

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we complete our final week of this half term, I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to all parents and students for the high standard of uniform that our students are arriving to school in – they look incredibly smart, and I could not be prouder. Also, a thank you to all year 7 and year 11 parents, who have supported our evening events, this is really appreciated. We look forward to more opportunities over the coming year and cannot wait to welcome you all.

This half-term has been full in terms of extra-curricular activities and enrichment; we have also launched our House competitions, and it has been lovely to see students embracing these new challenges. A huge accomplishment has been achieving Eco-Status with Merit – well done to Mrs Lamont, Mr Franks, and our fabulous Eco-team! We have also had many careers opportunities; mental health sessions and external enrichment providers all of which have commented on how mature, polite, and welcoming our students at Newcastle Academy.

Also, this half-term we have held our Transition Roadshow visiting 7 of our feeder primary schools – all our primaries have welcomed us into their schools and the students we have met have been so polite, enthusiastic and asked lots of great questions – a special shout out to Goerge (Yr10) and Daisy (Yr8) who were amazing ambassadors for the academy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and would like to wish you all a lovely half-term break.

All the best,

Nicola Bromley-Smith
Headteacher

Senior Students

We are pleased and proud to announce our new Newcastle Academy Senior students: Shelly, Hope, George T, Sara, Millie, Alex, George E, Madison, Olivia, Jack, Renisha, Kaeside, Lexi-Jade and Dinuja and our Head students: Micha and James. These students have applied for this prestigious position because they want to make a difference and have the confidence to take a lead. We are so excited to work with them to make our academy even greater and watch them all shine. Well done all!



Headteacher Award

Congratulations to all of our students who have received a Headteachers award this term we are all very proud of them!



Open Events

We loved welcoming prospective students and their families to experience life at our school. It was great to see so much enthusiasm and excitement for the journey ahead. Thank you to everyone who joined us! Just a reminder that paper application forms must be returned by 31st October 2024 5pm and online applications completed by midnight on the 31st October 2023.



Performance

The students have been very busy in the food room since being back at school. Year 8 have completed their first practical with vegetable stir fry, Year 10 have been working on their bread skills and cinnamon rolls with cream cheese icing. Finally Year 11 have been practicing high skills dishes such as Baked Alaska and then presenting ready for their practical assessment later this year. Well Done Everyone, it's been a great start to food lesson at Newcastle Academy already



Y10 have been practicing their bread and knife skills to make Pizza and Chips. Y9 have been working on their knife skills as well as boiling and simmering to make Spaghetti Bolognese. Finally Y8 have been showing their understanding of food safety when making Chicken Burritos. Well done to everyone who has taken part in food lessons this week. Here are just a few pictures of the amazing work!



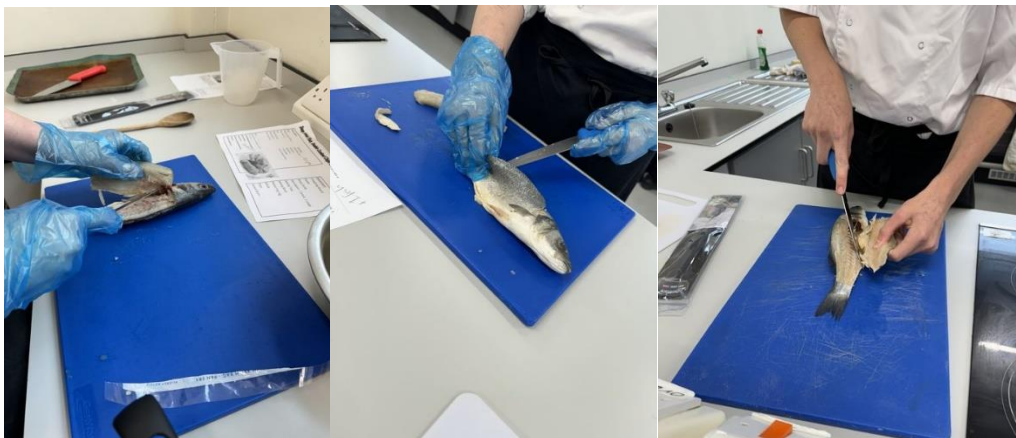
Some of the Year 7 students have been in the food room for their first practical lesson making Fruit Salad, showing their understanding of knife skills with the bridge and claw method. They even had a homework to practice washing up at home! Well done everyone!

