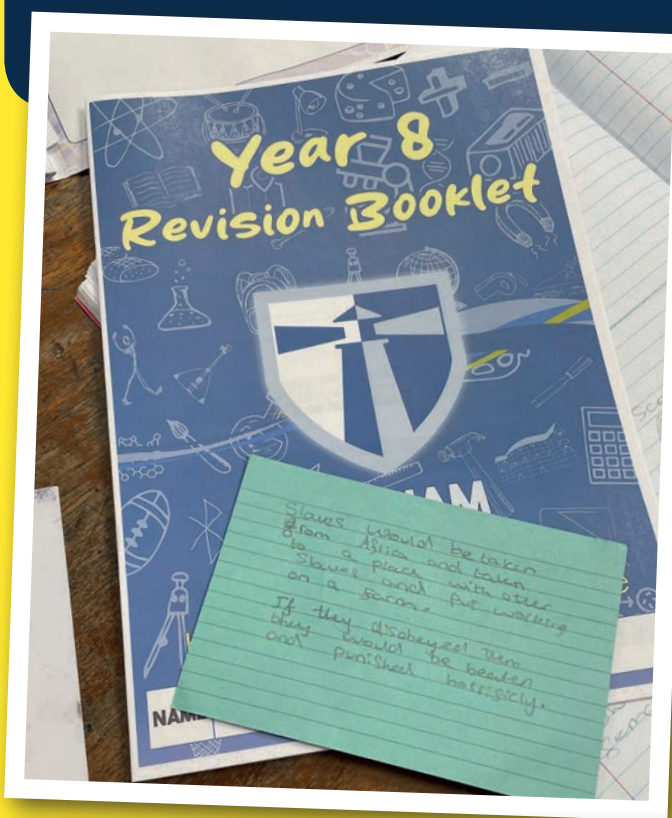


YEAR 8

Year 8 have been preparing for their last round of assessments this academic year and have taken to revision with great gusto and enthusiasm! Each morning students make a point of showing off their revision during Daily Spark time and it is a joy to award them points.

It has been fantastic to see year 8 use a range of different skills and revision styles from their lessons and from their teachers. They even tried their hand at year 11 style revision sheets and the detail included blew me away!

We have also had cause for a great celebration of resilience as four of our students will see their art work displayed in the Dead Dog Gallery at Durham over the summer. All of year 8 took part in an art competition and it was a joy to see that not only will our four winners get their work displayed but the other students who were successful will see their work virtually displayed.



THE WIZARD of OZ



Rehearsals are now underway for this year's performance of 'The Wizard of Oz'. Congratulations to all those students who auditioned and showcased their talents as performers. The standard was exceptionally high and we have already been 'blown away' by your dedication to characterisation and that tricky American accent. We are all so excited to take you on a whirlwind adventure to the colourful land of Oz! We will be inviting our new year 7's in September to join our cast as chorus members/dancers!

Showdates:

16th and 17th of December 2024

DOROTHY GALE – Ruby W/Jasmine R
AUNT EM – Macey W
UNCLE HENRY – Dane M
HUNK (SCARECROW) – Ava T
ZEKE (LION) – Callum M
HICKORY (TIN MAN) – Molly G
MISS GULCH (WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST)
 – Aimee C
TOTO – Ava T
PROFESSOR MARVEL/Wizard - Evie T
GUARD – Alice V
GLINDA – Ava C
Dance Captains/Choreographers: Amber R,
 Charlotte P

ENSEMBLE:
 MUNCHKINS
 THE OZIANs

Dancers: Winged Monkeys, Poppies, and Snowflakes:

Violet J, Katie B, Lexi N

FEATURED ROLES IN MUNCHKINLAND:

Farmer - Corey C
Mayor - Leah O D
Munchkin 1 - Grace E
Munchkin 2 - Sydney R
Barrister - Charlotte J
Lawyers - Jessica G, Ella F, Autumn Y
Coroner - Emily M
Three Sweet Kids - Alice V, Lydia D, Freya H,
 Faye R
Three Tough Kids - Ruby J, Beth W, Petra V,
 Matilda S

OZIAN ROLES:

Spa Girls - Ella F, Autumn Y, Emily M
Polishers - Sydney R, Grace E, Charlotte J
Manicurist - Jessica G
Oz Man 1 - Dane M
Oz Man 2 - Corey C
Oz Woman 1 - Beth W
Oz Woman 2 - Leah O D
Commander - Rebecca N

And just like that we say goodbye to Key Stage 3 and hello to Key Stage 4. Three years under our belt and two to go. It's hard to imagine that in two years time at this point the students will have finished their exams and be on their next adventure. But before that we have the considerable challenge of KS4, with GCSE's and BTEC's where students will notice the increase in work breadth and depth. It's fair to say it gets harder from here on in but with a clear goal in sight we are sure this year group will rise to the challenge and give it their all.

Creatively I am sure students will continue to take part in the many out of school activities that have become so essential to many students' lives in school. From sports like football and cricket to cultural arts like dance and musical theatre many of the activities ran by our Sports and Arts department have been inundated with Year 9 this year. It's been fantastic to see so many students get involved and it's always special when so many of these activities can be shared with the wider community like the Christmas Concert or the Year 9 cup final played locally at Seaham Red Star. It's moments like these you get to see just what a bunch of talented and passionate students we have with many choosing subjects at KS4 that will compliment these passions. Further to this we have had Geography and History reading clubs, a mock trial in English and some of our female students learning more about what it takes to become an engineer in Technology. These are just a few of the activities we have squeezed into this year. A big thank you to all those students and staff who have given up their own time to represent the school in many of these activities.

