

HORIZON

Spring
2025



SEAHAM HIGH SCHOOL
engaging minds. broadening horizons

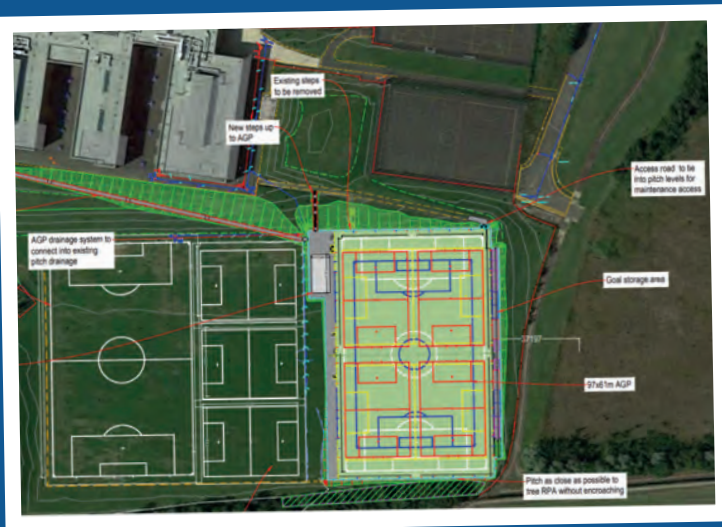


Welcome

Can I welcome you to our latest edition of Horizon.

A lot is currently going on with regard to school development. Firstly, you may already be aware from the press that planning permission has been granted for construction of a 3G pitch on site. This is something we have been working towards for a number of years and we are delighted this facility is going to be available both for the school and local community. The pitch will include a modular building for changing facilities, perimeter fencing and floodlights. It is a £1.3 million joint investment by the school and Football Foundation and will be of significant benefit to the school, local clubs and the wider community. We will shortly be advertising for a lettings manager and staff to run the pitch and other facilities on evenings and weekends. Work should hopefully start March 3rd 2025 in preparation for a September handover.

and the Eden Learning Trust. Again it will be a massive asset to the school and also available for lettings to the wider community on evenings and weekends. We would be interested in suggestions for naming the building. It has been suggested that we call it the "Knack". As many of you know the school is built on the site of the old High pit, which is why we are called Seaham High School. It also used to be called the Knack, which is why this has been put forward as a suggestion. We would be interested in the community's views or suggestions regarding this. Please email office@seahamhighschool.com if you have any suggestions or thoughts.



The other big development is we have had approval to construct a £1.5 million extension to the school, which will be built alongside the main entrance. This facility will house additional Dining space, offices, meeting rooms, alternative provision areas and additional teaching spaces. This will alleviate some of the pressures on the existing Dining Hall. This is being jointly funded by ourselves



Headteacher Geoff Lumsdon with Joseph Cardy

Foreword

We have engaged in two consultations over recent months. With regard to reducing our Pupil Admission Number the consultation closed on January 31st. Governors approved the reduction of the PAN for the academic year 2026-27. We will therefore look to reduce our admission number from 240 to 220 for that academic year. This number will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis.

We also consulted with parents and staff on changing the school day and length of the academic year. Consultation also closed on January 31st. Next steps are to consult with students who haven't been involved yet. We also need to give an opportunity for the parents of incoming Y7 students to feed back their thoughts. We do not find out who has a place until March 1st so we have been unable to consult with them directly, although some may have already had the chance to pass on their views. The Eden Learning Trust Board has approved the decision in principle and delegated the final decision to our Governing Body. Responses will be passed to Governors who will make their final decision at some point in March or April.

Year 11 are currently working very hard towards their final GCSE examinations. Period 6 becomes mandatory for Y11 students after the half term as we strive to improve outcomes for all. Please encourage your children to complete homework, revision and if in Year 11 to revise thoroughly. Nothing is gained without hard work outside of school as well as inside.

Part of this hard work is attending school every day. Frequent or long term absence has a terrible effect on children's outcomes. No-one wants to go into an exam and fail but if your child does not attend regularly then that is what you as a parent are facilitating. The expectation is at least 95% attendance to school. Once a child falls below that figure then there is an impact on outcomes. Like all schools we have had a huge drive on attendance in recent years following Covid. We make no apologies for challenging parents over poor attendance by their children. It is our jobs to do so and it is your responsibility to ensure your child attends regularly. The attendance figures at school are currently better than the national average, which is fantastic and testament to the hard work of staff in working with parents to ensure children are in school.

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 continued success in Creative Arts. The Music Concerts and Performing Arts presentation of The Wizard of Oz were truly incredible. It is superb to see the vast array of talent among the young people of our Community who will no doubt have the opportunity to pursue careers in this industry should they choose to. Up coming events include the visit to Iceland, Ambassador awards and SEN Celebrations.

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. I wanted to focus on the student 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.

The student who I will talk about tonight is the type of student who make a person come into teaching and stay in teaching. I've said before teaching has lots of highs and lots of lows- this young person is definitely one the highs- the one's who make you proud- the ones who make you remember working with young people is the best job in the world.

This young person is the first male recipient of this for a good couple of years. When it is time to choose this award I always consult with other staff- Year Leader, Year Manager, members of SLT and often many other staff. This year's recipient was nominated by several people.

He epitomises those values we hold dear in the school- He is kind and has demonstrated that repeatedly, integrity in his work ethic and attitude to learning not to mention shown great pride in himself in terms of his work ethic, demeanour and behaviour.