Newsletter

October 2024



Well done to Lexi W, Libby S and Matt B in Year 11 who have been working with fresh fish this term for the first time! They have been practicing their filleting skills ready for their practical exams which start soon.

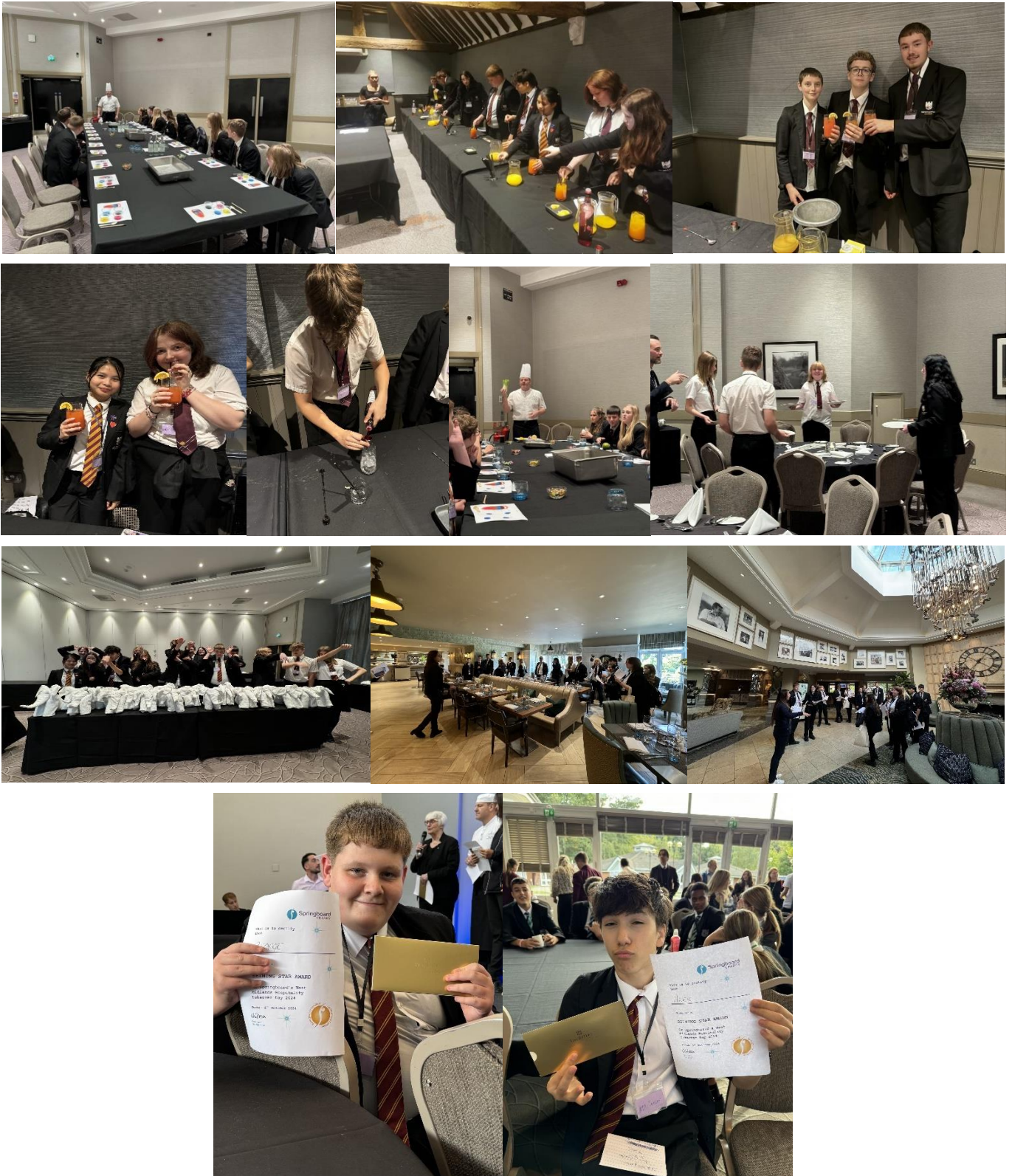


15 of our Year 10 and 11 Hospitality and Catering students went to The Belfry Hotel Golf and Spa Resort. They were invited to take part in a range of hospitality jobs within the hotel including a mocktail masterclass, chef sensory tasting, towel art and gala banquet waiter service. This was a fantastic opportunity to see the industry in action and they also met industry leads to talk about next steps. To top it off George T won a free round of golf on the Derby course and Alexandru T won a meal for 4 at the 2 Rosette award Ryder Cup restaurant!