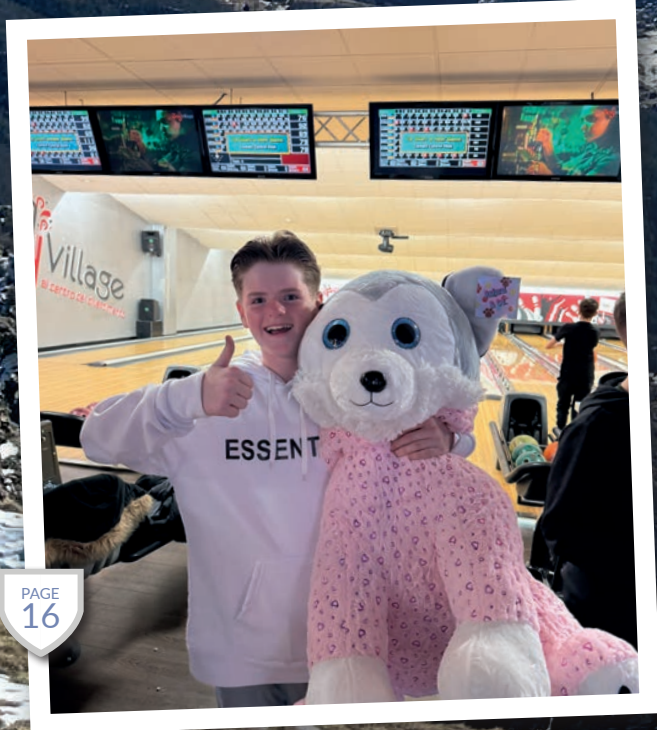
We also have been able to celebrate and award students for their hard work academically through this year. As usual we have been gaining positive points throughout the year and Year 9 have very nearly broken the half a million points barrier. That's an outstanding total given students must work hard day in day out to achieve a tally that high. It's been inspirational this year to mention students each morning with the daily total for the previous day and see just how many did get a mention throughout the year. Given that we have points for out of school activities, representing the school, revision and students of the half term I always enjoy seeing the different places students can pick up points. As a school we are glad to reward the students with not just certificates but prizes each term that have been hard won. The end of term trip to Flamingo Land is one such reward where students will have really been

able to see their hard work reflected in the cost they have to pay, with discounts for those who achieve different reward levels. Congratulations to all our Bronze, Silver and Gold winners and I may see you in the teacups if I am feeling brave. Congratulations also to the two Year 9 winners of the attendance draw recently. I don't mind saying I felt a bit jealous, not over the fantastic £100 vouchers they won but that they were presented with a giant cheque, just like on Children in Need. A fantastic prize though for just simply being in school and learning, though I could say that is the main prize.

Recently the students completed their last assessments of the year. These have now been used to ensure students are in the correct place for Years 10 and 11. Using a more rigid timetable definitely helped make students focus on a time frame and helped them prepare more methodically, without overloading them. This good practice will carry into year 10 where they will begin to do some exams in the hall as a whole year group, as we begin giving them a taste of what is to come and take away some of that anxiety they get from new experiences. As students have also made their preferences they will begin exams in some subjects from September as they complete coursework in school. These are often taken under tight time scales meaning good attendance is essential, as students can very quickly get behind in their work and lose vital marks. Completing work in Year 10 that affects their grade at the end of Year 11 is just one of the things that help our students grow and mature quite rapidly as they settle into the new ways of working. Similarly, the appearance of Period 6 will happen as students are asked to work after school as we aim to get through the breadth of some of the courses in what never seems to be enough time inside standard school hours.

So it just remains for me to say enjoy your summer and we will see you back in summer to do it all again.





SKI TRIP

During February half term, we organised an exhilarating ski trip to the picturesque region of Aosta in Italy. With over 40 students participating, the trip proved to be a memorable and enriching experience for all involved.

Our students eagerly embraced the opportunity to develop and enhance their skiing skills. For many, it was their first time navigating the slopes, and they showed remarkable progress throughout the week. The instructors praised their determination and enthusiasm as they mastered the basics and confidently tackled more challenging terrains.

A special mention goes to the students who returned for their second year. Their dedication and hard work paid off as they advanced to the black (most difficult) slopes, demonstrating significant improvement and skill. It was inspiring to see their commitment and passion for skiing.

Beyond skiing, the trip also included a variety of après-ski activities. Students enjoyed a fun-filled bowling night, where friendly competition and laughter were in abundance. A traditional Italian pizza night provided an opportunity to relax and savour the local cuisine, adding to the cultural experience of the trip.

Overall, the skiing trip to Aosta was not just about the thrill of the slopes but also about building camaraderie, resilience, and cultural experiences. We are incredibly proud of our students' achievements and look forward to seeing their continued growth in future adventures.

Thank you to all the staff and parents/carers who supported this fantastic trip, making it a highlight of the school year - we look forward to it returning in the future so keep your eyes peeled!





ENGLISH

The Boy at the Back of the Class: A Memorable Theatre Experience for Year 7 Students

Taking a group of Year 7 students to see *The Boy at the Back of the Class* was a thoroughly enjoyable and enlightening experience. The play, adapted from the beloved book by Onjali Q. Raúf captivated the students from start to finish, offering a perfect blend of entertainment and education.

The story, which revolves around the arrival of a young Syrian refugee in a British school, was brought to life with incredible sensitivity and vibrancy. The students demonstrated respect and responsibility during the performance, acknowledging the sensitive topics on stage as well as the

awareness of other theatre goers around them.

Overall, *The Boy at the Back of the Class* proved to be an outstanding choice for a school theatre outing. It not only entertained but also educated, sparking important conversations among the students about kindness, acceptance, and the realities faced by refugees. The students' impeccable behaviour further highlighted their engagement and the success of the production in capturing their hearts and minds. This theatre visit will undoubtedly be remembered as a highlight of their school year.

Year 10 book club

The students are incredibly responsible, consistently showing up on time and prepared for lively discussions. Our latest book *Am I Normal Yet* by Holly Bourne is a fascinating tale of mental health, friendship and feminism. We've explored issues that are relevant in the teenage world, offering a safe space for those who come to share their viewpoints and understanding. Each

session is filled with thoughtful insights and respectful debates, reflecting the students' deep engagement and maturity. The club not only fosters a love for reading but also encourages critical thinking and empathy, making it an enriching experience for everyone involved. It's inspiring to see such dedication and passion for literature among the students.

