

# NEWSLETTER

THE DUCHESS'S COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, ALNWICK



SPRING 2013

## Headteacher's Report

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. As I write this there seems no sense that Spring has arrived after what has felt like a cold and challenging winter!

Our New Build work continues apace. The new site has been confirmed and discussions are moving forward on numbers of rooms, study areas and outdoor facilities. The potential for all of us to be housed in one modern building on one site is very exciting. At the same time we are trying to engage all parties in conversations about extra Special Needs provision for Alnwick and vocational / work related facilities. Both of these are

needed for our community in order to prevent such long journeys for some of our most vulnerable young people.

Trying to explore design and accommodation for a new school at a time when government is making so many changes to the curriculum is very difficult. Changes to GCSEs and A Levels will once



Continued.../

again provide a significant work load for all my colleagues. For parents it will generate unease as courses and ways of examining are constantly changing. To increase the degree of challenge, especially around the C/D grade boundary is going to provide a very big debating point. Our present Year 10s will be the first year group to experience 'all or nothing' exams at the end of Year 11. We will be welcoming back 'mock exams' because of this. We all have a responsibility to make sure everyone takes these seriously. Our parents of Year 12 will be the first to see no January modules in Year 13 adding extra pressure to the end of Year 13! Nothing ever stays the same (especially in schools) but the next few years are going to need some clear and concise communication between parents / students / school. My deepest concern is how the press will explore the changing grading system and how empathetic they will be to the possible grade deflation after decades of what they perceive as grade inflation.

Parent communication has always been of importance to us. We are constantly reviewing areas such as Consultation Days, Parents Evenings, Website info, use of E mail, Parent Mail etc. With the ever

increasing use of 'virtual' communication, and the wish for direct, real time access to school and individual teachers we are in the process of reviewing how we allow better contact with subject teachers without generating something that is unsustainable. More on this in the summer term.

We continue to challenge ourselves in respect of academic standards. Ofsted, League tables and our own parental surveys regularly tell us we are moving in the right direction. We can only do this with your continued support.

Finally always good to end with the extras that we really do enjoy providing. Year 9 enrichment afternoons continue to flourish as do our sports teams, our music and our arts. Numerous experiences are available for our young people. Italy has just been, China is yet to come. We would like to know what other experiences you would like us to offer. We never consider ourselves to be the final article and your ideas would be much appreciated.

Hope you have a good Easter break

  
Maurice Hall Headteacher

## GREAVES GRINDLE

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## NEW MEMBER OF STAFF Miss Jayne Anderson

**I am a newly qualified teacher having graduated from Northumbria University in 2012, after a previous career as a physiotherapist, currently teaching Health and Social Care, Children's Play, Learning and Development and Psychology.**

As I pause for a moment to write this I realise this year is flying by! I am proud to already feel part of a very successful and dedicated Design & Technology department, and I am feeling very settled and well supported by the team.

Some of the highlights so far have been working alongside Hillcrest Care Home to promote a more 'real' experience for our Year 12 students. We are currently looking at more ways we can do this with the Alzheimer's Society due to visit next month and a visit to Teesside University for a Discovery Day in the works.

The Duchess's Community High School has excellent community links and it was a pleasure for me to bring back an ex-student to talk about her experiences working as a Mental Health Nurse. I feel privileged to be part of such a lovely school that students want to come back to!

About me: I was born and raised in the region and attended Dame Allans Girls School in Newcastle where my passion for sport and the performing arts was



developed. I went on to attend York St John University to complete a degree in Physiotherapy and after a few months of travelling around Australia and Asia, I returned to a job in the NHS. It became apparent very quickly that I was not in my dream job role and I applied for the PGCE at Northumbria University.

After a year of hard work I was offered the job at DCHS and the rest as they say, is history!

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# Will your son or daughter be applying to higher education?

**Although it could be four, or more, years before your child may move on to higher education the more research and planning you do, the better informed you will be and the greater support you will be to your child in assisting them to make the most appropriate choices.**

Higher education means studying for qualifications such as first degrees, higher national diplomas or foundation degrees, amongst others. Students taking higher education courses are usually aged 18 or over. Many courses take place in universities, but plenty are also taught at higher education colleges, specialist art institutions and agricultural colleges. Your son or daughter can choose to study different courses depending on their preferences. There is a huge variety of courses available and it is constantly changing.