#qualityfirstaspirations

Newsletter

October 2024



Newsletter

October 2024



First Cross Country Fixture of the Season!

A huge congratulations to all our students who competed in the first Cross Country fixture this term! We couldn't be prouder of how well they represented our academy.

Not only did our runners perform exceptionally, but they also showed incredible character, truly reflecting the values of our Aspire Mountain. Their resilience and courage shone through as they pushed their limits, and never gave up!

Each runner gave it their all, making every stride count! Whether they were leading the pack or pacing themselves for a strong finish, everyone demonstrated true heart and grit.

Well done, team, for making the academy proud!

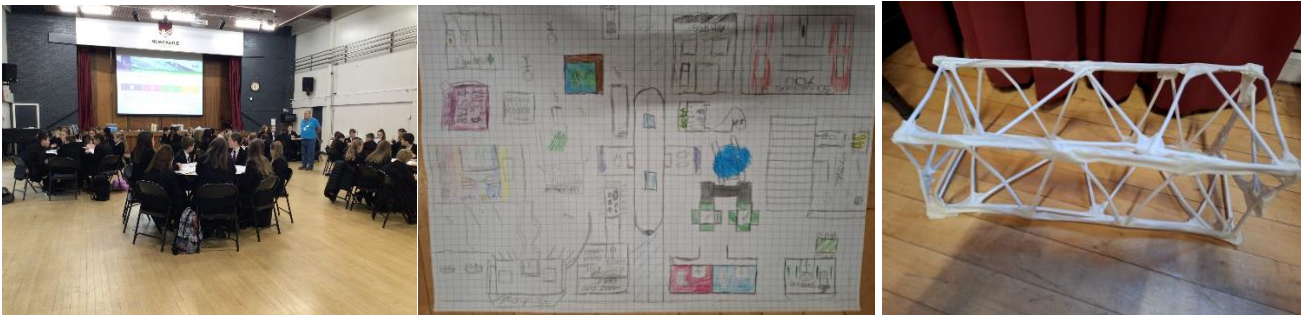


Epic Engineers at Work!

Last week, 60 of our Year 7 students had an amazing opportunity to participate in the HS2 'Epic Engineers' STEM workshop, delivered by the Smallpiece Trust!

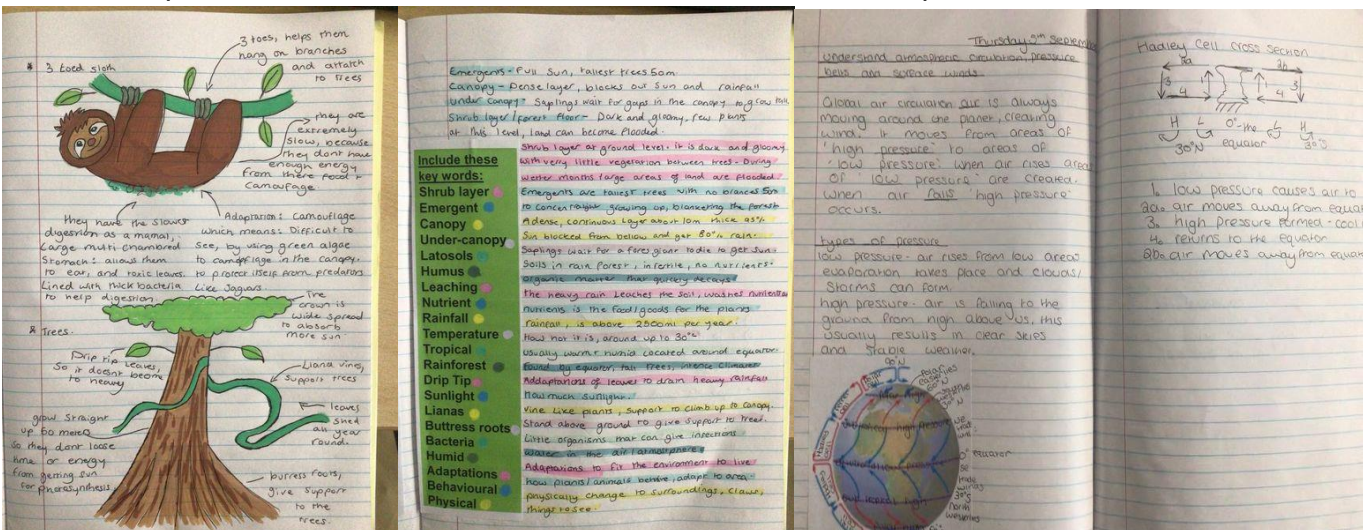
The challenges of the day included designing the train station of the future and building a railway bridge strong enough to hold the greatest mass. Our students truly put their resilience and creativity to the test, learning the power of teamwork as they worked together to overcome obstacles and "get unstuck" during the day's challenges!