MATHS

Seaview

In order to make the transition from KS2 to KS3 as smooth as possible, Mrs Bell visited Seaview Primary school to observe some Year 6 and Year 4 maths lessons being taught. She was very impressed at students' enthusiasm towards the subject and is looking forward to having the opportunity to teach such hardworking and keen students

next year. In return, Mr Fletcher, maths lead at Seaview, will be coming to observe some Year 7 maths lessons being taught at Seaham High in July. Fostering close links with our feeder primary schools is important in ensuring that our Year 7 curriculum is rigorous and builds on the learning that has already taken place in KS2. Mrs Bell is looking forward to reaching out to our other feeder primaries in the future.

Math Fest

On Tuesday 19th March eight Year 10 students entered a Durham Maths Feast competition at the Sjovoll Centre attached to Framwellgate Moor School. There were four rounds, and they enjoyed the maths origami round the most.



Seventeen other teams from schools around Durham competed, our Seaham students were split into two teams and came 7th and 8th, well done to Tanvir B, Seth G, Charlotte H, Jayden H, Peter J, Thomas O, Sophie S and Joshua T. Both teams achieved higher than the average score and should be very proud.



YEAR 10



It was a fruitful Spring Term for the Seaham Scholars group in Y10, as they participated in a two-night residential visit to St. Anne's College at the University of Oxford. This visit gave students a real insight into what university life is like, and included academic taster sessions as well as workshops and museum visits. The Seaham Scholars group have worked extremely hard with Mr Ireland as part of this programme, showing characteristics of risk-taking and resilience in taking on a further academic challenge with a tutor from the university. In terms of aiming high, engaging their minds and broadening their horizons, the group could not have done more to show the potential that is needed to aim for top universities in the future.



The Summer Term will see Y10 students take their first steps towards their future destinations, as they participate in taster day visits to East Durham College and Durham Sixth Form Centre. As we have such a wide range of post-16 providers within easy reach, we encourage students to undertake as many visits as possible before making their applications in the Autumn Term of Year 11. Any upcoming open events are always posted on the school's careers portal, which can be accessed via the careers link on the website.

Shoutout to our top five students in Y10 for 6R points so far in 2024...

5th - Sophie S - 2109

4th - Levi H - 2121

3rd - Anna T - 2126

2nd - Anya B - 2127

1st - Jayden H - 2254

MFL

Year 7

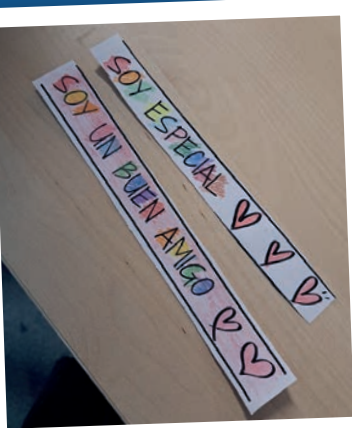
We have been busy this term in Year 7 Spanish learning about the topic of school, we know how to say what we study and what we do during the day. We also created triaramas to describe our ideal school, some fantastic effort from our confident Year 7 linguists.

Year 7 also took part in a Superhero and Villains themed literacy lesson. In Spanish we learnt how to use adjectives and superlatives to describe our characters, students really enjoyed creating their character paper chain.



Year 8

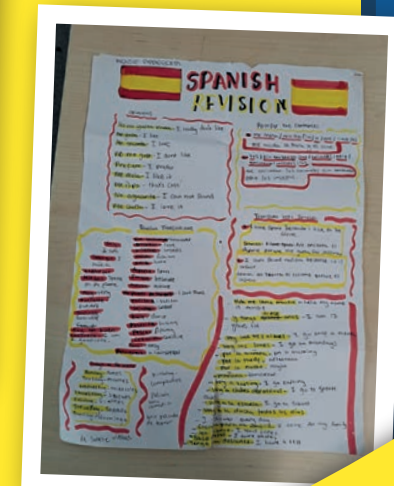
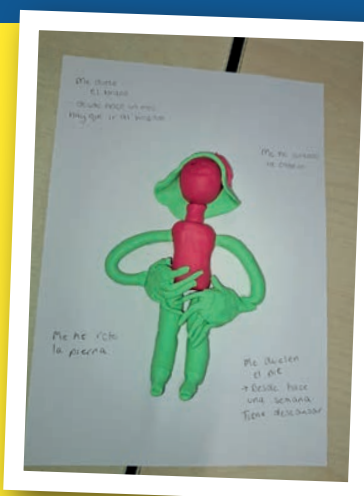
In Year 8 Spanish we had a Valentine's day themed lesson, where we created self esteem bracelets for ourselves and our friends. Students enjoyed choosing phrases such as Soy un buen amigo= I am a good friend.



Year 9

In Year 9 we have been studying the topic of Healthy Living in Spanish. Learning how to have conversations with the doctors to say what illness or injury is concerning us, we had great fun in Year 9 classes creating Playdough masterpieces to explain in Spanish what had happened to our characters.

We also made some fantastic revision resources for our end of year assessment. This will really help the students going into Year 10 next year, some valuable independent revision strategies were learnt.



Awards Evening

Just before Christmas Seaham High School dressed to the nines and packed out the banqueting suite at the Ramside Hall as we celebrated our annual Awards Evening. The event is a celebration of the best of Seaham's young people and recognises hard work, exceptional talent and dedication across a number of subject areas.

Presentation duties were, as usual, handed over to our excellent team of Ambassadors, ably led by school president Cydney N. As an embodiment of the school ethos of Kindness, Integrity and Pride, our ambassadors did a superb job in front of a packed audience. We want to thank them for the job they did, showing remarkable character throughout.

The stars of the evening were of course our winners, each of them very deserving. More than eighty awards are presented each year, with winners coming from each of our five year-groups as well as former students, each a testament to the strength of character of the young people of Seaham and an augur of the fine future ahead.