## Here are some good reasons for choosing higher education.

- Many higher education courses offer a vocational programme that is directly related to particular work areas, such as accountancy, sports science and teaching.
- A higher education qualification is essential for some careers like medicine, chartered engineering and architecture.
- A degree or HND can improve your son or daughter's chances of getting a fulfilling job with good financial rewards.



- Universities and colleges bring together students from a variety of backgrounds. This interaction can strengthen understanding of different cultures and beliefs.

- Higher education develops important transferable skills, such as numeracy, communication and information technology, which can give your son or daughter an edge in the fast-changing world of employment.
- Undertaking a higher education course gives applicants time to fully consider their future career.

Choosing what they want from higher education takes research and planning, from starting to think about what they want to study, to planning what to take with them.

Visit [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) for all current and accurate information. Look at the entry profiles for comprehensive information about individual courses and institutions, including statistics and entry requirements. Entry Profiles are found on Course Search.

## Student Finance

Students from England won't have to pay any tuition fees up front and will be able to apply for a Tuition Fee Loan from Student Finance England to cover the full cost of their tuition fees. There's also support towards living costs, including a Maintenance Grant (which is based upon household income and is not paid back) and a Maintenance Loan (which has to be paid back). Extra help is available for students with children or adult dependants, a disability, long-term health condition, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty. Increasingly, many courses at various institutions offer scholarships and bursaries – look out for these on the individual university websites.

Students from England looking for more information should visit [www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.gov.uk/studentfinance)

### Unistats:

A website for students who want to research and compare subjects and universities before deciding where to apply. Students can also look at student satisfaction ratings and explore the figures about getting a graduate job after completing a course. Visit the Unistats website: [unistats.direct.gov.uk](http://unistats.direct.gov.uk)



## Pastoral Support for Service Students

The Pupil Premium allocated to Service Students at the Duchess's Community High School is used to provide a Pastoral and Learning Mentor in school. Support is available to students and families who may experience additional stress through deployment, transition to and from schools and the impact on education through increased mobility...

The Pupil Premium for Service Children is allocated to a child who lives with a member of the armed forces. That could be a parent, step-parent, parent's civil partner or the person with parental responsibility. If your child is entitled to the pupil premium and you have not notified your school then please contact us so they can benefit from receiving the support available.

The support Pip Gibb-Kirk, our Pastoral Learning Mentor, can provide varies and is tailored to each student's needs. The priority is that each student is helped to achieve their full academic potential, recognising that their individual wellbeing is of equal importance. Please contact Pip through Main School Reception by telephone on 01665 602166 if you would like more information.

We will be taking part in Reading Force this year, a reading scheme introduced for Forces family and friends. Last year two students took part in the initial pilot scheme, Amy Laurenson, Year 10 and Amie Morgan, Year 9. Both students won prizes for the Scrapbooks they entered into the competition and were recognised by the scheme's Project Manager by personal letter for their contributions.

Good luck to those who choose to take part in the scheme this year.



## A Visit from Newcastle University Students

Newcastle University students came to visit two Year 9 Geography classes to explore the interest in the subject of Town Planning, which they are studying. This was a great opportunity to bring real life Geography into the classroom.

Amy, Ben, Mike and Jen, all fifth year Town Planning students, wanted to see how much the class knew about their subject and if they felt it was important for young people to have a say in decisions that affect their local area.

With an overwhelming majority, the Year 9 pupils felt it was very important stating 'I think it is important because we are the ones who have to grow up there' and 'because anything that happens is likely to have a direct effect on us'.

The Newcastle University students are using the opportunity to inform their research which could see an engagement programme set up to involve young people in learning more about their local area and

to enable them to get involved in local town planning issues.

This visit offered year 9 pupils the opportunity to get involved and experience real-life town planning topics, bringing a new dimension to their Geography lessons.



