

**LAST WEEK SOME OF OUR STUDENTS HAD AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT SOUTH AFRICA, WE HAVE 2 REPORTS ABOUT THIS TRIP WHICH WE ARE VERY EXCITED TO SHARE WITH YOU**

33 Students from Consett Academy, North Durham Academy and Wellfield School set off from Newcastle airport heading to Spionkop in South Africa. Several flights and a 5 hour plus mini bus ride and they arrived at their destination Spionkop Lodge.



The students soon bonded and you would never have realised that they were 3 separate schools. During the stay the students went to the local school where they supported in several projects.

Supporting in the classroom with up to 60 students in a class ranging from 4 years old to 16. Not only did they support but often led the lessons. These ranged from English to music which often led to dancing. The students also fitted new whiteboards and set up a WiFi Network.

The students also set about rejuvenating a vegetable garden in temperatures reaching 40° c along with repairing school desks and repairing the Jungle Gym climbing frame and swing.



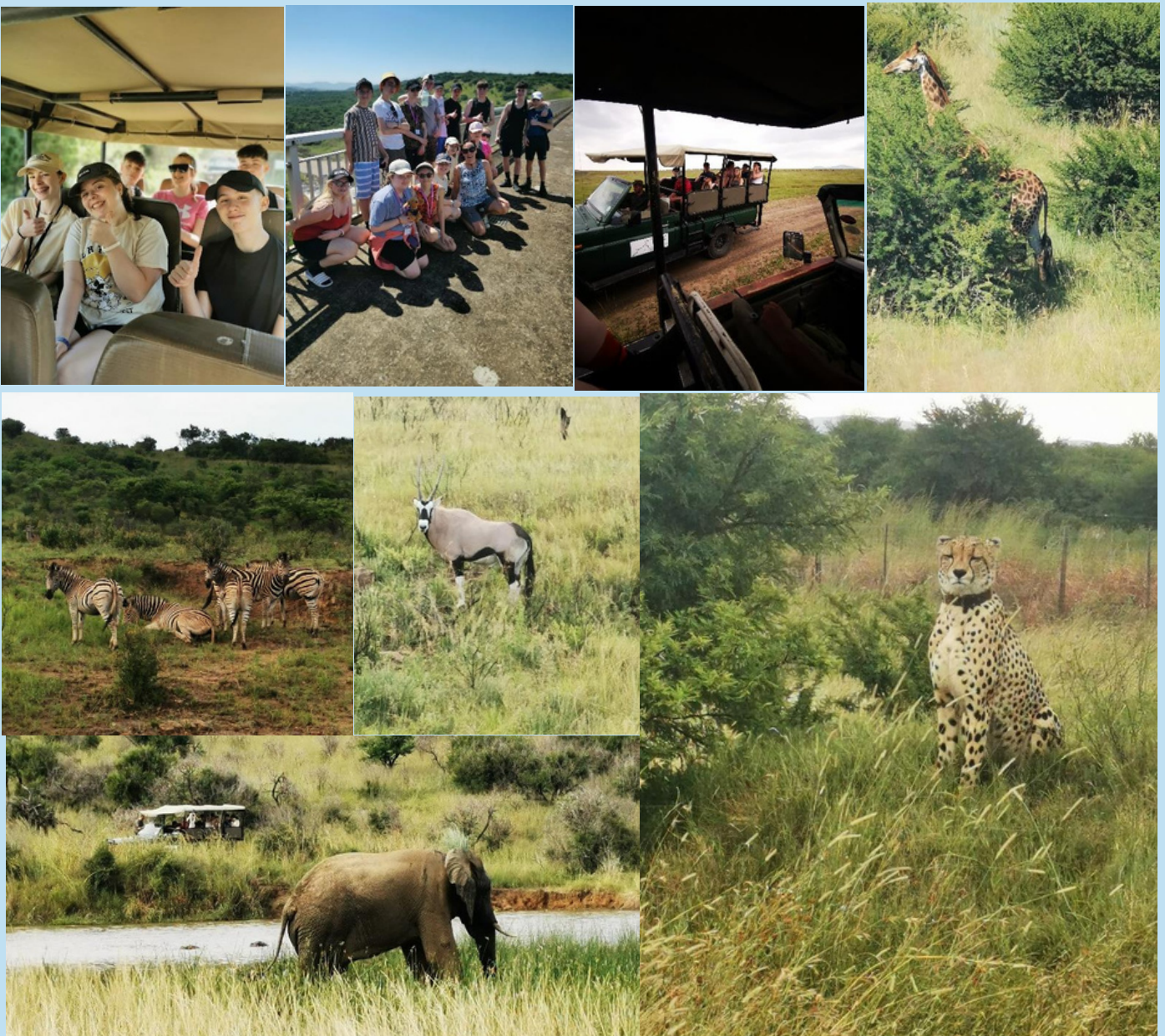
Along side the projects there was also time for rest and recuperation.