A huge congratulations to our 'Epic Engineers' winners, Mollie-May and Carley-Rae!



Geography

Some excellent work from Myla Kitson in Year 11 on Tropical Rainforests - looking at plant and animal adaptations and from Olivia Tittensor in Year 10 on tropical storms!

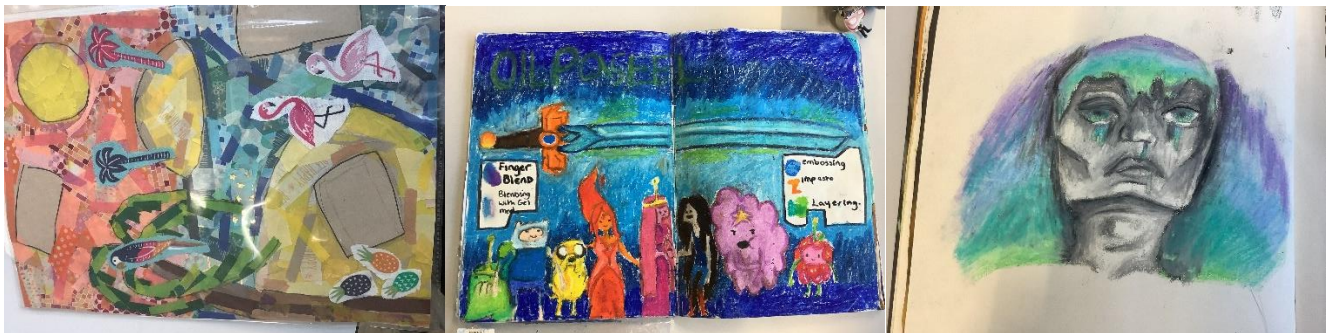
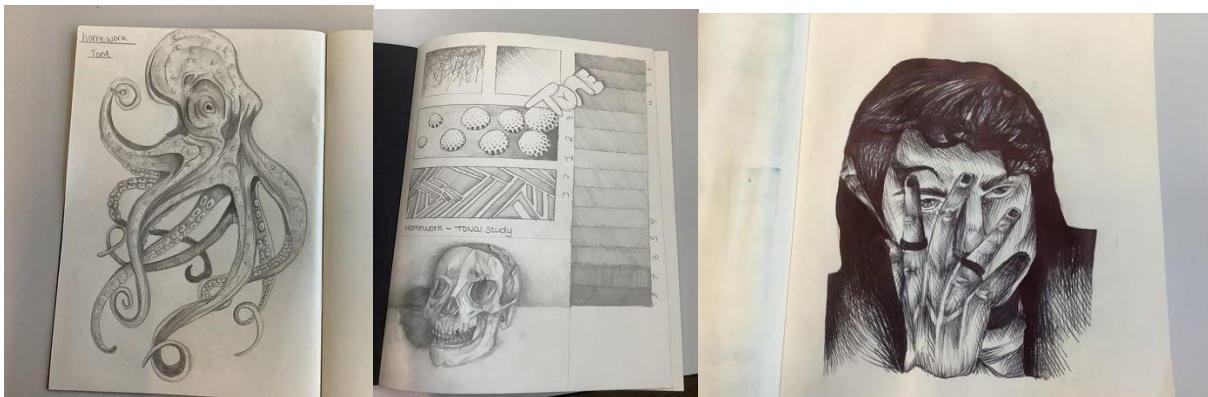


Art

The below photos showcase Year 10 students' skills development in art, focusing on the formal elements such as tone, texture, and colour.