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# The School Library

During our Federation's Year of Reading, this is a good time to focus on the role of the library and its importance in school. This role is well summed up by the Department for Education in the foreword to its publication "School libraries: making a difference":

**"The school library is the heart of the school, which itself has learning at its core and good libraries can empower the learner. The resources in a library can allow our imaginations to run free, introduce us to new experiences and promote access to knowledge and enjoyment."**

The report also concludes that **"School libraries can have a positive impact on academic achievement...."**

(School libraries: making a difference, DfES, 2004.)

So the role of the school library is really two-pronged: to develop students' information skills, in order to help them become true independent learners with responsibility for their own learning, and to foster a love of reading so they also develop into lifelong readers.

School libraries are so important because this is the one time in people's lives when everyone can be given access to these facilities. Once into adulthood, access to public libraries can be difficult, depending on where you live, your working hours etc, especially in these times of library cutbacks and closures. School therefore gives us the perfect and unique opportunity



to engage with young people and enthuse them about books, reading and information.

In the 21st century young people need a whole host of literacy and information literacy skills. The library can play a significant role in fostering these skills in lots of different ways:

- getting the right book to the right person at the right time
- valuing the students as individuals and giving them access to reading materials tailored to their needs – both for study and leisure
- exposing students to a wide range of appropriate and attractive books and other resources
- connecting readers to other readers (for example through reading groups)
- providing a safe and secure environment with advice freely available
- teaching them information and study skills so they can make the best use of print and on-line resources

At the Duchess's High School we celebrated World Book Day on March 7th with local author Dan Smith visiting to talk to various groups of students. We recently celebrated National Libraries Day by participating in the national Guinness World Record Attempt for simultaneous story writing.

A very lively event took place at lunchtime in the Library. Events like this help to maintain the profile of reading in the school.

## Photography

Students in Further Enrichment Photography have been developing a wide range of exciting work, such as studying the work of Photographers from Ed Weston to Martin Parr, creating still life work, portraiture and photo stories.

Students have recreated classical paintings to give them a contemporary spin, created photomontages and experimented with combing text and images.

Throughout all this there has been an emphasis on teamwork, responsibility and reflection.

Students were asked about what they had enjoyed the most about Photography and answers ranged from learning about framing Photoshop, lighting, and photo collage, to working in a group, meeting new people and making new friends.





**On a late cold Thursday evening in February, 23 excited Sixth Form Students and 3 equally eager staff (Sheila Coull, Mike Skinner and Carol Lawrence) stood waiting to be taken by coach to Edinburgh airport to begin the 'Grand Tour' of Italy.**

Having changed planes at Gatwick we eventually touched down in Rome in the early afternoon of 15th February, whereupon we had our first tantalising glimpses of the wonders of Rome, during the short coach journey to the hotel. In the evening we had our first meal at the La Faginetto's restaurant welcomed by the enthusiastic and convivial owner, known to all school groups as Super Mario.

The next day –Saturday- found us standing in amazement at the vastness of the ruins of the Roman Forum and the Palatine Hill, as we imagined Rome in the days of the Imperial Empire. The huge statues and ancient Roman relics seen

during our afternoon visit to the Capitoline museum were equally impressive and awe inspiring. Many a wish was made and coins thrown when later in the evening we had found our way to the Trevi Fountain.

Sunday found us amid the crowds visiting the Colosseum, again admiring the vastness of the place and the labyrinthine remains of the rooms beneath the arena floor and trying to imagine what horrific sights those ancient stones had witnessed and what cries from both gladiators and spectators had echoed around that huge amphitheatre. Our afternoon walk took us past the other most impressive site of entertainment in Ancient Rome – The

Circus Maximus – as we made our way along the river Tiber to the Pantheon - an outstanding example of Roman architecture and engineering. Our long walk was followed by a refreshing visit to one of the best known ice cream parlours in Rome, frequented by Italian politicians, so we were told. As darkness fell we returned to central Rome to see famous monuments of the Eternal City illuminated at night.

The following day was an early start with a visit to The Vatican City. Many found the vastness of St Peter's Square and the splendour of the Basilica overwhelming. A few braved the 320 step climb to the top of the dome where their efforts were rewarded with spectacular views over Rome. The highlight of the afternoon was the visit to the Sistine Chapel and seeing the ceiling



decoration painted by Michelangelo. The visit had been preceded by a guided tour of the Vatican museum. In the evening the students enjoyed a meal at the Hard Rock Café followed by a walk to the famous Spanish steps.