The students also cooked and washed up after meal time.

There were several meals out where some rather large steaks were consumed.



Two game drives one of which was Nambiti reserve which is one of the country's most exciting conservation initiatives. Many animals were seen including Elephant, Cheetah, Zebra, Giraffes and many more.



The students also took part in several sightseeing walks around the lodge.



They visited the battlefield of Spion Kop, this was a vital action during the second Boer War. On 24th January 1900 during the Second Boer War, in an area about the size of London's Trafalgar Square, the flat top of a South African mountain became the killing field for hundreds of infantrymen from three Lancashire regiments. Battle of Spion Kop was a disastrous British defeat. Winston Churchill, Louis Botha and Mahatma Gandhi were all present at the battle, and a stand at Liverpool's football stadium Anfield is named after it.



The Students from Schitsdrift school gave a farewell assembly for NCDAT students.



The care that NCDAT students showed for their African counterparts was heart-warming and humbling; lifechanging on both sides!

Finally, the NCDAT Students did their respective school credit, I was even approached by a shop owner while gift shopping who commented on how polite and well behaved all of our students had been. As the Consett Academy lead member of staff I couldn't be prouder of our students.

**Bring On South Africa 2026**

## **SOUTH AFRICA, BY LEXI R AND ELLA J**

On our first day in South Africa, the owner of Spionkop Lodge gave us the background behind Winkerton (the area of South Africa we were staying in). She then went on and told us how she started the school and played her part in Schitsdrift school as well as how Mrs Swinburn involved Wellfield, Consett and NDA to improve the school environment and quality of life for the children.

We then made our way to the school and were introduced to children aged 3-15. While we were there it opened our eyes to how little people in rural South Africa have.

During our second week in South Africa, we were lucky enough to experience a safari which we saw giraffes and hippos. Whilst we were away we went to 3 restaurants with the most gorgeous food (especially the burgers). This was a great opportunity for students from all 3 schools to get to know each other. Forming the connection with our peers from the other schools helped us when taking on many challenges in the school. This involved fixing the play equipment, painting classrooms, supporting and teaching the children, refurbishing desks and installing brand new whiteboards for classrooms.

Our life in South Africa was very different to at home as we had no access to phones and social media, were handwashing clothes, preparing meals for 40 people and hand washing all dishes after meals. It was a good laugh.

On our last day at the school, there was an assembly where each class performed a little something to say thank you.

We all had a good cry when leaving the school but the memories will last a life time. We are so grateful to have been given this opportunity and to help the school.

This would not have been possible without the amazing staff that accompanied us. A huge thank you to Mr Boucher and the other NCDAT staff for making it happen!

# LIBRARY NEWS

World Book Day (Thursday 7th March)

We're all looking forward to World Book Day next Thursday. Book tokens are available from Miss Horth in the Library and can be exchanged in most larger supermarkets and book shops for a one of the range of £1 World Book Day publications. Some members of the student librarian team have been busy picking their favourites - which will you choose? To celebrate World Book Day the Library is running a series of special activities and challenges throughout next week including a storytelling challenge, guess the book and random read roulette. Entrants will have the chance to win themselves a free book and a goody bag!