This year, for the first time in our history, the Head Teacher's Award – which brings

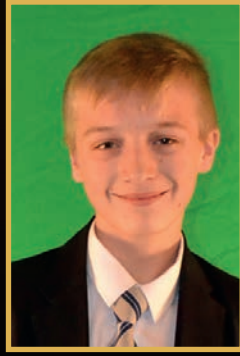
the curtain down on the evening – was shared by two exceptional young women. In addressing the gathered masses, Mr Lumsdon had the following to say about the pair;

"...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 and the ones who make you remember working with young people is the best job in the world."

Both winners represent the best of us, and we hope you are as proud of them as we are. Lacey S in Year 9 and Kayleigh L, who left with the Class of 23 in the summer, possess the kinds of qualities we try to bring out in each of our students. They are fearless and compassionate, determined and driven, and will go far in the world beyond the school gates.

The applause may have quietened since Awards Evening, but we hope the celebration of our students carries on throughout the year. Seaham can be incredibly proud of its young people, the future is bright!





HISTORY

2024 Year 11 examinations

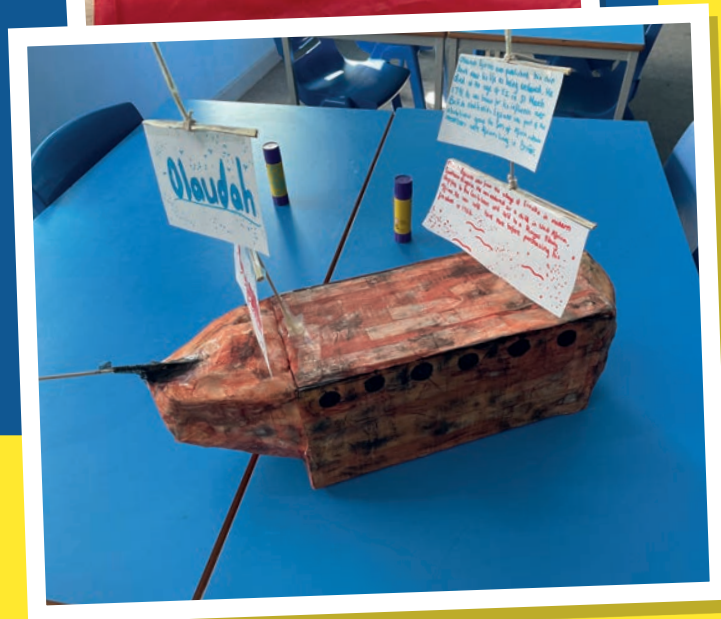
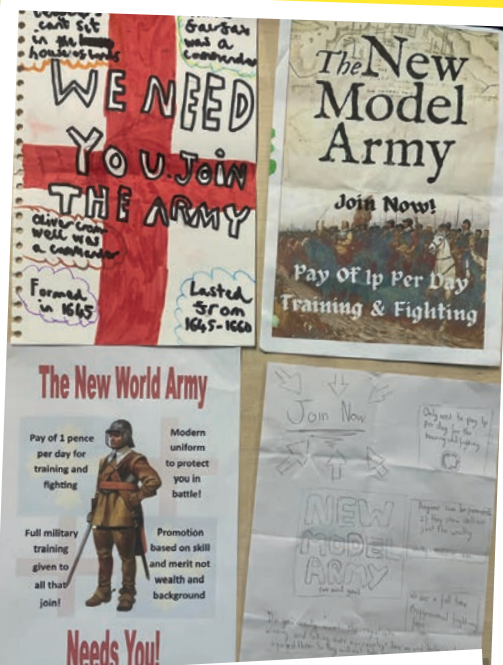
130 students from the Class of 2024 Year 11 cohort sat their GCSE History examinations in May and June. Students and teachers worked hard in their preparations and most students felt the examinations gave them the opportunity to demonstrate the historical knowledge and skills they have acquired over the last two years.

Key Stage 3

Years 7,8 and 9 have all recently completed assessments in History that have tested knowledge and understanding of a wide range of topics including the Black Death, the Tudors, the slave trade and Nazi Germany. Years 7 and 8 have also demonstrated great imagination, historical knowledge and dedication in completing fantastic homework tasks on the English Civil War and Olaudah Equiano.

Year 10

Students in Year 10 are readying themselves for the upcoming mock examination in History. 123 students will complete a full two hour Paper One History examination focussed on Conflict and Tension 1918-1939 and the USA 1920-1973. Students have engaged positively with recall tasks, revision homework and preparatory sessions in History lessons.



ART

Year 9 Baltic Art Gallery Visit

Students in 9X5 are working towards gaining a Bronze Arts Award qualification as part of a cross-curricular project with Music. To achieve their Arts Award, students take on challenges in an art form, participate in arts activities, experience arts events, get inspired by artists and share their arts skills with others.

As part of their Arts Award, students were taken on a tour of the Baltic Art Gallery and took part in an artist-led workshop throughout the day where they got the opportunity to learn new skills whilst experiencing a different learning environment. Students were fantastic throughout the day and behaviour and attitudes were excellent.



Northern school of Art year 10 visit 2023

At the end of the Autumn term the Art Department took fifty Year 10 students to the Northern School of Art in Middlesbrough for a taster day. The group was split in half, with twenty-five students taking part in an art workshop, and twenty-five doing a photography workshop. The students had a fantastic day exploring different techniques and experimenting with new materials. They were incredibly engaged, keen to get their teeth into the activities and their attitude throughout the day was exemplary, and a credit to the school.



THE PROM

On Tuesday the 9th of July, our Class of 24 dressed up to the nines and descended on the Beamish Hall Hotel to celebrate the end of an era with their prom. Even gathered rainclouds couldn't dampen spirits, and our Year 11s were determined to make it a night to remember.

It seems fitting that the year group that first sat through lockdown should finish their education by letting their hair down, and it was a pleasure to be part of the night with them. This year group have proved their resilience throughout their time with us, facing unprecedented challenges, which they took in their stride. Collectively they've come through an exam season packed with revision sessions and after school classes, exam timetables and preparation. They have come through their final year smiling, and we are confident that their results will do us proud.