Tuesday we were travelling again, heading south to Sorrento. En route we made a brief visit to the beautiful and





peaceful Benedictine Abbey which is situated on the high rocky hill of Monte Cassino, the site of bitter fighting during the 2nd World War.



Having enjoyed a restful night in our new hotel, we spent the following day 'roaming' (pardon the pun!) amid the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum. It was amazing to see 2 Roman towns – with shops, villas, theatres, amphitheatre, baths, forum and the remains of inhabitants - frozen at the moment they were completely and tragically engulfed by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in August 79 AD.

Thursday morning saw us unexpectedly climbing to the summit of Mt Vesuvius itself where a very informative guide pointed out the most recent lava flows, explained the various rock formations and held us captivated with his description of the formation of the crater and the various eruptions and their effect on the surrounding area. Thursday afternoon and we were on our way to Naples and the Archaeological Museum, where we could better appreciate the original intricate mosaics and beautiful wall paintings taken from the villas of



Pompeii, Herculaneum and Stabiae. Those of us sitting in the front of the coach also had an interesting education in the art of Neapolitan driving!

The weather was unkind to us on the last day – wet and cold – but it did not detract from the enjoyment of seeing the picturesque, cliff-hugging towns as we were driven along the winding coastal road to Amalfi where time was spent either on the beach or in the shops looking for souvenirs.

All too soon it was Saturday and we were on our way home flying to Newcastle via Gatwick and Heathrow with memories and newly formed friendships that will last forever.

**Finally our thanks go to Mary Rutledge and Neale Brown whose hard work in**

**the organisation of the trip made the experience so successful.**

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# Exam Preparation

**As you will be very aware, the main exam series is nearly upon us. Preparation is the key to success in exams. Some courses contain a coursework or controlled assessment element which can significantly boost overall grades. You should ensure that this has been completed to the best of your ability before you enter the written exams.**



**During the weeks leading up to the exams, you must begin preparation.**

**Following the tips below can alleviate stress and panic.**

- Start early – there is no time like the present and the earlier you start the more you can get done.
- Find out when, where and how you work best – are you an early bird or a night owl? Can you work in your bedroom, dining room, on the sofa? Do you work well alone, in a pair or in a group?
- Plan your revision – set up a revision timetable for evenings and weekends and then for whole days during exam leave. Don't forget to include breaks and treats to keep you going.
- Condense and summarise key concepts and topics – try to vary your techniques

too. This could include mind maps, flash cards, voice recording etc.

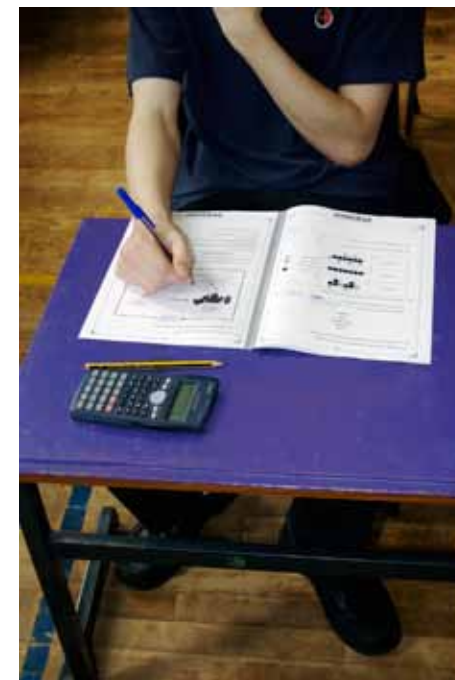
- Use past papers and mark schemes from the exam board – learn instructions you may be given, practice timings, look at how the paper is marked and the different types of questions that can come up.
- Pay attention in lessons – teachers know how the exam boards allocate marks and will be giving out lots of hints and tips for the exams in lessons. Ask questions too.
- Attend extra revision classes where possible.
- Buy a revision guide – class teachers will be able to guide you about what to buy, they may even have some for sale within school.
- Alternate between easy and difficult topics and subjects – this will help you to stay focused and motivated.