He has had strong attendance throughout his time in Seaham High School. Excellent behaviour throughout his time in school, attended all period 6 sessions, completed homework on a regular basis and took part in many extra curricular activities. His Year Leader Miss Reichard described him as "the politest young man in the year group, who would always go our of his way to help another student or a member of staff"

He also achieved one of the highest progress figures in the school achieving at least 1 grade better than his target in all subjects gaining

I believe 10 GCSE's with an array of fabulous grades.

He has shown resilience and determination to be a success at our school. Achieving this level of Grades is not an easy task. It is a result of dedication, commitment but most of all hard work and effort in and out of school. He has displayed a level of maturity, thoughtfulness and reflection beyond his years. He is popular with his peers and staff alike and I might add widely respected by all staff and many students alike.

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

Big Issue Focus: Eating Disorders

In Year 8 and 9 we've been exploring the issues of body image and eating disorders. Although eating disorders are a mental health issue some do develop these due to anxiety and issues around body image; but the causes are complex and varied. In order to allow parents and carers to explore at home we'd like to share how people can get support for these challenges.

Eating disorders can be a challenging and overwhelming experience, not just for the individual affected but also for their families and friends. In the

UK, there are many resources available to offer help, guidance, and support to anyone struggling with eating disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, binge eating disorder, or others.

What are Eating Disorders?

Eating disorders involve unhealthy relationships with food, eating, body image, and exercise. They can affect people of any age, gender, or background and often stem from a combination of psychological, genetic, and social factors. Early intervention is critical, as it can greatly improve recovery outcomes.

Here's a guide to some of the key places to find help and support for eating disorders:

1. Your GP

If you or someone you know may be struggling with an eating disorder, the first step is to speak to your GP. They can assess your situation, refer you to a specialist, or recommend a treatment plan that fits your needs. GPs can also offer advice on local support services.

2. BEAT (Beat Eating Disorders)

BEAT is the UK's leading eating disorder charity. They provide an extensive range of resources, including helplines, online chat services, and peer support groups. BEAT's services are free, confidential, and designed to support individuals, families, and friends.

- **Helpline: 0808 801 0677**
- **Studentline: 0808 801 0811**
- **Website: beateatingdisorders.org.uk**

3. NHS Services

The NHS offers a range of treatments for eating disorders, including therapy, medical monitoring, and sometimes inpatient care. Most treatment starts with an assessment by your GP, who will refer you to specialist eating disorder services if needed.

- **NHS Information: Search "Eating Disorders" on nhs.uk for detailed advice and support options available in your area.**

4. Young Minds

For young people under 25, YoungMinds offers mental health support, including guidance on dealing with eating disorders. They offer online resources, tips, and advice on accessing help through schools, GPs, and local services.

- **Parents Helpline: 0808 802 5544**

- **Website: youngminds.org.uk**

5. Mind

Mind is a mental health charity that provides advice and support for a wide range of mental health issues, including eating disorders. They have a helpful section on their website dedicated to eating disorders and recovery, with tips on finding treatment and support networks.

- **Infoline: 0300 123 3393**
- **Website: mind.org.uk**

Remember: Recovery is Possible

While eating disorders can feel isolating and difficult to overcome, recovery is always possible with the right support. The earlier someone reaches out, the better the chances for effective treatment and a full recovery.

If you're worried about yourself or someone else, don't wait to ask for help. Whether it's talking to a trusted adult, seeking professional advice, or contacting a support group, there are people ready and willing to help.

If you need more information or advice, feel free to reach out to the SMSC department here at school. We're here to listen and support you in any way we can.

By raising awareness and encouraging open conversations, we can create an environment where seeking help for eating disorders is encouraged and supported.

An Enchanting Visit to the Northern Stage: Dickens' A Christmas Carol



Our recent theatre trip to the Northern Stage to watch A Christmas Carol was nothing short of magical! Accompanied by 47 Key Stage 4 students, the visit was a fantastic success, providing an unforgettable experience that combined entertainment with academic enrichment.

The performance was a true celebration of Dickens' timeless classic. The cast delivered outstanding portrayals of the story's iconic characters, bringing Scrooge's transformation vividly to life.

For our students, the trip proved to be immensely beneficial. Watching the play live gave them a deeper understanding of the text, helping to visualise key scenes and characters in a way that enhanced their classroom learning. The vivid portrayal of Dickens' themes—social responsibility, compassion, and redemption—resonated with the students and supported their revision for upcoming assessments.

The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive. They were captivated by the production and found it both extremely entertaining as well as an invaluable tool in their revision for GCSEs.

It was a wonderful opportunity for our students to connect with Dickens' work in a meaningful and memorable way and brought to life the true meaning of Christmas.

An Inspector Calls Theatre visit

On Tuesday 2nd October a group of Year 11 students went to Darlington Hippodrome to see the stage performance of their GCSE text, An Inspector Calls. From start to finish, the production delivered a powerful, gripping performance that kept us on the edge of our seats, it was an unforgettable experience for all who attended.

The students were captivated by the intense drama and suspense that unfolded on stage. J.B. Priestley's timeless classic was brought to life with incredible set design, haunting lighting, and a deeply atmospheric soundscape that perfectly complemented the play's themes of social responsibility and moral consequence.

Miss Bayfield was extremely proud of their conduct the whole night and they all thoroughly enjoyed their evening.



The Duke of Edinburgh Awards



Over the past year, 28 students have successfully completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award, while 17 students have earned their Silver Award. In doing so, they have dedicated more than 800 hours to volunteering in the local community, participated in physical activities, developed new skills, and taken part in challenging expeditions.

The new silver Duke of Edinburgh cohort have also completed their practice expedition this term spending 3 days in the wilds of the North York Moors, learning further skills in map reading and teamwork.

Our students have been praised by local youth groups and environmental groups for their dedication as young volunteers. They've run activities, crafts, and games, helping to enrich the lives of younger children in the area, as well as carrying out hours of litter picking and tree planting to enhance our local area. Their contributions have made a real difference.