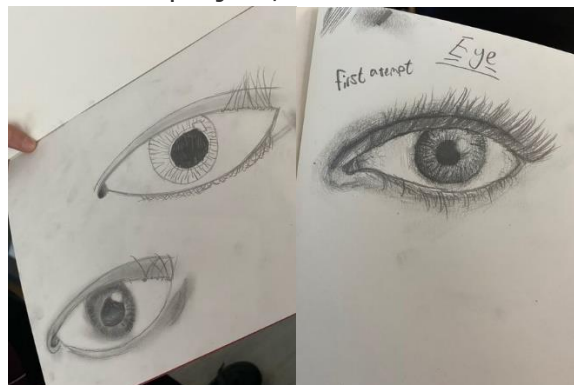
These images highlight their progress and creativity as they explore and master these essential artistic concepts.

Well done all!



Year 9 have had a great start to a new project on realism, They are focusing on creating realistic portraits

We cannot wait to see more from this project, Well done all!



Our Year 10 Art students are currently working on an exciting project—creating unique portraits of their pets using collage techniques!

They've been practicing cutting and pasting materials like magazine cutouts, coloured paper, fabric, and foil to add rich textures. By carefully observing photos of their pets and sketching key features, they're capturing their likeness beautifully.

This project also encourages collaboration, with students sharing ideas and techniques to create balanced, visually stunning compositions. The final artworks will be a wonderful testament to their hard work and creativity!



Creative Vision in Year 10 Photography!

Our talented Year 10 Photography students have been hard at work, creating their own mini studios and capturing stunning photographs inspired by the renowned artist David Gilliver!

Their creativity and attention to detail have resulted in a series of imaginative, thought-provoking images that truly showcase their unique perspectives and technical skills. Each student has brought their own artistic vision to life, drawing inspiration from Gilliver's distinctive style and pushing the boundaries of their expression.

Well done, Year 10! Your work is a fantastic example of what happens when creativity meets skill.



Science

Exciting Times in Science!

Some of our Year 7 students have been using Bunsen burners for the very first time as they work towards earning their Bunsen Burner Licence! This hands-on experience is helping them develop essential skills in working safely in the laboratory while building responsibility. We've also seen some amazing courage from those who embraced the challenge of working with an open flame!



Hands-On Learning in Biology!

Some of our Year 8 and Year 10 students have been getting up close and personal with the human heart – through dissection!

By applying the threshold concepts they've learned in class, they were able to identify the different structures of the heart and understand how it all works. It's amazing to see their curiosity and knowledge come together in such a practical way!

Well done to all our budding scientists!



Newcastle academy awarded a prestigious Eco-Schools' Green Flag

This academic year, our students received international accreditation for their exceptional work in promoting sustainability and raising environmental awareness amongst their peers.

The Eco-Schools programme, established in 1994, is now implemented in over 70 countries worldwide. In 2023-24, more than 1.4 million pupils attended an Eco-School in England.

Our students used Eco-Schools' tried-and-trusted seven-step framework to create positive change. Initially, a pupil-led Eco-Committee was established. This committee took responsibility for spearheading their school's environmental initiatives, with support from Mrs. Lamont and Mr. Franks. They first conducted a thorough review of their school environment and curriculum, before developing a year-long plan of action.

Their Action Plan focussed on 3 key issues: Biodiversity, Eating Healthy and School grounds and activities included building bird and bat boxes, to be installed in the school grounds, building a pallet herb planter; filled with homegrown herbs to be use in food lessons, creating a sustainable source of fresh herbs to use. And our plant adoption scheme, where all class rooms/ staff have their own plant, research plants have positive impacts of metal health in work places! In addition, the students ran a pre-loved clothes stall, on community day, made bird feeders, look after the green spaces and much more during the year. These activities were thoughtfully selected to increase environmental awareness, bolster our academy's sustainability, and make meaningful contributions to global conservation efforts.



Speaking about their achievements, Mrs Lamont said, 'we have an amazing group of students who are in our Eco-Club, they generate their own ideas and energy required to achieve green flag status!'