- Revise the more difficult topics when your mind is fresh.
- Make sure you know where and when the exams are – this will be on your exam timetable, check with your teachers what equipment you will need too.
- Use family and friends to test your knowledge.
- Cover all topics – don't rely on topics not appearing on the actual exam. It is better to know a bit about everything than everything about a small bit of the exam.
- Skip the questions you don't know – return to these at the end. Don't let not knowing one answer put you off for the rest of the exam.
- Know how many and which questions you have to answer (every year someone answers a question on a topic they have not been taught!)
- Pace yourself and know the exam well, if there is a long question at the end, make sure you have enough time to answer it properly.
- Review and double check your answers at the end.
- DON'T PANIC!!!!

During exam season it is important to stay healthy. Regular meals, drinks, snacks and exercise can improve memory and retention. Try to get eight hours sleep each night but if this is not possible aim to get six hours minimum. Don't try to pull an all nighter!

**In the exams make sure you:**

- Take a bottle of water. (With the label removed)
- Listen to the instructions read out at the start of the exam – put your hand up to ask questions if necessary.
- Read the questions carefully – especially any words that give instructions e.g. write down, explain, identify, calculate, evaluate etc. you might want to underline these "command" words. For longer answer questions, keep looking back at the question to make sure you are answering what has been asked.





## Year 9 Further Enrichment

Year 9 Further Enrichment ceramics students have been hard at work creating an array of pottery, based on different themes.

Each term, students have explored how to create work using three basic hand build techniques – Pinch pots, coil and slab, translating 2D drawings into successful 3D designs. The results have been really fantastic. In the first module, students learnt how to make pinch pots, creating a series of fish based on the theme Marine Life. Every possible type of fish was created – from top hat wearing puffer fish, to music loving fish complete with headphones. The second module was slightly trickier with students exploring slab and coil techniques to create a portrait ...the results were AMAZING !!!

All the students involved worked really hard on perfecting their skills and should be very proud of their achievements...well done everyone!!



## Are you missing out?

Did you know that it is not possible for students to know which of their peers receive free school meals? Because we have a cashless system in our dining hall all students have exactly the same card to present for lunch.



We encourage you to register for free school meals even if you do not want your child to actually have school lunch, although we hope they will, as simply by registering for free school meals can increase the funding made available to school.

Your child/children will qualify if you are in receipt of one of the following:

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# SPORT

As we emerge from the long dark winter, extra-curricular activities really get going.

## FOOTBALL

The football leagues have re-started with the U18's proving particularly successful.

## RUGBY

The U18 rugby team are going from strength to strength. This season they have only lost 1 fixture and have the honour of winning the NSB 7's tournament for the 1st time (see photo below).

**Nick Clarkson, Joe Phillips** and **Harry Brierley** have also been rewarded with

selection for the county U17 squad.

Merit leagues have also begun for the two junior teams although they have both been knocked out of their respective cups.

The U16's on the other hand have reached the semi-final of their competition.

The highest representative honour in rugby this season goes to **Callum Burn** who played for Northumberland U16's, 3 counties (Durham, Cumbria and Northumberland) and also had 2 trials for the North of England.



**Callum Burn** is pictured here (above) scoring his hat-trick try against Hexham Queen Elizabeth High School.

## CROSS COUNTRY

The school has a strong tradition of success in cross-country and that has continued this year.

We were well represented at both the area event and the county competition at Temple Park. From this the students moved on to the inter county race in Guisborough and I am pleased to report that, following this race, 5 students qualified for the English



## BADMINTON

Boy's badminton has excelled this term with both key stage 3 and 4 teams representing the school in competition.

The year 9 boys' team (**Josh Pusey, Cameron Batey, George Lindley** and **Brendan Clapcott**) finished in 2nd place at the level 2 school games event in January, narrowly missing out in the final to a strong Berwick team.