**WORLD BOOK DAY CHALLENGES!** #WorldBookDay

**1. Super Storyteller Challenge**  
(English lessons - check with your English teacher)

Can your class tell a good tale? Does your class have supercharged storytelling skills?

This challenge involves reading/performing a story out loud whilst being videoed. You should choose an appropriate short extract from a book (max. video length is 1 minute - no swearing/inappropriate content please) and imagine you are telling the story to an audience (try to vary your expression etc as much as possible). Videos to Miss Horth by 3pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March!

**WORLD BOOK DAY CHALLENGES!** #WorldBookDay

**2. Guess The Book**

Keep your eyes on screens around the Academy... Can you guess the famous book from the clues?

Entries to Miss Horth in the Library by 3pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

**WORLD BOOK DAY CHALLENGES!** #WorldBookDay

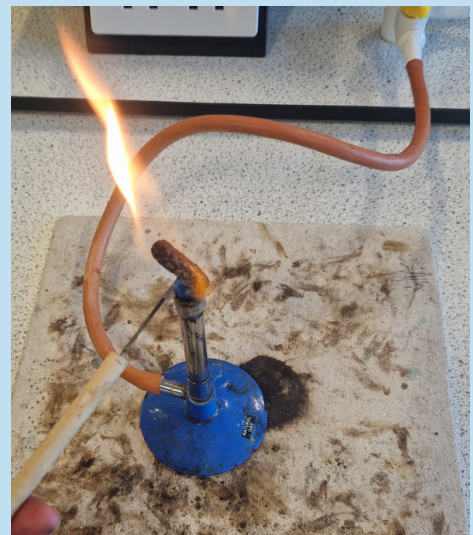
**3. Random Read Roulette**

Come to the Library and let the Random Read Roulette wheel choose the genre of your next reading book!

Entries to Miss Horth in the Library by 3pm on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March

# STEM CLUB

This week in STEM club we tested how much energy is in different foods. We tested a range of foods including wotsits, spaghetti, rice cakes, cereal and sweets to investigate how much energy that had in them. We burned each food sample under a bunsen burner and placed it under a boiling tube of water to calculate the temperature change of the water. The foods that changed the temperature of the water the most had the most energy in.



# SAVE THE DATE

## **Year 7 Parents Evening** **Monday 4th March**

Join us for an opportunity for parents to come along and discuss their child's progress with their teachers, this will be online and information has been sent out.





# meet the staff

## LEVI LISLE- SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

Hello everyone, my name is Levi Lisle and I'm the new Safeguarding Officer at Consett Academy. My role is new within the school and its purpose is to ensure that we maintain a safe and nurturing environment for our students. I oversee safeguarding concerns from pupils and also our teachers to ensure that the academy is a safe place to learn. I ensure that these concerns are dealt with professionally by following child protection procedures and that we provide the best outcome possible for the students involved.

I have come from a health and social care background, previously working with children and young adults who present challenging behaviour within a residential setting. I have always shown a passion in working with children and young people and therefore I wanted to progress my career within an education setting. I'm passionate about my job role and since arriving at the Academy, I have been keen to make a difference. It's been a pleasure getting to know the students and the fantastic team at Consett Academy.

In my own time I enjoy relaxing at home and chilling with my two cats! (I am cat mad!!). I love visiting nice restaurants and coffee shops, especially in new cities or countries.

# Introducing

## YELLOW JACKET AWARDS



### Mr Middleton's Best Effort Award

**Kiera J**

Fantastic effort in the mock exams so far. Tried really hard and showed resilience when it was getting difficult.



### Miss Veide Award Sixth Form student of the week

**Tiarna M**

Fantastic effort in the mock exams so far. Tried really hard and showed resilience when it was getting difficult.



### Mr Aldridge's Ambition Award

**Eloise R**

Constantly pushing herself to improve her answers and ensure that her work is of the highest level

**Sky D**

For showing inclusive community spirit and supporting a younger student who tripped on the stairs and ensuring their belongings were returned.