The feedback from 'Eco-schools' was brilliant! 'It has been an absolute joy assessing your application and learning about the impact you've had, not only on our planet but also on the young people you work with every day. We can't emphasize this enough—take great pride in your achievements, and congratulations on your Eco-Schools' Green Flag with Merit 2024!'

Eco-Schools England Manager, Adam Flint, said: 'The Eco-Schools' Green Flag is an international benchmark that demonstrates a commitment to fighting climate change and high standard of sustainable practice. Students and staff who earn this award deserve recognition for their dedication toward protecting our planet. Every day, they demonstrate that each of us can contribute to making our planet a better, more sustainable, place.'

To learn more about Eco-Schools head to www.eco-schools.org.uk

Join us, make a difference!

Eco- Club - Tuesdays 4.00-4.15 p.m. C19 or outside
Eco-Dots- Thursdays 1.00-1.20 p.m. Library or outside



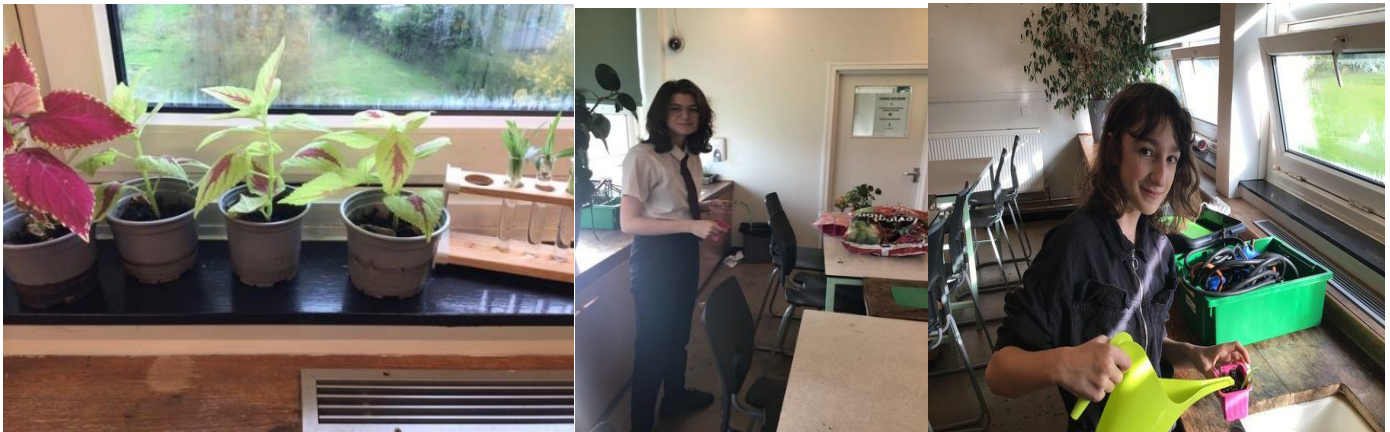
Newsletter

October 2024



Here is a glimpse of what our Eco-Club have been doing!

Eco-Club members have been busy planting, producing cuttings, and repotting plants as we extend the academy's plant adoption scheme to welcome our new staff!



They were also hard at work in the front garden! Together, they tidied up fallen leaves, weeded around our bee-friendly lavender plants, and even harvested some beautiful crab apples for our next Eco- Club activity for the first week after 1/2 term! Brilliant teamwork!