The students have shown impressive resilience, particularly during their expeditions. Carrying all their gear in backpacks, they were fully self-sufficient for two to three days. Their tasks included map reading, cooking their own meals, setting up tents, and documenting their experiences in a range of ways, which they then presented on return from the expedition. These challenges allowed them to develop valuable teamwork and problem-solving skills.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is internationally recognised and provides young people with opportunities to have fun, make new friends, and build confidence. Participants gain important life skills such as resilience, communication, and leadership, all of which are highly valued by employers and are great additions to CVs, university applications, and job prospects. Top employers recognise the work-ready skills that Duke of Edinburgh Award holders bring to their businesses.



DofE Silver Practice 2024

North Yorkshire Moors



YEAR 7

Year 7 have embraced their new academic life at Seaham High School. Students have already started to make new friendship groups and hard work has taken place in all lessons to ensure that progress has been made. Year 7 are the top performing year group for positive class chart points and have the best ratio in the school - showing demonstration to the 6 R's whilst also showing kindness, integrity and pride.

As well as settling into their new routines and school, Year 7 have also been fortunate enough to take part in extra curricular activities such as a live careers podcast by BBC GCSE bitesize - already looking into what jobs they could go into after life at Seaham High School! Year 7 got an insight into how the lessons they are studying day in day out can help build skills into practical jobs that they would be interested in for the future!

Not only this, but Year 7 also celebrated African Awareness Day by participating in a range of different

activities - such as traditional dancing, adinkra printing and creating their own beats on African Drums! It was fantastic to see Year 7 embrace a different culture and immerse themselves in how others around the world live their lives.

Year 7 have thrown themselves into their new surroundings by participating in many after school clubs and sports teams with multiple members of staff commenting on their eagerness to learn, engage and try new things. It has been great to see the teamwork on display at homework club where students have been working collaboratively helping each other with their homework before their weekend has begun - extra dedication and time to learning will pay dividends with assessments to come.

It has been a fantastic start to the year - long may it continue Year 7!

Christmas hamper designs



Africa Awareness Day



TECHNOLOGY

KS3

Students in KS3 have been working in the technology carousel producing some excellent outcomes so far in a variety of subjects.

The programmable Crumbles are the latest project to be delivered to Y8 students who have been producing an Ultrasonic distance sensor robot.

The department has invested in 3D printing technology and students have been loving the 3D prints they have been designing on TinkerCAD.

Mrs Sayers' class have been investigating the work of Charles Rennie Mackintosh, a famous Scottish architect and designer. They have produced some excellent interior models based on the designers work.



Cooking Club

Students in Y7 have been attending cooking club on a Wednesday after school where they have been making some delicious dishes following a recipe/method. So far they have made rock buns, scones and shortbread biscuits which have all been absolutely delicious!!

Cooking club runs on a Wednesday after school between 3 -4pm with Mrs Kay and Mrs McCann.



Gimagine Award Trip

On Monday 1st July 2024 we took 3 of our German club students to London for the day.

Students had been working hard for months to complete the online certification. (The Gimagine Award is an engaging, innovative self-learning platform for young learners 14 – 18 years of age), equipping them with beginner German skills and current global knowledge about a broad range of topics.

By completing modules, participants collect points that lead to the GIMAGINE Award Certificate – an official certificate stating their achievements issued by the Friends of the Goethe-Institut London and the Goethe-Institut London.)

No mean feat! Only 3 pupils managed to finish in time for the tight deadline- which meant we qualified for the first finishers award! As a result, we were invited to the 'Sommerfest der deutschen Sprache' at the German Embassy in London where we were to participate in an official Awards ceremony.

We started the day very early; meeting at school at 7:30! We headed straight to Durham train station in Mrs Duchene's car. Our train to London was at 8:42am. On the way there, we played some Spanish card games and discussed what we would like to see in London. On arrival, we went straight to Kings Cross tube station, and took the piccadilly line to see some sights. We started by visiting the King at Buckingham palace, followed by a lovely stroll through St. James's park, where we saw some interesting wildlife! (pelicans!?) We walked all the way to Westminster to see Big Ben, the houses of parliament and the London eye. We then stopped for a bite to eat before heading down to South Kensington for our awards ceremony. We hopped back on the tube and walked through the very fancy area of London, passing some major museums such as the natural history museum. The buildings were very impressive and growing

more so by the minute, as we walked down to the German embassy. Our students were amazed by the building. We were greeted by a member of the Goethe Institut and there was some time to network and meet the other attendees (mostly German teachers and leaders of German language provision across the country). It quickly became apparent that there were not many other students at this event! We played table football, picked up some freebies from the stalls and tried a virtual reality headset!

Then it was time to go up to the awards ceremony. We had seating reserved for us right in the second row. There were some very impressive names hosting the speeches;

- German Ambassador Miguel Berger
- Guest of Honour The Rt Rev Dr Christopher Cocksworth, Dean of Windsor
- Andrea Pfeil, Head of Languages Goethe-Institut Northwestern Europe
- Axel Scheffler, Illustrator (Wuschel auf der Erde)

A message from our new Spanish teacher Ms Garcia



¡Hola! I'm Miss García, your new Spanish teacher, hailing from the sunny south of Spain – specifically, Murcia, just a stone's throw from Benidorm. I'm excited to share my passion for Spanish

language and culture with everyone in Seaham High School. I hope some of my students have already begun sprinkling their conversations at home with a few "holas" and "gracias"! Let's make this year a memorable one, filled with laughter and maybe a few Flamenco dance moves along the way!