### Miss Yates' Praise Award

**Molly C**

Outstanding work in lessons and making excellent effort with all the tasks given to her.



### Mr White's Resilience Award All of Year 11

Year 11 students have demonstrated fantastic resilience in their first week of mock exams. They have attended revision sessions at 8am before their exams and then attended revision after school ahead of their exams the next day.





# YELLOW JACKET AWARDS



## Mr Hall's Respectful Award

**Ryan B**

Leads his peers with a quiet authority.  
Always helpful for all staff and  
students



## Miss Pye's Award Beyond25 Student of the week

**Joshua K**

Josh recently attended a school trip  
to South Africa. Josh demonstrated  
our core values when representing  
the academy, showing Resilience,  
Aspiration, Respect, Honesty and  
Tolerance.



## Mr Urwin's Head Teacher Award

**Cat W**

During this week I have been amazed  
by Cat, she has shown resilience, a  
positive effort and a mature attitude  
towards her mock exams during a  
very tough time- We are very proud of  
you Cat!



## SEND Superstar

**Marcus R**

Marcus is showing an excellent effort  
in lessons and a reduction of his SEN  
pass. Marcus is trying so hard and his  
resilience is shining through. Well  
done!



## Mrs Goodwin's Collaboration Award

**Sebastian R**

Great work in the collaborative task  
in Geography where students worked  
together to produce a perfect  
paragraph.



# SEN



## NEWSLETTER

### SEN Intervention

Intervention clubs are paused as Teaching Assistants are supporting Year 11 in their mock exams.

If you have any questions or query's. Please contact the following members of staff.

David Bains SENCO [d.bains@consettacademy.org.uk](mailto:d.bains@consettacademy.org.uk)

Sharon Forbes Assistant SENCO [s.forbes@ncdat.org.uk](mailto:s.forbes@ncdat.org.uk)

Katy Mewse Base Manager  
[k.mewse@consettacademy.org.uk](mailto:k.mewse@consettacademy.org.uk)

### SEN Clubs after half term

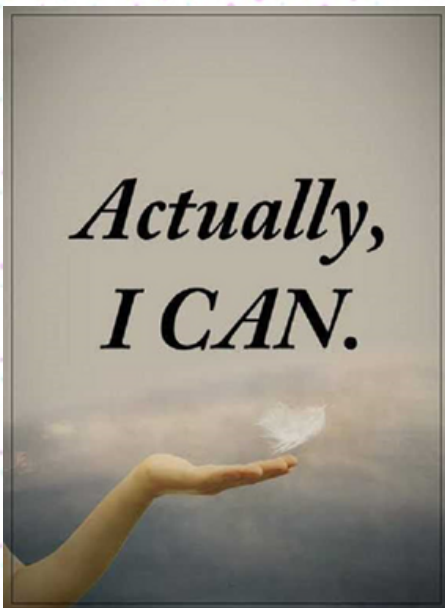
**Tuesday: Anxiety Art - Miss Stanhope and Mrs Devanney**

**Wednesday: Music Club - Mr Cowan  
Multi-Sports Club - Miss Stanhope and Mr Webb**

**Thursday: Board Games - Mr Leighton and Mrs Malpass**

**Friday: Inside out club - Miss Stanhope**

### Mindfulness over half term



#### Tips to reduce exam & revision stress



##### Reach out

These are unusual times! Often talking things through with a loved one will help



##### You time

Schedule downtime to do something you enjoy



##### Plan

Create a revision schedule but remember to include breaks!



##### Eat & drink well

Go for healthy food and stay hydrated



##### Shh!

Work somewhere where you can concentrate and put your phone down to avoid distractions



##### Zzz...

Try to get enough sleep and don't stay up too late!

# SUBJECT SPOTLIGHT

## PE DEPARTMENT



Welcome to the PE department newsletter! We would like to keep you up to date with all things sport, health and fitness at Consett Academy and how to broaden your knowledge in a variety of sporting activities.

