

YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

This week we warmly welcomed Year 6 parents to the Academy for our Year 6 open evening. It was a fantastic evening with all our departments displaying some of the amazing work which goes on in their subjects.

After a welcome assembly from Mr Urwin and some of the Senior Leadership Team, parents and Year 6 students were guided around the Academy by our wonderful student volunteers. They experienced ethical thought experiments in Philosophy and Religion; made their own keyrings in Technology; produced rainbow fish magic paintings in Science; experienced World War One trenches in History; created wonderful stories and bookmarks in English, and took part in a currency exchange in Enterprise. We also had an outstanding art display of our GCSE students' work.

Here is some of the feedback we received from parents and guardians who attended:-

- "Very impressed with what we saw"
- "Son is very excited by everything on offer"
- "Enjoyed the visit"
- "We feel confident to send our son to the Academy"
- "Really positive environment, it didn't feel as big as I thought it would"
- "Very reassuring the support for pupils"

A big thank you to those students from the Academy who supported the evening - we had over 100 students helping us with the event - from demonstrating skills and activities, to touring parents around the school. We were really proud of the way you conducted yourselves!



COLLABRATIVE LEARNING

We have started a new initiative around encouraging collaborative learning in our lessons. We would like to give the students more opportunities to work in pairs and groups in order to improve their engagement in lessons and ensure that their understanding of the topics is excellent. All students are sitting in pairs or groups which will support their learning and we are using a questioning technique called 'Think, Pair, Share' which gives the students time to think about their responses, then share them with their partner before the teacher asks for answers from the whole class. The aim of this is to ensure that the teachers can check the understanding of as many students as possible and to allow all the students to participate. Finally, we are asking students to really think about how they listen to each other. We have explored the fact that listening is much more than simply hearing what is being said but it also requires us to give our undivided attention to the speaker and if possible to look at the speaker as well. This is something we will be looking out for and praising in lessons. We will be introducing more and more collaboration as the year progresses.

YOUNG GUNZ ACADEMY

14 students from the Academy have signed up for a 6-week block of Strength and Conditioning Work at Core Fit, Consett.

The students will be working with strength and conditioning coaches to improve form and fitness and to improve their overall wellbeing and sports performance.

Week 1 was a killer of a session, focusing on squat technique, leading to lifting from a squat rack!



YEAR 10 FOOTBALL

The first fixture of the season saw our Year 10 football team play St Leonard's. After controlling much of the first half, two counter attacks saw St Leonard's go into half time two goals to the good. As Consett pushed trying to grab a goal back, they were again hit on the break, with St Leonard's grabbing a third, before Urwin and Castledene took the game back to 3-2. Straight from the kick-off following Consett's second goal, a long ball was played over the top, seeing St Leonard's score their fourth before, adding to their tally in the final minute with a 30-yard strike. Player of the match: Fowkes.

Next week, Year 10 travel to St Robert's to play in a round robin competition against the hosts and Park View school.



LIBRARY NEWS

There's already a lot going on in our school library. It is generally open most breaks and lunches during the week; information is available to students in the weekly tutor updates. We've been delighted to see so many students in the library to choose books for DEAR time!

In addition, Miss Horth also runs two after school clubs in the library each week, 3-4pm.

Tuesdays - QI (Quite Interesting) Club. This is a new club. We will be looking at a random topic each week and finding out all sorts of 'quite interesting' things. Next Tuesday's topic will be...pirates!

Thursdays - Creative Writing Club. This week involved using photo prompts to fire our imaginations. As you can see, the students really got stuck into this!

Next Friday we're looking forward to welcoming author Dan Smith to the Academy. Dan will be speaking to all of our Year 7s about his book *The Wall Between Us*, which they received before the summer holiday during their transition sessions here.



Year 7

A big thank you to those students who helped out at our Year 6 open evening; we were very proud of you all!

A massive congratulations to Annabel Moore, Jack Carr and Gracie Temple who have achieved over 300 positive points on class charts this week. An amazing effort in their lessons - we are really proud of them; keep up the good work! Don't forget you receive positive points for completing work to the best of your ability, answering questions in class and taking an active part in your lesson. Year 7 have the most positive this week out of all the year groups - let's keep it going!

Well done to tutor group 7.9 for their attendance this week, an outstanding 99.43%! It is vital that students attend the Academy every day to ensure that they are making maximum progress.

Year 8

Another good week for year 8 this week. We had 40 students supporting the Year 6 open evening on Monday, so a massive thank you to those students.

Lots of amazing learning has happened this week! In CDT, some of year 8 students have been making turning wheels; linked to recycling and the sustainability aspect of the curriculum.

Year 9

Congratulations to Abigail Preston and Reuben Turner for being the top two students in the year group on ClassCharts; they received lots of Golden Moments from their class teachers for their hard work in lessons - well done!

Our top tutor group for attendance is 9.3 with 95.43%. Remember, we want to students in every lesson so that they don't miss any learning.

At 2pm every day, students Drop Everything And Read (DEAR time). There is a wonderful range of books for our students to access. Please remember to bring your book in with you every day. If you need to borrow one you can always visit the library.

Mrs Davison would like to thank Kiera Watson and Finlay Cole for helping out in their science lessons by tidying the books and looking after the classroom - great Consett citizens!

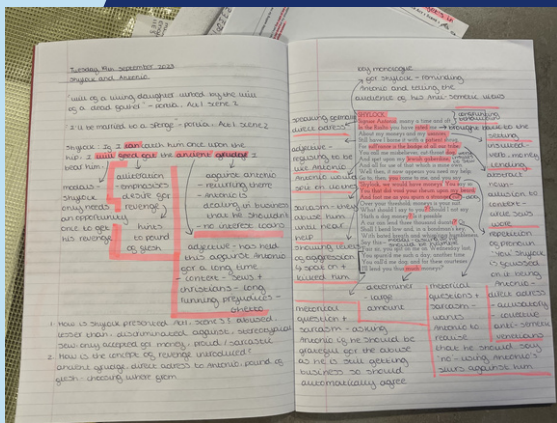
Year 10

We have enjoyed seeing students' excellent engagement and progress in their lessons this week. Students are working hard to ensure that they begin their KS4 courses in a positive way. We want to remind all students to make sure that every lesson counts, in order to achieve their very best.

Well done to the following students who gained the most positive points on ClassCharts last week: Sam Emery, Ellie-Jo Allaker, Summah Potter, Josh Forster, Rowan McMillan, Mason Wray, Emma Buckmaster, Kacey Jackson, Kieron Hindmarch and Ava Forster. Fantastic effort and attitude to learning - congratulations! Tutor group 10.8 had the best attendance of the week with an amazing 98.17%! Remember, it important to attend lessons to maximise your progress, the minimum target is 95%

Thank you to all of the Year 10 students who helped out during our Year 6 open evening - you represented your year group fantastically!

Year 11



Year 11 have had a busy start to the year in English Literature, which has stimulated some excellent debate and feedback in class. In the example shown, RW produced excellent work on *The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare. She annotated and analysed the use of language techniques within the identified quotes. She has developed answers to exam questions and produced a range of brilliant ideas - well done!

Sixth Form

This week, Year 13 were given a day to focus on their next steps. They attended a workshop about how to create an effective personal statement; researched possible university options and considered which courses or apprenticeships would be best-suited to them.