It turns out, we were one of only two schools in the entire country who has qualified for this award!! Students were invited on stage to claim their certificate and prizes. Everyone I spoke to was so impressed with our pupils, particularly the fact that the whole idea for the club was student-led and that pupils had requested to study GCSE German in their own time.

After the ceremony, we were invited back downstairs to enjoy a typical German BBQ, with foods such

as sausages and potato salad on offer, and cake for dessert! We then headed back to Kings cross to catch our train home. It was a very late night for us all, we didn't get back to Durham until 10:38, then Mrs Duchene dropped everyone back off at home.

All three students conducted themselves so well on the trip. There were a lot of firsts on the trip- first time in London, first time on trains, but we all had a fantastic day!

New staff introductions

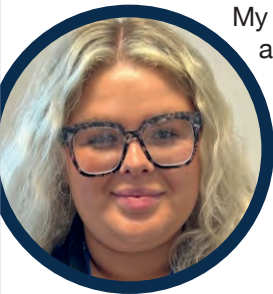
Miss Moore



Hello everyone! My name is Miss Moore, and I'm excited to join Seaham High School this year. I chose this school because I've heard so many wonderful things about the supportive staff, friendly students and positive atmosphere around school. My first few weeks here have been fulfilling and positive, and I've really enjoyed teaching my lovely classes.

In my spare time, I love cooking healthy meals, diving into a good book, and, of course, watching every single Harry Potter movie back to back! You can often find me at Costa or Starbucks, working hard on lesson plans and all things school-related. I'm looking forward to the rest of my time at Seaham High School.

Miss Anderson



My name is Miss Anderson and I have had a wonderful first half term here at Seaham High School. One of the reasons why I chose Seaham is because I resonate with the school ethos of kindness, integrity

and pride. The most important value for me is kindness, I truly believe that being kind to everyone you meet will only lead to a positive outcome.

On the weekend I love to walk my two year old Cavapoo Monty. Our favourite place to go is the beach; after playing fetch we enjoy an ice cream! My favourite season is autumn and I love nothing more than curling up on the sofa with a piping hot cup of tea and a book. Some of my favourite authors include Elena Ferrante, Donna Tartt and Agatha Christie.

Miss Lovegreen



My name is Miss Lovegreen and I have had a lovely start to the year at Seaham High School. I have felt nothing but support from both staff and students and I am so excited for the rest of the year.

In my spare time, I love being out with Enzo, my three year old French bulldog. Enzo loves going out to explore and having an ice cream afterwards. My favourite thing to do in the summer holidays is to go on a relaxing holiday and enjoy the sunshine with a good book!

YEAR 8

As we wrap up the first term of Year 8, I'd like to start by saying how proud I am of the fantastic start we've had! Having been your Year Leader last year, it's been great to see the enthusiasm and commitment you've carried through into Year 8. Our year group has really embraced the ethos of "Strive with Kindness, Lead with Integrity, Rise with Pride," reflecting the core values of Seaham High School: kindness, integrity, and pride in everything we do.

Kindness, Integrity, and Pride

At Seaham High, kindness, integrity, and pride are at the heart of everything we do. These values define how we interact with one another and how we approach our learning. Striving with kindness means showing compassion and respect to your peers. Leading with integrity involves doing the right thing, even when no one

is watching, and rising with pride shows in the effort you put into your work and the pride you take in your achievements. I've been incredibly impressed by how well Year 8 has embraced these values, and I encourage you to continue building on this.

Tutor group	6R Points
8SKG	17422
8SEL	16992
8MOM	15068
8AJA	14999
8RLO	13192
8LER	13040
8PYJ	12975
8WGM	11877
8TEA	9456

6R Points Success

The year group has also been working hard to amass an incredible 125,000 points in our 6R competition this half term. A big well done to 8SKG for leading the way with 17,422 points. Let's see if anyone can catch them next term!

Homework and After-School Clubs

Homework plays a crucial role in reinforcing what you learn in lessons, and it's important to stay on top of it. From November 2024, we'll be running two homework clubs specifically for Year 8 on Wednesday and Thursday nights in CM3. These will be great opportunities for you to complete your work with support from staff and peers.

Let's keep this momentum going and continue striving for success in Year 8!

Reading Plus Success

This term, we've launched Reading Plus, and we're already seeing incredible progress! Many students have increased their reading ages by years in just two months. This program focuses on reading comprehension, which is vital for your success across all subjects. I can't stress enough how important it is to complete the weekly Reading Plus homework, as regular practice will help you continue to grow in confidence and ability.

Meet the Tutor Event

Our Meet the Tutor event in October was a great opportunity for parents to discuss the Attitude to Learning (ATL) scores with tutors. A special congratulations goes out to Aidan A., Poppi B., and Jasmine G. for achieving the highest ATL scores in the year – a truly remarkable achievement! Keep up the excellent work.

HISTORY

Open Evening Wednesday 2nd October

On Open Evening the History Department invited parents, carers and young people from local primary schools to experience the medieval Black Death room! Fantastic volunteers from Years 7-10 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!

History Book Clubs

Mrs Arthur is once again inviting students to combine their love of reading and history in fortnightly History Book Clubs that are running for Years 7-9. Books that will be read and discussed in the coming months are Anglo-Saxon Boy, Private Peaceful and the Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank.

Year 8 WWI homework

Students in Year 8 have been busy studying the causes and events of the First World War. Fantastic homework focussed on the conflict has been submitted in recent weeks. This is coinciding with Remembrance assemblies for each year group and a collective whole-school act of commemoration on Monday 11th November.



YEAR 9

Year 9 has welcomed in the year with spectacular effort- we are seeing a weekly competition developing between year 7 and 9 on who can achieve the highest points! It is great to see the year 9 cohort welcoming in the new year 7 students and setting an example of our kindness, integrity and pride.