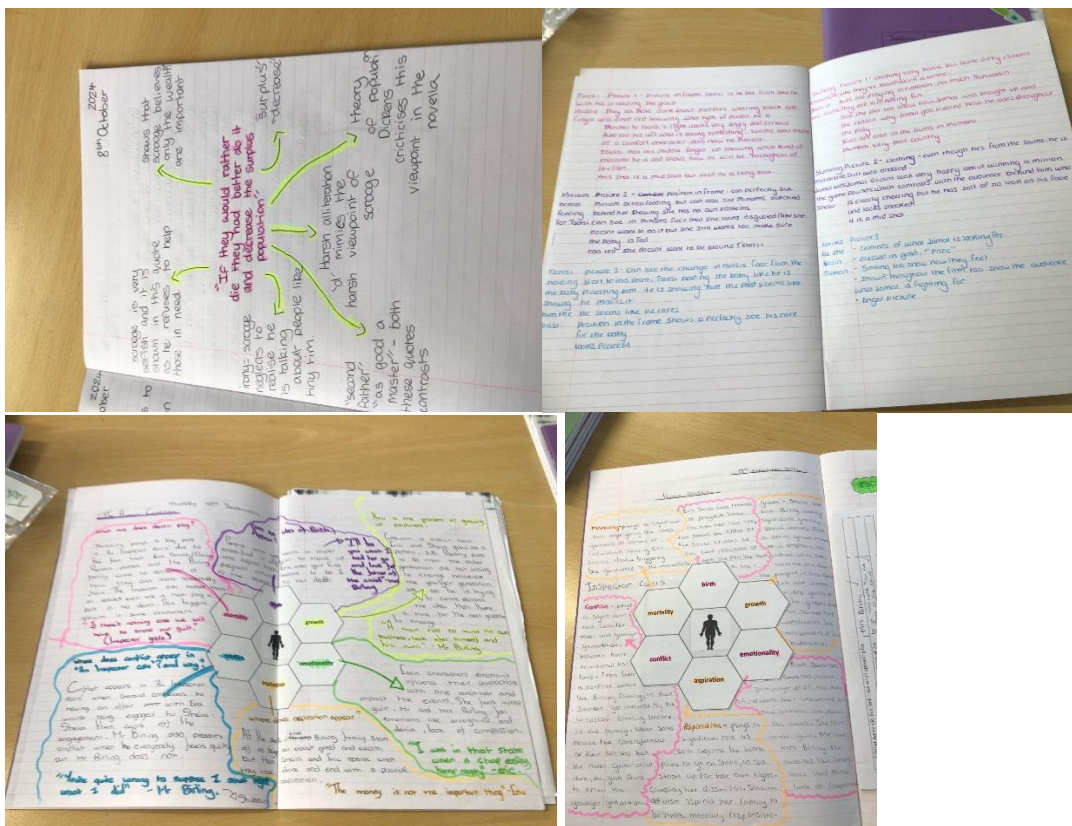


English

Our Year 11 students have been diving deep into literature and film analysis! In English, they've been exploring *An Inspector Calls* and discussing the human condition, focusing on key concepts and themes. It's fantastic to see their analytical skills developing!

In Film Studies, students are revising notes from the films they studied last year, preparing themselves for upcoming assessments with a strong foundation of knowledge and understanding.

Great work, Year 11! Keep up the focus!



Competitions

Poetry Writing Competition – Round 1 Results!

Our talented students have just completed Round 1 of the poetry writing competition, where they were tasked with writing a 100-word poem on a relevant and meaningful topic for their year group. The creativity and depth of thought were amazing to see from both houses!

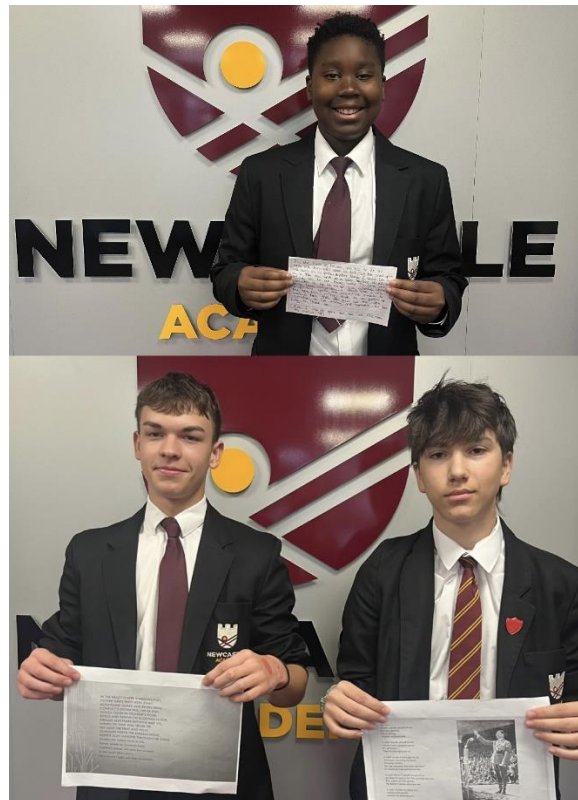
Congratulations to Honour for taking the win in this round!