Prom was a night where they could celebrate all their hard work being behind them, a rite of passage as they face up to wherever the future takes them. Young gentlemen were suited and booted, young ladies shimmered in sequins and took our breath away in ball gowns. Friendships were cemented, laughter was shared and a few final words of advice were sought as favourite teachers said their goodbyes. The dancefloor shook as the classmates shared a final dance as one, and the memories made will last long after the lights dimmed on an amazing evening.

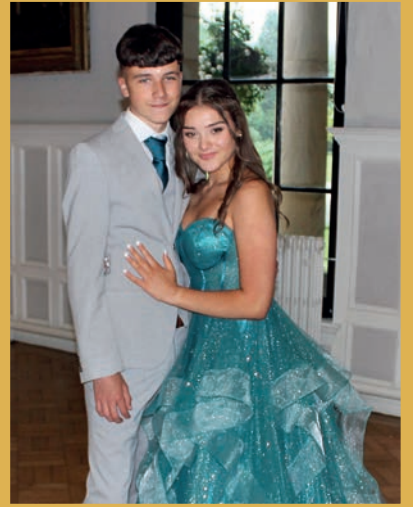
School life may be over, but for the Class of 24, the rest of their lives is only just beginning.

We hope you'll enjoy this selection of pictures from the night, a glimpse of the glitz and glamour our students brought to the evening.

Photographs by Mrs McCann and Perfect Selfie Photobooth Hire (www.facebook.com/perfectselfie)



2024







YEAR 11

As the academic year draws to a close, it is with a mix of pride and nostalgia that we bid farewell to our incredible Year 11 students. After months of hard work and dedication, you have completed your exams and are ready to embark on the next exciting chapter of your lives.

Outstanding Achievements

Firstly, I want to commend each and every one of you for your outstanding revision efforts. Your commitment to your studies has been exemplary, and we have no doubt that your hard work will be reflected in your results. You have shown resilience and determination, qualities that will serve you well in your future endeavours.

Upcoming Celebrations

To celebrate your achievements and time at our school, we have some special events planned:

- Leavers Assembly: A chance to reflect on your journey and celebrate your time here.
- Leavers Hoodies: A cherished memento of your school years. These hoodies will be a symbol of your hard work and the

friendships you've made along the way.

- Prom: A night to remember! The prom promises to be a spectacular evening filled with fun, laughter, and celebration of your time together.
- Yearbook: This will be a memorable keepsake where we acknowledge your accomplishments and share fond memories.

Farewell and Best Wishes

As you move forward, know that you will be missed dearly by all of us. Your presence has enriched our school community, and we are incredibly proud of the individuals you have become. We wish you all the best for the future.

Keep in Touch

Remember, this is not a goodbye, but a 'see you later.' We look forward to hearing about your future successes and hope that you will stay connected with us. Our doors are always open, and you will always be a part of our school family.

Congratulations once again on your achievements. Enjoy your celebrations, and here's to a bright and prosperous future!



Exciting Developments in Our SMSC Curriculum

We are thrilled to announce the successful development and implementation of our new Social, Moral, Spiritual, and Cultural (SMSC) curriculum at our school. This innovative program aims to equip students with essential knowledge and life skills, addressing some of the most challenging and relevant issues they face today.

One of the key aspects of the new SMSC curriculum is its comprehensive approach to health and well-being. Students are now engaging in meaningful discussions about contraception, learning not only about its practical use but also its importance in making informed decisions about their bodies and futures. This education is crucial in promoting responsible behaviour and preventing teenage pregnancy.

Additionally, our curriculum covers the critical topics of alcohol and drug use. Through open and honest dialogue, students gain a deeper understanding

of the risks and consequences associated with substance abuse. This knowledge empowers them to make safer and healthier choices in their lives. We've even ordered a new Drugs Education box (all the samples are fake.)

Human rights education is another cornerstone of our SMSC curriculum. By exploring these fundamental principles, students develop a strong sense of justice and empathy, fostering a more inclusive and respectful community in school and beyond.

We are incredibly proud of the progress our students are making through this curriculum. Their engagement and maturity in tackling these challenging topics are commendable. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this education will have on their lives and the broader community of Seaham.

SCIENCE

On Tuesday 26th March Seaham High School were invited to Durham University for their Schools Science Festival. We took 40 of our year 9 students to the Department of Biosciences at the University for an afternoon of exploring different science activities.

Each group got to take part in 4 activities, ranging from creating and investigating lava flow from volcanoes to bursting balloons in a demonstration of the future technology of combating cancer.

All of our students were impeccably well behaved and thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon out. We look forward to being invited again next year.



Year 11 have now completed their iMedia course and I wish them well in their next endeavours.

Period 6 is running for the remainder of the summer term, to allow Year 10 students to complete some more complex tasks towards the new NEA assessment to be submitted by December. 2024.

Year 10 have been learning techniques used to create a successful visual identity and how this can have a great impact on a business and its customer base. We have looked at colour theory and how this is incorporated into business choices for design and the various types of business.

In KS3, Year 9 we have completed assessment week and we are developing skills to contribute towards GCSE iMedia. Students will be learning how to develop website/user interfaces using Rocket Cake.

Trip

12 students from year 8 and 9 have been invited to the North East STEM Day at Framwellgate.

The day will give them an insight into STEM at a higher level. Activities will include:

- Robotics – They will build and program a robot to navigate a series of obstacles
- E-FIT – They will use police software to create an image of a ‘criminal’
- Vehicle – They will design, build and then race a simple electric vehicle
- Medical Diagnostics – They will be tasked with diagnosing two different ‘patients’.

This event is part of a wider national competition, in which the overall winning team from each event will progress to a Challenge Final which will be held in January of next year.

Year 8 Competition

Four teams of Year 8 girls participated in The CyberFirst Girls Competition; a competition from the National Cyber Security Centre. The CyberFirst Girls Competition aims to inspire girls interested in technology and potentially pursue a career in cyber security. They tackled challenges incorporating cryptography, logic, artificial intelligence and networking for the chance to be crowned cyber security champions. This year, we were unsuccessful in getting past the group stage but the girls did enjoy the challenge.