It has also been a pleasure this term to see two students from our year group achieve the highest points for embodying our school ethos when Mr Ireland delivered his Black History Month assembly. Joshua R and Joseph N were a true credit to our year group and showed how students at Seaham High School show respect during a poignant month in which we share and explore different values and cultures.

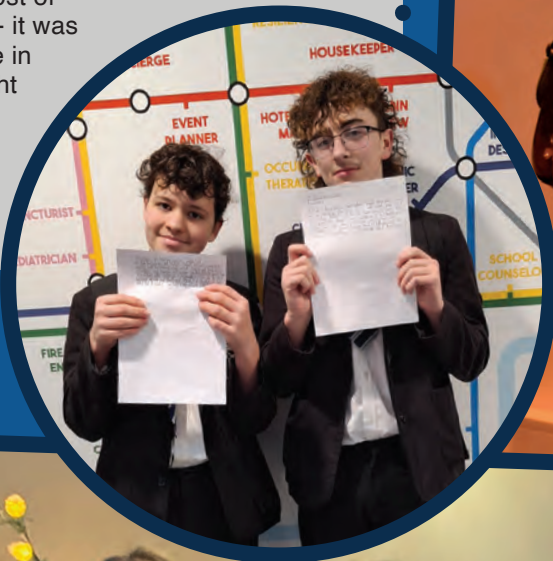
This term year 9 also got the opportunity to watch a live careers podcast by BBC GCSE Bitesize. I was proud to see the resilience and maturity of many year 9s as they asked a range of well thought out questions to the 3 business ladies being interviewed. We had questions ranging from what GCSE were taken, to how to start up your own business and at this point, it brings me great pleasure to see year 9 already considering their future in the run up to their options.



This term has seen Year 9 embody one of our core values here at Seaham, of integrity. Many of our students have taken part in a range of cross curricular after school projects and opportunities which have blown away both staff and parents/ carers alike.

Each week it has been a pleasure to receive emails and photographs from events such as Seaham soul, Awards Evening and the Wizard of Oz. It really highlights the talent and creativity of our year group, they strive for success and excellence in everything they do!

I also want to take a moment to celebrate the in school success stories as we have now successfully completed a term of intervention in a host of subjects and skills- it was an honour to share in the student's delight as they completed each focus and took pride in their progress.



Year 7 African Activities day



Year 7 students took part in a day of African arts activities to celebrate Africa awareness week as part of Black history month. We had a guest speaker called Karim come in and run an assembly for the whole of year 7 where he talked about his own culture and engaged students by getting them to participate in singing and drumming. Students were then divided up into groups and experienced a range of African drumming, dance and adinkra printmaking sessions throughout the day. The day was a fantastic cultural experience for our students who really got on board with the activities.

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Yr 9 Baltic Art gallery visit

9X5 took part in a visit to the Baltic art gallery in the summer term of 2024 where they experienced a hands-on workshop by a local artist looking at culture. Students also had a tour around the various exhibitions taking place in the art gallery. The visit will help students work towards achieving a bronze Arts award.



North Yorkshire Photography Visit

9X5 took part in a visit to the Baltic 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. The sample of images displayed show the quality of the work produced, that will contribute to student portfolios and overall grade at GCSE.

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Yr 11 results and exam moderation

2024 Year 11 Art and photography results were once again outstanding.

Art students achieved 25.5 % Grades 7 and above and 95.7 % of students achieved a grade 4 or above.

Photography students achieved 32.6% Grades 7 and above and 98.9% 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 2024 was exhibited in the hall for certificate evening and students were allowed to take sketchbooks home.



Year 6 Open Evening

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

Remembrance Day display



The Art department at Seaham High School have created a huge poppy installation with students inspired by the Tower of London display in 2018. Approximately 750 students have created the poppies by using the bottoms of plastic bottles, which they have painted and then cable tied to a huge cargo net that was hung from the side of the school building. Clay poppies made by this year's Yr 7 were also planted at the bottom of the cascading net of plastic poppies.



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.

Northern School of Art Visit

At the end of the Autumn term the Art department took 15 Year 10 students down to the Northern School of Art for a taster day. 8 students took part in a Fine Art workshop, experimenting with different drawing techniques, using inks, pens and watercolour. 7 students took part in a Photography workshop, making their own pin-hole camera using empty Pringles tubs, then taking photographs with them and developing them, the results were fantastic. They had a brilliant day exploring different techniques and experimenting with new materials. All students were really engaged, keen to try and were brilliantly behaved throughout the day.

Parklands care home Christmas Wreath making

The creative arts and community ambassadors made a visit to Parklands care home in Seaham to create Christmas wreaths with the elderly residents. The residents really enjoyed getting into the spirit of Christmas by singing Christmas songs and making their festive wreaths with our students to hang on their doors. This was a fantastic experience for both the care home residents and our students who worked so well with our elderly community.



YEAR 10



The end of Year 9 came abruptly with students discovering what options they had been allocated and our last celebration assembly of Key Stage 3. The subsequent summer holidays may have had a very mixed weather system but the same could not be said for the students who returned more mature and raring to go. The subsequent new forms whereby pupils were placed according to subjects they were taking may have seemed contentious at the time but to their credit they ran with it. Although in many cases they are no longer with immediate friends, pupils have taken to this, realising quickly that an extra half an hour a day on a particular subject will add up to a lot of extra knowledge and skills over the next two years. It has been great to see pupils get off to such a quick and conscientious start every morning which then sets them up for a productive day. We will of course be reviewing these forms throughout this time as we look to give students the opportunity to study other lessons they have taken during form time.