Scores on the doors:

● Honour: 230 points

● Positivity: 200 points

Well done to everyone who participated, and keep your pens ready for the next round.



A huge shoutout to all the students who took on the challenge of redesigning the house logos for the upcoming academic year! Your creativity and enthusiasm have been truly inspiring, and we are so proud of everyone who participated.

- House Honour submitted an impressive 45 entries.
- House Positivity wasn't far behind with 40 entries.

Special congratulations to these two standout students whose designs will officially represent their houses this year.

Both houses have showcased their incredible talent, but there's still plenty more to come as we head into the next round of challenges.

Total scores:

- Honour has earned a total of 225 points
- Positivity has earned a total of 200 points.

Let's keep that house spirit alive!

Which house will take the lead next? Stay tuned, and keep cheering for your teams!



Attendance Matters!

Can my child be in school?			When can my child return to school?		
Cough, Cold or Sore Throat No need to stay off unless they have a temperature	Vomiting No need to stay off if a one off incident but school should be informed	Hand, Foot & Mouth No need to stay off but school should be informed	High Temperature (38°+) When temperature has returned to normal	Chicken Pox When all spots are crusted over	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode
Slapped Cheek No need to stay off but school should be informed	Head Lice No need to stay off but school should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school should be informed	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Ringworm Once treatment has started	Covid-19 Three days after a positive test result
Conjunctivitis or Cold Sores No need to stay off but seek advice from a pharmacist	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school should be informed		Measles Four days after rash has developed	Ear Infection Remain at home until temperature has returned to normal	Impetigo When lesions are crusted and healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics

Logos of partner schools: Windsor Academy Trust, Rivers Primary Academy, and others.



As you are aware, it has been a difficult few years for schools due to covid restrictions. This has had a massive impact on children’s education and mental health. With this in mind, it is imperative that we strive to improve pupils’ attendance at our school.

Why school attendance and punctuality are important

Going to school regularly and arriving on time is important for your child’s future as it will enable them to achieve to the best of their ability and gain the GCSE grades they require for their future chosen career path. As well as this, going to school helps to develop social skills, life skills, cultural awareness, and friendships.

Impact of absences

17 days absent from school in a year could mean a drop in a GCSE grade within all subjects.

Missed number of days	Missed number of sessions	Missed number of weeks	Missed number of lessons
1	2	0	5



3	6	0.5	15
5	10	1	25
7.5	15	1.5	35
10	20	2	50
12.5	25	2.5	65
15	30	3	75
17.5	35	3.5	90

Impact of lateness

Over a school year –

5 minutes late every day = 3 days absent

15 minutes late every day = 10 days absent

30 minutes late every day = 19 days absent

Pupils arriving late miss valuable teaching and learning time and it can contribute to them becoming anxious.

Help and support

School staff are committed to working with parents to ensure any problems are dealt with straight away in order for pupils to feel happy and safe and achieve to the best of their ability. If parents have any concerns relating to attendance or lateness that they wish to discuss, please contact Mrs Priya (Attendance Officer).

To support the school in our commitment to improve school attendance and punctuality, we have employed an independent Education Welfare Service – VIP Education who will provide advice and guidance to the school, parents, and pupils. If you wish to discuss any concerns, please contact the school office who will provide you with their contact number.

Attendance and punctuality reminders

Reporting absence

Please contact the school office by 9.00am on the first morning of each absence. If no reason is provided the absence will be unauthorised on the attendance register.

Medical appointments

We expect parents to make medical and dental appointments for their children before or after school or during the school holidays whenever possible. If this is not possible, confirmation of the appointment will be required prior to authorising the absence. If no evidence is provided, the absence will be unauthorised.

Children are expected to attend school prior to the appointment and parents are expected to return their children to school following the appointment. If your child does not attend school before or after the appointment the absence will be unauthorised.



Newsletter

October 2024



Holidays

Pupils have 13 weeks holiday each academic year. Family holidays should be avoided during term time.

Arriving on time

Students are expected to arrive at 8.35am and school ends at 3.15pm.

The morning register is taken at 8.40 am. Pupils arriving to school after this time will receive a late mark on the attendance register.

Attendance policy

Further information on our school's attendance procedures can be found at www.newcastleacademy.org

We thank you for your continued support with attendance. If you have any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate our attendance officer, Mrs Priya or your child's house leader.

