



## WELCOME BACK

Welcome to our first newsletter of the summer term; it's a delight to not only welcome our students and staff back to the Academy but also the sun and warmth of spring. This week has had a celebratory feel for a number of reasons: the Academy Awards Evening; forthcoming Eid celebrations; theatre trips and focused, resilient students.



As we move closer to Consett Academy's next performing arts production of Grease, the cast and crew were lucky enough to visit Darlington Hippodrome to watch a production of this electrifying musical. We have no doubt that there was a lot of singing and tapping along to the musical numbers and our performers will have undoubtedly picked up some ideas for their own roles on the stage.



Several Muslim students and staff in our community have been observing the month of Ramadan by taking part in 30 days of fasting. This usually means no eating or drinking from sunrise to sunset, as well as a focus on spiritual wellbeing. As one of the Five Pillars of Islam, observing Ramadan allows for Muslims to focus on more than just the fasting: self-discipline, spiritual renewal, studying the Qur'an and thinking about others – it is like a spiritual re-set to for the year ahead. The breaking of the fast at sunset (the iftar) becomes a special time with family.

Some staff at Consett Academy have spent a day this week observing fasting as part of Ramadan. Staff have chosen to do this to show support and raise awareness for our students and staff that participate in Ramadan. It has been an eye-opening experience for staff that have observed fasting. They have recognised the impact that no food and water can have on concentration and mental, physical and emotional fatigue – especially towards the end of the day. However, many positives have come out this experience, participants have spoken of renewed resilience and perseverance; they talk of a sense of pride in challenging themselves and that in overcoming hardships they feel empowered that they can overcome challenges in life.

The process has also created opportunities for the whole school community to discuss fasting during Ramadan and created a huge admiration for our Muslim community at this time, many of whom graciously offered their support and guidance to staff taking part. As the end of the holy month of Ramadan comes to a close, we would like to wish all of our Muslim community a happy Eid ul-Fitr or Eid Mubarrak!





On Wednesday night, we held our annual Awards evening. This long-awaited event had been rearranged due to poor weather (typical Consett climate!) but it was well worth the wait. Guests were welcomed with (non-alcoholic) fizz and canapes, and there was a lovely, celebratory atmosphere in the theatre as students were awarded with subject, attendance, achievement and Principal awards. To add to the evening's atmosphere, beautiful musical interludes were performed by Esme I and Lucy S. A thank you to Mrs Allan for arranging the evening, and to the staff that nominated and presented awards to the students. We would also like to thank Derwentside College who supported our Year 10 students in making the delicious canapes.





Our Year 11 and Year 13 students continue to work amazingly hard as they prepare for the last weeks of revision before their final GCSE and A-Level exams. Attending Easter holiday revision, breakfast study clubs, working lunches, after school Get Exam Ready sessions and their own revision is excellent exam preparation for them. It is also an important time for our Year 10 and Year 12 students, working hard on their vocational assessments. Their deadlines are fast approaching, and they are maximising their lesson time to get their best work completed. Well done to all of you and keep it up!

There has been a buzz around reading this week as we hosted a book fair. Ms Horth, our librarian, has hosted a book stand every break and lunchtime this week and students have enjoyed browsing and discussing the books on offer. Winners for the book raffle will be announced today. Finally, last night some of our students attended our Book Bistro. The students enjoyed having time with Bella and reading aloud. Feedback is that it was a calming way to read and engage with books.