Morning line up is quick, orderly and with the minimum of fuss, which subsequently means a timely entrance each morning. Uniform has been fantastic with the vast majority of pupils a credit to yourselves and the school, and this leaves us with more time to focus on their studies. In assemblies so far we have had a big push on the ethos of the school and in particular "Integrity". Asking pupils to think about how they can be the very best version of themselves and to make decisions that they are proud of is something we at the school aim to instill in all our students. Pushing the idea that we all may be different but can work together can be seen at lunchtimes and in lessons, and will continue to be something we continue to promote throughout the year.

Another massive change in the right direction for Year 10 is the falling number of negative points so far this year, while continuing to build a very healthy balance of positive points. In essence this due to positive behaviour, though one area we do need to

pick up on is Homework. With Homework now worth 3 points and missed homeworks -3 unfortunately this is our Achilles heel. There are still too many missed homeworks, and while I am writing only about a smaller percentage of the year who have missed a high amount, there is still a large group who miss homework regularly. In school either Form Tutors or myself have spoken to pupils of concern and offered advice and support, such as Yr10 Homework club every Wednesday in EG2 after school. Can I ask that you check Class Charts with your children regularly and like us question why they have Homeworks missed if this shows up. Homeworks this year will become increasingly more important as in some cases it will be new learning or broadening students' knowledge of a topic, covering areas that we do not have time to cover in class. Therefore students not completing work will be at a distinct disadvantage.

Lastly I would like to say that if students attend today they will achieve tomorrow. As with all years, school attendance is one of the biggest barriers we have to learning. No where will this be highlighted more than the PSA's most students will be sitting in January. You will recently have received a letter explaining PSA's but I think it's worth mentioning again that the short time period we have for completing these assessments mean that attendance is very necessary to complete them adequately.

Just to make a final mention that away from normal lessons this term has already seen extra curricular activities starting in a number of our subjects. PE has as always given a home to some of our more sporty pupils with Football and Basketball higher on the agenda as we move away from Cricket for the winter. In the Creative Arts faculty, students worked incredibly hard to stage the show *The Wizard of Oz*, and everyone in attendance would agree they did an amazing job! A big thankyou to all the staff who give up so much of their time to run these activities, and the many of the others I have not mentioned, I know the students really appreciate it.

SCIENCE



Over the October half term Durham University's annual Celebrate Science event took flight, thanks to the efforts of eight passionate student ambassadors who hosted an interactive stall all about the science of flight. Their hands-on activities, including building paper airplanes, helicopters, and rockets, delighted members of the public and local primary school children, sparking curiosity about aerodynamics and engineering.

The ambassadors guided visitors through fun experiments that showcased how flight works. One of the most popular activities was making and testing paper rockets. The students explained how small design changes can affect a rocket's flight path. Children eagerly launched their creations, learning about lift, thrust, drag, and gravity in the process.

"We wanted to show that science is not just in textbooks but something you can experiment with and see in action," said Lucy, senior ambassador.

The stall also featured paper helicopters and planes which demonstrated the principles of lift and propulsion. For the ambassadors, the event was a rewarding opportunity to inspire young people and share their love of science. "It's amazing to see young kids so excited about learning," said Andrew, "We hope this event sparks their interest in pursuing science and engineering careers."

The event was a success, with many children leaving with new knowledge and a sense of wonder. For the ambassadors, it was a chance to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers, one paper plane at a time.



Science in Action: Creative Homework in Year 7 and Year 8

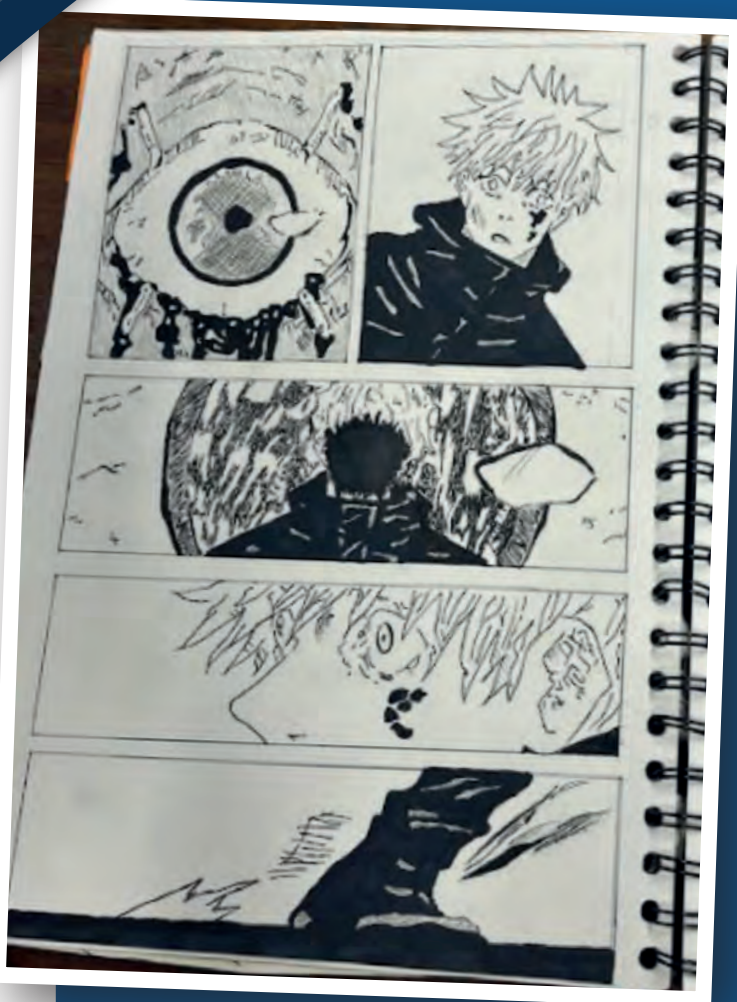
Our science students have been busy combining creativity and learning in exciting ways! Year 8 students explored the science of respiration and fermentation by baking bread as part of their homework. This hands-on task helped them see biology and chemistry in action while producing delicious results. Pictured here, is some of the hard work carried out by Lily and Phoebe in 8Y3.