The key stage 4 B team (**Sam Eggleston, Sam Eastham, Ryan Pattinson** and **Jordan Turnbull**) also managed a 2nd place position in their age group only to be beaten by the Duchess's A team. Huge congratulations



go to **Chris Wiggins, Jack White, Joe Beeby** and **Ed Brunton** who won the event. Following this victory, the lads progressed to the county round of the Center Parks championships where they continued their winning ways storming to victory without losing a single match. The team has done brilliantly to get this far but now they face a big test when competing in the next round of the competition. The regional round of the championships will take place on **Monday 11th March** at Sport Central at Northumbria University. **Good luck to the team and let's hope this winning form continues.**

## INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Other indoor activities that have been noteworthy are; indoor rowing where **Ed Brunton** achieved a bronze medal in the County competition and the U15 cricket squad who won the area round and performed well at the regional tournament.

## HOCKEY

U18 team finished 3rd in the County round of the National Schools' Competition and have only lost 2 games in the league so far this season. They took part in the County



## NORTHUMBERLAND GAMES

The Northumberland school games held in Berwick this year was a great occasion which saw the school take over 70 students to the competition. Trampolining, volleyball, football and hockey were all played and these events were well organised by our school sports leaders. The school won the boys' trampolining and volleyball, whilst the girls won the trampolining, volleyball and football.

Tournament and in the County KO are into the semi's v RGS'. At the county tournament they were easy group winners and narrowly lost out to Central in the semi-finals taking 3rd place overall. They are also in the Final of the County Cup later this month. **Tasha Robson** and **Steph Courty** have been an inspiration on and off the pitch.

U16 are sitting mid to top table in the league and enjoying a win or two against the private schools. They were 3rd in their section at the County Tournament but had to concede in County Cup due to exam commitments. **Linzi Imeson Taylor** is playing for county.

U15s are developing with every match. **Annabel Blythe** as Captain works hard both on the pitch and ensuring availability.

U14s had a tough start to their hockey careers at Duchess's as they have no place to train over the winter and have to compete against schools who have been playing together for at least 2 years. They enjoyed a deserved win over Ashington and are working hard to develop their skills and tactics. Captain and Vice- Captain **Becky Reed** and **Daisy Hope** are an inspiration to the others.

## GIRLS FOOTBALL

U16 Captain **Holly Jackman** has led the team to 3 wins and only 1 defeat so far. The second

part of the season starts now once the light changes. Here's to a place in the finals for both teams as **Georgia Thompson's** U18 team have only lost one game too.

## NETBALL

This season seems to have been hampered badly by weather with school unable to travel and there also seems to be diminishing teams to play, withdrawals etc.

That being said our girls are keen and committed and have had some success especially at senior and U16 level.

It is also great that some girls are going to ladies clubs in Alnwick and Morpeth and playing here. Junior Netball on Wednesdays at Willowburn is helped to be run by our seniors is also going well.



# FORESTERS

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# Individual Sporting Achievements

The following students were winners or nominees for awards at the Alnwick and District Sports Awards 2012 this year because of exceptional performances over the last 12 months, here is a quick update:

## HOLLY JACKMAN

### England Schools' U15 – Football

Following a very busy and exciting season last year when Holly represented England Schoolgirls U15's and travelled to Sweden with Blyth Town Lions U15's to take part in the Gothia World Youth Cup the 2012/13 season has started quietly.

She successfully gained a place at the Sunderland Girls Centre of Excellence which involves training 3 times a week at Gateshead Stadium and travelling to play teams including Sheffield, Lincoln and Leeds. Unfortunately the bad weather over the last few months has meant that a lot of their games have been cancelled. They have still continued to train and Holly hopes that they will now have a good run of games.

As well as playing for Sunderland Holly has played for Northumberland County U16's, playing her last game against Durham County in January 2013.

She is looking forward to the rest of the season and hopes it will be as enjoyable as last year.

Hopefully in September she will be going to Gateshead College Academy for Sport to study Sports Science.

## STEPH COURTY

### Open Champion in UK National Championships –Tetrathlete

Steph is currently training for the forthcoming season. She has as GB Training Camp at Easter from which teams are selected for England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland. She also has a qualifier in July for 'Nationals' in August.

## ALIX EASTHAM

### Scottish National Age Group Swimmer

Alix had a set back after discovering she had been selected for the Scottish National Squad when she learned she was not eligible due to her birth place..... This set back made her more determined to succeed, luckily her talent was picked up in England by their talent scouts.