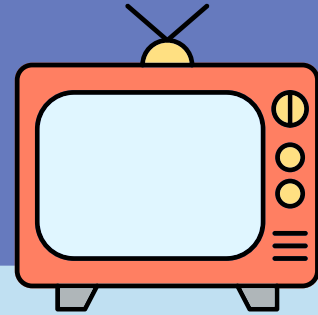
### IN THE NEWS

This week has been a successful one for Newcastle United for the men and women's teams. The men's team won against Blackburn Rovers on penalties, qualifying to the next round of the FA Cup. The women's team beat Portsmouth 2-1, qualifying to the final of the FA Women's National League Cup.



### WHAT TO WATCH

Triathlete Sam Holness is already a record-breaker. He's the first openly neurodivergent athlete to complete the gruelling Kona Ironman, and has his sights on becoming the first black professional triathlete. BBC Sport meets the remarkable sportsman breaking barriers at every level.



### WHAT ARE WE CURRENTLY LEARNING?

In core PE students are taking part in one of the below activities:

- Trampolining
  - Swimming
  - Football
  - Badminton
  - Fitness
- Dance In exam PE students are studying the below: Year 10: performance enhancing drugs Year 11: revision of all Health and Fitness topic in preparation for their mock exam.

COMING SOON

We are looking forward to starting our summer sports timetable after Easter half term which includes; cricket, rounders, tennis and athletics



### CAREER

**Personal Trainer, or fitness trainer, works with a variety of clients to improve their fitness, physicality and overall health. Their duties include evaluating a client's needs and goals, modelling workouts and making a workout schedule for clients.**

#### Monday:

Sixth-form football training

#### Tuesday:

Year 10 dance

Boys non-contact boxing

Badminton

Sixth-form football training

#### Wednesday:

Girls football training

SEND multi-sport

Year 7 and 8 boys football training

Sixth-form football training

**Wednesday:** Girls non-contact boxing

Girls football club

Year 7 & 8 boys football

**Thursday:** Dance Swimming

**Friday:** Year 11 football

Beyond  
25

# Heads of Year & Year Managers

## Year 7

Head of Year - Ms G Dodds  
t: 01207 507001 e: [GDodds@consettacademy.org.uk](mailto:GDodds@consettacademy.org.uk)  
Year Manager - Mrs L Thompson  
t: 01207 507001  
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SLT Link - Miss Goodwin  
[CGoodwin@consettacademy.org.uk](mailto:CGoodwin@consettacademy.org.uk)

## Year 8

Head of Year - Mr P Woodhouse  
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Year Manager - Miss C Collins  
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e: [CCollins@consettacademy.org.uk](mailto:CCollins@consettacademy.org.uk)

SLT Link - Mr Hall  
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## Year 9

Head of Year - Mr P Howell  
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Year Manager - Miss K Wynn  
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SLT Link - Miss Yates:  
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## Year 10

Head of Year - Mr P Dodd  
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Year Manager - Ms M Parker  
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SLT Link - Mr Middleton:  
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## Year 11

Head of Year - Mr N Elsander  
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SLT Link - Mr Urwin:  
[t.urwin@ncdat.org.uk](mailto:t.urwin@ncdat.org.uk)

## Sixth Form

Head of Sixth Form - Mrs C Veide  
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Deputy Head of Sixth Form - Mrs K Robb  
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e: [KRobb@consettacademy.org.uk](mailto:KRobb@consettacademy.org.uk)

SLT Link - Mr Urwin:  
[t.urwin@ncdat.org.uk](mailto:t.urwin@ncdat.org.uk)

**SEND/CO: Sharon Forbes: [s.forbes@ncdat.org.uk](mailto:s.forbes@ncdat.org.uk)**

**SLT Link for SEND: [i.middleton@ncdat.org.uk](mailto:i.middleton@ncdat.org.uk)**

**General SEND enquires will also be responded to on [SEN@consettacademy.org.uk](mailto:SEN@consettacademy.org.uk)**