Year 7 E Safety

Year 7 have been learning about coding using Kodu to make an adventure game and we have been developing skills when creating spreadsheets, including formulas, functions and formatting. We will be rounding off the year by learning about computer systems and how computers have developed.

Helpful Tips

The summer holidays are round the corner, do you know what your child is doing online?

Are you aware of who they are talking to, or who they may be arranging to meet?

There have been some changes to the regulations and age ratings. For instance, the WhatsApp age limit has now been reduced to 13 to create an account. Always check minimum age ratings for apps your children are downloading.

Online Safety Threats

Recent Online Safety Threats for Children Aged 11-16:

As technology evolves, new online safety threats emerge. Recent concerns include:

- **AI and Chatbots:** AI-powered chatbots can impersonate real people, posing risks like inappropriate interactions or grooming. Children may be vulnerable to these deceptive engagements on social media and messaging apps.
- **Deepfakes:** Manipulative AI-generated images or videos (deepfakes) can lead to misinformation or exploitation. Children might not discern real from fake, making them susceptible to manipulation.
- **Gaming Risks:** Online games often include chat functions where children can encounter bullying, exploitation, or exposure to harmful content. In-game purchases and gambling-like features can lead to financial exploitation.
- **Social Media Challenges:** Viral challenges on platforms like TikTok can encourage dangerous behaviours. Participation without understanding risks can lead to harm.
- **Data Privacy:** AI-driven personalization can lead to invasive data collection. Misuse of personal data increases risks of identity theft and privacy violations.

Parents/carers should stay informed and engage in open conversations about these threats, promoting critical thinking and responsible online behaviour.

If you are unsure of these areas, or would like to know more, EE have set up a very informative website to support you.

<https://ee.co.uk/our-company/corporate-responsibility/being-responsible/keeping-children-safe-online>

Ensuring Safe Use of Social Media and the Internet for 11-16 Year Olds

As children between 11-16 navigate the digital world, their online safety becomes paramount. Social media and internet use offer educational and social benefits, but also expose children to risks like cyberbullying, privacy breaches, and inappropriate content.

Safety Measures:

1. **Privacy Settings:** Ensure your child's profiles are private, limiting interaction to trusted friends and family. This helps protect personal information from strangers.
2. **Open Communication:** Foster an open dialogue about their online experiences. Encourage them to report any uncomfortable interactions or content.
3. **Screen Time Limits:** Balance online activity with offline pursuits to prevent excessive use. Guidelines suggest no more than 2 hours of recreational screen time per day.
4. **Parental Controls:** Utilise built-in controls on devices and apps to restrict access to age-inappropriate content.
5. **Education on Digital Footprint:** Teach your child that online actions are permanent. Remind them to think before posting or sharing.
6. **Recognising Cyberbullying:** Help them identify signs of cyberbullying and stress the importance of reporting it immediately to you or a trusted adult.

Key Advice:

- **Respectful Behaviour:** Encourage respectful interactions and discourage participation in harmful online behaviour.
- **Scams and Stranger Danger:** Warn against sharing personal information or meeting online contacts without parental approval.

Staying informed about the latest online trends and platforms helps parents/carers guide their children effectively, ensuring a safer online environment.

BASKETBALL

Year 7 and 8 Basketball Competition

The team finished in 5th place at this year's competition, however this did not reflect the valiant effort the group gave. They were competitive in every match, only losing by a solitary basket each game. We could not be prouder of the effort, commitment and team morale they showed throughout, battling to make sure they got a win in their final game. Special mention to Bobby G for scoring all of the team's points with 5 baskets, superb!

CRICKET

This is the first year entering the County Cricket Competitions, entering an U13's, U14's and U15's team. With the array of talented cricket players coming from local clubs we have aimed to push the competition.

U13's County Cup

Unfortunately, due to the poor weather and time permitting schedule the first game came down to a coin toss which we unfortunately lost. Some of the U13's have upcoming softball tournaments for both boys and girls. As well as some of the girls already taking part in another U15's softball tournament; these being Darcy F and Leyla G.

U15's Lady Taverns Competition

The tournament was a softball indoor cricket tournament. The students that took part were; Leyla G, Darcy F, Lucy G, Lillie B, Ella B, Libby

- H, Sofia H, Sophie S, Charlotte H. The girls went
- unbeaten in their pool beating, Framwellgate, St
- Bede's and Parkside, scoring the most runs and
- looking to be one of the favourites. In the semi final,
- unfortunately we lost to the team that went on to win
- the tournament. On another day Seaham could have
- easily won and we look forward to the competition
- next year.

Under 14's County Cup

- With a bye in the first round of the county cup, the
- under 14's drew Barnard castle which is known to be
- a tough fixture due to their fantastic facilities.

- After a long drive, the boys won the toss and decided
- to bowl. - Charlie S (captain), Cevat S, Luke A,
- Benjamin M, Kai K, David T, Harry M, Elliot A, Ollie
- P, Freddie G, Mason S, Jack E and Finley T. With
- fantastic bowling Seaham managed to bowl Barnard
- Castle out for 39. Wickets coming from; Ollie P (3),
- Finely T(2), Freddie G (2), Mason S (1).

- Charlie captained the team excellently balancing
- out the bowling and the batting giving everyone time
- to play at the luxury due to the excellent bowling.
- Seaham managed to catch the total set by Barnard
- Castle in 10 overs, leading us into the 3rd round due
- to play either St Bedes' or Easington

Under 15's County Cup

- Again weather has had the game
- rescheduled multiple times we thought
- we were in for a game against St
- Leonards. After travelling to Beamish
- and losing the toss, St Leonards decided
- to bat but unfortunately after 5 balls the
- weather caused the game to be called
- and a coin flip decided the result. Luckily
- we won the coin toss taking us through
- to the next round to play Park View.
- With a little more luck Park View gave
- us the win with no team being available.
- This means the U15's are through to the
- quarter final but awaiting results from
- Whitburn or St Wilfrids.