After excelling at British National age groups at Ponds Forge Sheffield in the summer she was selected to be part of the North East talent Beacon Elite squad, this means Alix participates in weekly training at Sunderland in the 50 metre pool. She was also selected for the ASA Advanced apprenticeship in

sporting excellence which runs alongside her A levels.

The changes in her training have clearly paid off as earlier this month Alix managed to win a Gold medal in 200 fly when competing in the East District of Scotland short course championships, she also recorded personal best times in all her events.

In Feb she competed in her first national event of the season at the Scottish National open short Course Competition in the Royal Commonwealth pool in Edinburgh. The event was attended by Olympic swimmers such as Kerry Anne Payne and hosted a field of swimming talent from all over the UK.

Alix, a Alnwick Dolphin and Eyemouth swimmer, went to the competition hoping to qualify for the finals in each of her events and continue her progression towards her goal of achieving qualifying times for the Commonwealth games in 2014; her aspirations were met in a weekend of personal best (PB) times in eight of the nine events she swam. Alix shines in the fly discipline; she finished third in the final of the 200m fly achieving a bronze medal in the open age group event swimming nine seconds below the GB national time.

Alix now holds National times in all the fly events and is now ranked as third female in Scotland for her age group and 6th in England in her fly events and on target to achieve her goal.

Alix will be competing in the Scottish national age groups in April where she hopes to pick up a medal and then the main competition of the season is the British Nationals in Sheffield in July where she hopes to gain a place in the final.

## JAKE STOREY

### England U16 – Golf

Although it is 'out of season' for golf Jake has training sessions with the National Squad throughout the winter. In February he was warm weather training with the National Squad. The first international event is in April, with 10 more to follow during the year.

## SAM DRONSFIELD

### British Gymnast

Sam is currently working on strength training following an injury but is hoping to be fully fit for GB squad training later this month at Lillieshall. He is working towards the British Championships in July.

## PHILIP WINKLER

### Cross-country Runner

So far this year Philip has come second in the Northumberland Schools' County Final in January, third at the Cross Country Inter-Counties in Guisborough (first home for Northumberland), competed in the Northern Championships in Liverpool in January, been selected to represent the North East Counties in the UK Inter County championships in Birmingham a year young, raced for Morpeth Senior men in Signals Road Relays (even though he is only 16 years of age), came fifth at North Eastern Cross Country Championships, again a year young at Hartlepool, and come second at North East harrier League Alnwick under 17's. He is selected to represent Northumberland Schools at the All England Cross Country Championships in Derbyshire on 15th March 2013.

## Important Calendar Dates

Monday, March 25	Consultation Day
Wednesday, March 27	China Trip departs
Thursday, March 28	Non-uniform Day
Friday 28 February – Fri 12 April	Easter Holidays
Monday, April 15	Summer Term begins
Thursday, April 18	All Y12 students to O2 Arena for UCAS Convention
Thursday, April 25	School Photos – Groups shots of Y11 and Y13 All Y12 to Northumbria University Roadshow (in school)
Friday, April 26	Training Day
Monday, May 6	May Day Holiday
Thursday, May 9	Y11 Presentation Evening
Monday, May 13	Y12 Exam Leave Summer Exams session begins (until June 28)
Friday, May 24	Non-uniform day Y13 Leavers Assembly
Monday 27 – Friday 31 May	Spring Half Term
Monday, June 3	School reopens
Friday, June 21	Y13 Leavers Dinner
Monday 24 – Friday 28 June	Ecology Week
Wednesday, June 26	Y9 Presentation evening
Thursday 27 – Saturday 29 June	Stratford Visit
Friday, June 28	Y7 Technology Day Y11 Prom
Monday 1 – Friday 5 July	Y12 Work Experience week
Monday 1 – Friday 5 July	Uniform Services Expedition
Thursday, July 4	Y8 Intake Day Y8 Parents' Evening
Friday, July 5	Y7 Sports Day
Tuesday, July 9	Y10 Presentation evening
Friday, July 19	Non Uniform Day School Term Ends
Thursday, August 15	AS/A2 results day
Thursday, August 22	GCSE results day
Monday, September 2, 2013	Training Day
Tuesday, September 3	New School Year begins



**The  
Duchess's**  
Community High School

**The Duchess's Community High School, Alnwick**

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