Meanwhile, Year 7 students demonstrated their understanding of cell structures by creating detailed models of cells using various materials including cakes and cookies. Their edible designs showcased organelles such as nuclei, mitochondria, and cell membranes, making abstract concepts both fun and memorable.

These practical projects highlight the innovative ways our students engage with scientific concepts, developing not only their knowledge but also their problem-solving and creative thinking skills. Well done to everyone involved!



YEAR 11



I am delighted to share that Year 11 have had an excellent start to the new term. Our students have settled in remarkably well, demonstrating a positive attitude and strong commitment to their studies. It's fantastic to see the energy and focus they've brought as they begin this important year.

We've already had several assemblies with post-16 providers, which have provided valuable insights into the next steps for our students. In addition to this, students have been engaging in careers interviews, giving them the opportunity to start thinking more deeply about their future pathways. These initiatives are helping to inform and guide their decisions, ensuring they are well-prepared for the choices ahead.

I am particularly proud of the resilience that our Year 11 students have shown, especially with their attendance at P6 sessions. This commitment to extra study time is paying off, and I'm pleased to report that they have collectively achieved an impressive number of achievement points already.

As always, your ongoing support at home plays a crucial role in the success of our students, and I'd like to thank parents and guardians for their continued encouragement.

Here's to a successful and productive year ahead!



As we approach the mock exam period, I want to take this opportunity to commend our Year 11 students for their outstanding effort and dedication to their studies. Over the past few weeks, they have been working incredibly hard on their revision, fully embracing the challenge ahead.

The mock exams play a crucial role in preparing students for their GCSEs, providing valuable insight into their progress and areas for improvement. The effort they invest now will have a significant impact on their final results.

I'm also delighted to share that our Year 11 students have collectively achieved a remarkable number of 6R points. Special congratulations go to the following top 5 students who have excelled in earning these points:

- 1. Mia P 3699**
- 2. Callum R 3452**
- 3. Anna T 3383**
- 4. Sophie S 3091**
- 5. Katie H 3085**

These students have shown exemplary commitment and serve as fantastic role models for their peers.

In addition, I'm thrilled to report that the mock Art and Photography exams have gone exceptionally well. The creativity and skill our students have demonstrated are truly impressive, and they are producing some fabulous work. We are excited to see how their talents continue to develop as they prepare for their final submissions.

A key factor in ensuring success during this period is consistent attendance. Attendance during the mock exams is absolutely vital to support your child's GCSE preparation. Please encourage your child to be present and punctual for every exam, as each one is an invaluable learning experience.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to help our Year 11 students achieve their very best.



A Spellbinding Macbeth by Quantum Theatre

A Perfect GCSE Companion

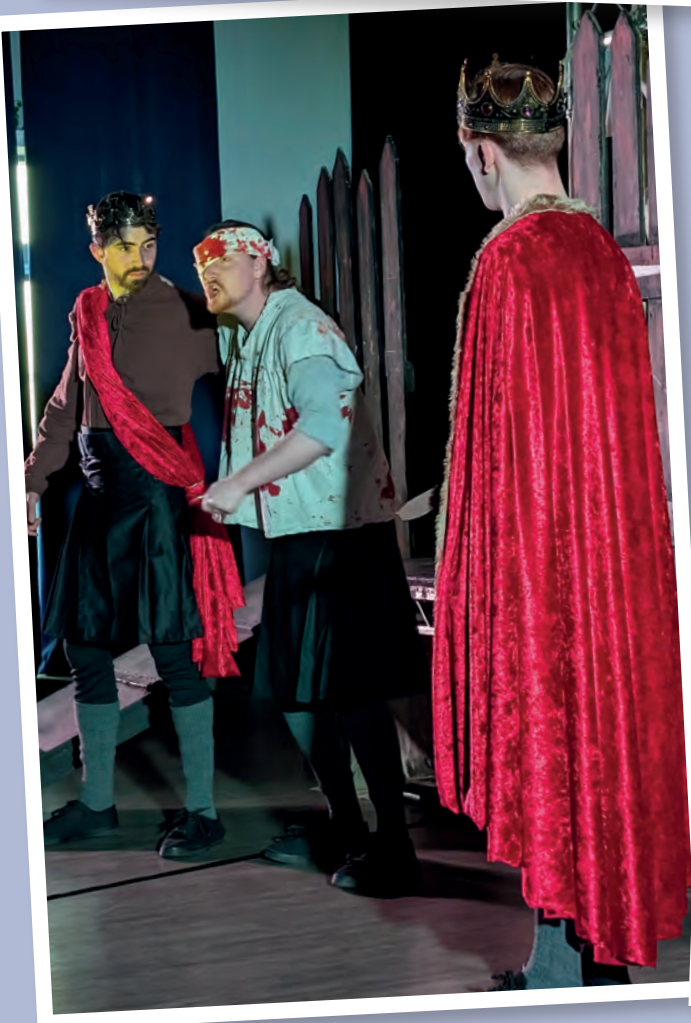
Recently, we were lucky enough to welcome Quantum Theatre into school to deliver a captivating performance of Macbeth for our Year 11 students. With a deep respect for Shakespeare's original text, the production expertly balanced authenticity with accessibility, making it an invaluable experience for those studying the play for their upcoming GCSE Literature exams.