The Secondary School Sports Partnership Cricket Competition

For the first time in over 10 years, there were all 6 schools with a boys and girls team. A big thank you to the school sports partnership for putting on a great event and to all the students for representing the school. The boys started with a win with over 100 runs scored in 40 balls. The second game was like a final, with a rivalry with St Bedes following on from the previous year. Seaham bowled well and had a chance to take a win, but with some pressured decisions leading to run outs, eventually led to a loss by a few runs. The next 3 games were like the first, averaging around 150 runs. With the only loss coming to Bede we finished second. The girls started very similarly, winning comfortably in the first game. Took a tough loss in a hard game in the second, won the next 2 and finished with a loss in the final game. Girls did exceptionally well to finish second in the table. For the boys, a big well done to all the students that took part. Joseph B, Jack E, Freddie G, Joseph N, Ollie P, Daniel K, Finely T, Matthew C and the player of the tournament goes to Will M, who was outstanding in all wicket keeping, bowling and batting. For the girls, a big well done to all the students that took part. Amelia T, Darcy F, Lexi C, Grace B, Charlotte J, Nevaeh C, Lily R and a shoutout to Leyla G for her excellent contribution and organisation of the team. Well done to few of the girls who don't play cricket but stepped up and did fantastic in particular Lexi N.



DANCE

An Evening of Dance

A celebration of Dance, created in and out of school by Seaham High students. Our annual show, performed in our main hall, was an evening filled with outstanding dance performances. The evening illustrated the high volume of Dance that takes place in and out of school. Students from the Dance club performed contemporary and musical theatre pieces. Other Dancers choreographed their own pieces and others performed pieces they have learnt outside of school. We also had year 10 and year 11 BTEC dance students perform their assessment pieces, this was a great opportunity for students to work on their performance skills and perform in front of a live audience. We were really proud of each and every dancer that performed, and can't wait for the next show! Well done Seaham High dancers!

Leadership Academy

A fresh batch of Sports Leaders joined us this year replacing the Year 11s that have been preparing for their GCSE examinations. They have joined our current year 10's who are now second year veterans on the course in lots of exciting leadership opportunities to improve their leadership skills provided by the Easington School Sports Partnership. These included officiating sporting events such as cricket tournaments, archery competitions and swimming galas. Along with these they have taken part in the light-hearted and fun Festive runs where they dressed up as Santa and his elves, summer runs where they got completely drenched with water and finally color runs where they got covered head to toe in paint! We have had glowing reviews from the sports partnership and all participating schools on how brilliant the students have been around the primary school students and as a school and PE department we are extremely proud of the leaders and the maturity they have shown throughout the year. Long may this continue and I can't wait to start it all again with some new faces in September!

DANCE



East Durham Schools Dance Festival

Seaham High were invited to perform at the East Durham Schools dance festival, held at the Glebe Centre, Murton. The event is run by the East Durham Schools Sports partnership who encouraged students to share their performance pieces. This is a fantastic opportunity for secondary school and primary school students to see what they have been working on during lunches, lessons and after school clubs. Seaham High entered three performance pieces, 'Stay' a contemporary piece, 'Hard Knock Life' a musical theatre piece and 'When the war is over' a duet choreographed by year 9 students. The group of dancers that performed, behaved with maturity, had excellent manners and a real enthusiasm for dance. They were a true credit to the school, well done Dance club!

Gala Theatre Performance

To start the dance performance season, our fabulous Dance club students performed on the big stage at the Gala Theatre. A great evening to be a part of, 'Feet first' organised by Kate Stephenson the Education Development Advisor for Durham. A fantastic

opportunity for all Durham Secondary schools to be invited to share their performance pieces. We took 18 of our amazing Dance club students ranging from years 7 to 11. They performed 3 pieces, the first was a contemporary piece that was developed using the idea of 'Good and Bad' 'Angel and Devil'. Students created movement in duets that explore pushing and pulling and change in levels. The second piece was a musical theatre performance, based on 'Hard knock life' from the musical 'Annie'. Students created a frantic scene from the orphanage by using props such as sweeping brushes, cleaning cloths and bed sheets. This was fantastic to see on the big stage, students used a range of performance skills such as facial expressions, use of space, musicality and eye contact. The third piece was a duet created by Ava and Amber in the year 9. They had taken inspiration from the TV show 'The Next Step' the show follows a Dance troupe who train and compete in various championships. The pair created a piece of dance where they battled it out on the dance floor, showing off their advanced dance skills. Well done to Ava and Amber!

This was a great opportunity for parents/carers to see their children perform and they seemed to really enjoy the evening.

DODGEBALL

Year 7/8 Dodgeball Competition

This year's dodgeballers were keen to build on the success of the previous year group, however a narrow defeat in their first game after some controversial calls, meant chance of success was going to be difficult. Battling hard they won their second game but fell short in the final game meaning a 3rd place finish. Great team spirit from all throughout, well done to everyone involved.

FOOTBALL

Year 7 Boys

The Year 7 Boys have enjoyed a fantastic first season together, finishing third in the U12 league and making their way through to the Semi Finals of the town cup. They are already looking forward to next season when they move up to playing 11-a-side matches. Well done boys.

Year 8 Boys

The Year 8 Boys have competed well throughout the season, completing all fixtures in the U13 league and town cup with a fantastic attitude and great team spirit. Well done to all those players who have represented the school during the season.

Year 9 Boys

The Year 9 Boys have done exceptionally well, finishing 3rd this year as well as making it to the league cup final. Top goal scorer being Jake P, with Charlie S not far behind him. Harry M captained the team excellently this season picking up 2 man of the matches alongside Jake. As well as Luke A picking up the most assists this season. Big shout out to some of the Year 8 students stepping up and playing a year up, putting in some great performances.

Year 10 Boys

After a slow start to the season the boys managed to gain some form winning two and drawing their final three games. They battled extremely hard in the cup and were beaten very narrowly on penalties in the quarter-final. Some very good individual performances but ultimately it was the team's consistency that hampered success this season ending with a very respectable 4th place finish.

Girls

Girls football has really developed this season both in terms of the number of girls from Years 7 to 10 who have represented the school and also in the quality of performances at competitions and the results they have achieved over the season. We have entered various teams in both the central venue league and 5 a-side competitions throughout the year, often competing in terrible weather over the winter months, at the weekly fixtures at Kepier school.

Next season promises to be the best yet and anyone else looking to join the girls football squad should speak to Mr King.

GYMNASTICS

Gymnastics Festival

Seaham High were invited to perform at the East Durham schools Gymnastics festival. This is an event run by the East Durham Schools Sports Partnership, held at East Durham College, Peterlee. The event had performances from primary and secondary students from the area. We took a team of 10 outstanding gymnasts who performed some crowd pleasing tumbling and balances. The screams and cheers from the primary schools watching our students perform were fantastic to hear and really made our students feel special. They were even asked to perform their routine again at the end. We also had the amazing Grace who attends gymnastics outside of school, she performed her solo floor routine which wowed the audience. Well done to Grace and the team for their fantastic performances.



GEOGRAPHY



It has been a busy few terms for the Geography Department this academic year. Firstly we have successfully launched our first international trip since Covid. We will be visiting the land of fire and ice (Iceland) in April. Mr Spencer and the Finance department have spent a lot of time crafting a trip that will cover visiting the Lava centre, walking between two continents, visiting the secret lagoon and many more activities.

with attendance to the sessions consistently above 60% most weeks. The sessions are currently aimed at supporting our students for the Geography mock exams in June. Miss Murray and the teachers are very impressed at the level of maturity Yr10 have taken towards their studies and know the hard work will pay off.

As we approach the summer, the Gardening Club are hoping to relaunch and get the plot ready for autumn planting. If any members of the community can donate gardening equipment to school please feel free to contact Miss Murray via her email (k.murray@seahamhighschool.com)

As we approach summer it is time to bid farewell to our Yr11 Geographers, over the many breakfast clubs, P6 sessions and holidays sessions, both Mr Spencer and I know that the work and effort that you have put into your geographical studies will be reflected in the grades you receive in the summer. Remember that the world is a very big place and there is lots for you to see and experience, so cast your net far and wide!

July will see Yr10 head out on GCSE Geography fieldwork to Seaham and Newcastle, these days are so important for the students to apply what they have learnt in the classroom to real life, the local area in which they live and perhaps maybe even work in one day.

Remember to keep up to date with events within the Geography Department at the instagram account @ [seaham_highschool_geography](https://www.instagram.com/seaham_highschool_geography)



Miss Riding has begun an extra curricular reading club on Friday lunch (first lunch) for all KS3 students. The book at the moment that the students are reading and discussing is called 'The Garbage King' written by Elizabeth Laird. Hopefully next Horizon a few students could tell us what the book was like.

Miss Murray has been working with KS3 in trialling grade booster sessions for Yr8 and Y9 during the spring and summer. These sessions were peer supported by our Yr10 students for Yr9 and Yr9 students for Yr8. For our Yr9 in their recent assessment this has led to over 25% attaining grades 9-7, this has been a huge increase of 12% since the last data drop. Miss Murray can't wait to see the results for the Yr8 assessment and see what fantastic grades will be shown there!

Yr10 P6 sessions have been running since February

TECHNOLOGY

Construction trips

In May Y10 students were offered the opportunity as part of their KS4 Construction studies to visit either Keepmoat in Hartlepool and Persimmon in Seaham. As part of the trip they were kitted out with hard hats, high-visibility vests and appropriate footwear. The students were able to see many of the answers to questions in the Component 1 exam such as different types of foundations, solid ground floors, timber framed construction and services at the site. The students were guided around the sites by site managers that answered any questions the students had as they toured the site. The trip was designed to support the students' mock exams in June.



KS4

Students in Y10 construction produced some excellent responses in their recent PSA in which they had to design an Eco-classroom block for a given location.



KS3

Here is a selection of some of the outstanding work produced at KS3 during the year.

Students at Seaham High School work through a series of projects designed to assess their Design, Make, evaluation and technical knowledge. Here is a selection of the manufactured products using a wide range of tools, machines and processes to achieve a final outcome that meets the objective set out by the teacher.



SEN Coffee Morning

Last term, our community came together for a truly inspiring Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Coffee Morning. This event, held in our main hall, saw families, students, staff and outside agencies come together for a chat over coffee and a slice of cake. This was a huge hit for everyone who took part.

With over 220 children on our SEND register, we wanted to celebrate Neurodiversity Week by having a coffee morning, as we recognise the importance of a support network and creating a sense of community amongst parents/carers and caregivers of our students with additional learning needs. Attendees were treated to a delightful spread of freshly brewed tea and coffee and a fabulous selection of cakes and treats, including a delicious chocolate fudge cake very kindly donated by one of our parents/carers.

The morning began with a warm welcome from our host Miss Brown (SENCO), then an inspiring talk by Mr Lumsdon (Headteacher) about SEND students in our school and the success they have had with high expectations and inspirations. Following this were presentations by representatives from SENDIAS, Durham County Council SEND and EWEL team, North East Autism Society, Family Hubs, Durham Learn, Lexia, Daisy Chain and Rainbows Sensory Space. Here we learnt about how they can help us support children with SEND and their families.



Finally, attendees had the chance to share their experiences and ask questions to representatives and key staff members at Seaham High School. This was an excellent opportunity for parents/carers and carers to chat with others in a similar position to themselves about a range of challenges they face and support available and gather brochures, useful guides and contact details of local support services.

Miss Brown, our SENCO organised the event and said "It's been lovely to be able to bring everyone together, we've had a big turnout from local families and support agencies. I would like to thank all parents/carers and representatives who came along to support this event. Also a big shout out to some of our SEND students who helped with the smooth running of the event: David T, Ashton L, Chase M, Zak S, Owen M, Corey B, Taylor W, Juliet H, Lewis B and Steven B."

The feedback from attendees and representatives was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing their eagerness for the next coffee morning. Plans are already underway for future events, with a focus on inviting expert speakers to help with 'caregivers burnout' and also a more in depth look at our new Support Plan at Seaham High School which is being launched in September.