From the moment the witches cast their eerie spell, the attention to detail was evident. The actors delivered their lines with precision and passion, bringing Shakespeare's language to life in a way that was both engaging and easy to follow. The staging was cleverly designed to maintain a dynamic pace, ensuring the audience remained captivated throughout.

The actors' delivery and movement ensured that even the more complex passages were clear, reinforcing key themes and ideas essential for GCSE students. Our students were given this wonderful opportunity to see Shakespeare's characters in this famous tragedy brought to life in a way that only strengthened their knowledge of this timeless play.

The production was not just a performance but an immersive learning experience. By staying true to the original text while making it accessible and engaging, they provided an invaluable resource for students preparing for their exams. A truly masterful rendition of Macbeth—educational, exciting, and unforgettable.





PE

FOOTBALL

Futsal tournaments

So far this term we have entered teams into the year 7 and year 8 indoor futsal tournaments. Our girls played really well in their respective competitions, with the two year 7 teams both finishing second in their groups.

Under 13 Central Venue League

The year 7 / 8 combined team have completed all their fixtures in the league so far and have won 1, drew 1 and lost 2. The attitude and ability of the squad has been fantastic with so many girls getting the chance to represent the school.

INDOOR ATHLETICS

Our amazing year 7 and 8 students entered the East Durham Indoor Athletics Competition at Peteree Leisure Centre and came away with some outstanding individual and team results.

Y7 girls - 2nd place

Y7 boys - 2nd place

Y8 boys - 2nd place

Y8 girls - 1st place

Our year 8 girls will now represent East Durham in the County Finals! Well done everyone!!!

INDOOR ROWING

Our year 7, 8 and 9 girls participated in the East Durham Schools Indoor Rowing competition. Jack Cicek in year 7 took gold with his impressive distance of 600m in 2 minutes. Well done to all competitors, you all did us proud!!



RACE FOR LIFE

This year we hosted our 8th Annual Race For Life Event at school. This saw over 100 pupils and staff dress in their finest shades of pink to run the 1 mile course to raise awareness of breast cancer. It was a fabulous event and we are really proud of all of our runners! Well done everyone, see you at the start line in 2025!!



AWARDS EVENING

We held our second annual sports awards evening on Thursday 26th September 2024 and what a fabulous night it was. The evening celebrated the amazing achievements of our students both in and out of school and those who have made exceptional progress throughout the year. The event was hosted by our very own Sports Ambassador team who excelled themselves in delivering a very enjoyable evening for all.

The evening saw many students receiving awards for their leadership skills, practical ability, improvement and dedication and also their outstanding sportsmanship. Our final award and arguably the most prestigious award was Sports Personality of the year for 2024 which was awarded to very deserving Charlotte Hazel. As a PE department we are unbelievably proud of these students and it was lovely to see them recognised for their talents and commitments. We look forward to seeing what 2025 brings and all our amazing students will achieve.



Sports Day 2024

Sports Day 2024 saw our year 7 and 8 tutor groups battle it out to be crowned Sports Day Winners 2024. Students participated in a range of races and events to gain points for their classes. The events ranged from relays to sprints to sack

• races, all in the name of fun. All students did
• themselves proud and the events were enjoyed by
• staff and students alike. A huge thank you to our
• fabulous Sports Ambassadors who made running
• the event possible.



REWARDS DAY

• Our annual sports rewards day saw 106
• students being rewarded for their contribution
• to extra curricular activities throughout the
• year. The students were off timetable for the
• day and participated in a variety of different
• activities all led by external coaches. The
• students participated in basketball, rugby,
• cricket, karate and kickboxing throughout the
• day. It was a fabulous, fun and very tiring day
• for the students. We have some exciting sports
• planned for 2025!!



CAREERS FAIR

On Monday 20th January, we held our third annual Careers Fair, which saw a huge range of employers, post-16 providers and recruiters fill our sports hall with over 50 exciting stands and exhibits.

Building upon the preparatory work that had been carried out in tutor groups, students were able to arrive confidently, armed with a wide range of questions and enquiries to put to the visitors who had very kindly given of their time to attend the event. Feedback from guests highlighted how well students had engaged and taken advantage of the opportunity to find out more about the world of work, with one exhibitor commenting that students 'were engaging, polite and a pleasure to spend the day with... they asked insightful questions and shared some of their life experience with us'.

It was a true delight to witness students discussing everything from apprenticeship opportunities at Nissan, the skills and personal qualities required in the Armed Forces, the life of a professional make-up artist, the entry requirements to pursue a career in medicine, what makes a veterinary scientist, the career routes available within HMRC...the list was endless! As we regularly discuss with students in assemblies, securing a strong portfolio of grades at GCSE is obviously an important focus whilst at school, but equally as important is the development of interpersonal skills that will enable a young person to shine at an interview, assessment centre or recruitment opportunity when the time comes.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Rochester for organising another successful instalment of this event - stay tuned for news on further careers opportunities that are coming students' way in the coming months, including medical work experience, mock interviews and speed networking to name just a few.





Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA)



We are delighted to announce that the school has successfully achieved the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA), a nationally recognised accreditation that demonstrates our commitment to working in partnership with parents and carers.

This award is the result of 18 months of dedicated work, focusing on improving parental engagement in key areas such as attendance, communication, and student achievement. Through initiatives such as targeted parental meetings, improved communication strategies, and structured intervention programs, we have strengthened the home-school relationship, ensuring that parents and carers are fully involved in their child's education.

The LPPA accreditation is valid for three years, marking a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to engage families and further support student success. Moving forward, we will continue to build on these improvements to ensure that parental partnership remains at the heart of our school's strategy.

More information on the award, and what it could mean for our students and their families, can be found at the following link: <https://www.awardplace.co.uk/award/lppa>

