

THE DUCHESS'S COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, ALNWICK

# NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016

**Battle Of The Bands**



The Duchess's  
Community High School



**Maths Challenge**



**Year 10 Winners**

## Headteacher's Report

### Welcome to our 2016 Summer Term Newsletter.

A special welcome to the parents of our new Year 9s arriving in September. In this newsletter you will find many examples of what our school community has been doing over the last term. Although schools must be about learning and outcomes we believe that we need to be about much more than these. We have to encourage our young people to learn to take part in all the other things we offer so that they develop and improve their life skills and life chances. So many secondary schools are losing the extras they offer as funding decreases and staff workload increases. I do not see this at our school as my colleagues still want to offer the 'extras'. The reason for this is that they see the benefits and perhaps, most importantly, enjoy the relationships these 'extras' offer with our students.

Inevitably our minds are very focussed on the move to our new site. We have worked incredibly hard to get to this point. Most of the management of this project and the communication with contractors and Department of Education has been by my school colleagues with very little extra funding. Support has come from the Local Authority but day to day management has been mainly down to the school. I need to put on record the incredible work of my colleague, James Clark, who has stepped up to the plate as our in house project manager and done an amazing job.

We are now beginning the process of packing up. I am not sure how many private organisations would be expecting their employees to pack everything? However

this is the expectation on us. A company has been identified to move the boxes/crates. This will be on top of our day job and must be completed by the 22<sup>nd</sup> July. We will trust to their good will which I am sure they will give.

This is why we have consulted with you on the early finish to the term for students. This consultation has provided us with a clear view that parents appreciate our situation and accept (as a one off) the term finishing for students on the 15<sup>th</sup> of July with work going home for the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the following week.

We also consulted on a more staggered start to the new academic year in September. We do not gain control of our new buildings until the 30<sup>th</sup> August. Employment contracts mean that many of our staff will not return to school until the 5<sup>th</sup> September. Health and Safety training needs to take place and we want to familiarise ourselves and feel ownership of our new buildings. This is why we have sought your views about getting year groups in, one at a time, during the first week back to show them the building and go through the new routines. We will have a real opportunity to reset our standards on behaviour and operational routines around movement in the building and break/lunchtimes. Again it seems you are in agreement with this approach.

Below are a number of other bits of information that are worth sharing:

- Construction works will continue during 2016/17 as we extend the school buildings in preparation for our Year 7



and 8 intake in September '17. Clear separation will exist between our school operations and the construction works.

- This will have an impact on our outdoor sports facilities during that year so we are in discussion with a number of surrounding sports clubs/centres which we hope we can access during this time.
- School Transport buses will all drop off in our new car park.
- Those students getting public transport from the Amble and Belford areas will see their morning buses drop off on Willowburn Avenue. However I am being informed that, in the evening, Amble students will need to walk to St Pauls Middle School bus stop to access their bus home and Belford students will need to get a bus to Alnwick bus station to access their bus north. More on this when I hear it.
- For Years 9 to 11 we will be operating a 'closed site' meaning once students are on site they will not be able to leave during the day without clear parental permission. The school is designed so that the only

exit point from the site, during the day, is at main reception. Sixth Form students will be allowed some further flexibility in how they enter/leave the site at lunchtime. CCTV will operate both inside and outside the buildings.

- Sixth Form students will not be able to park on site. More on this prior to the beginning of term.
- I have already written to you about no longer having an early finish for students on a Wednesday. From September all school days will finish at 3.35pm for students.

Finally, this is an exciting time for all of us. We look forward to an impressive set of exam results this summer and, long term, a life changing future in our new buildings.

I hope you have a great summer.

Maurice Hall, Headteacher

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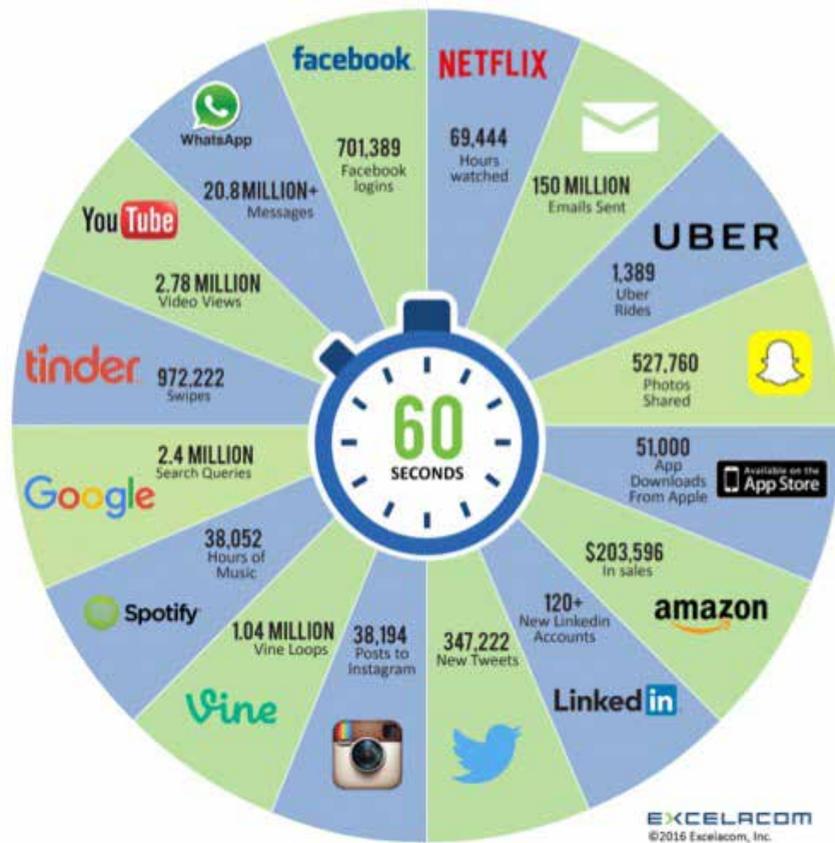
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# Social Media

## The impact on School Life



As we approach the end of the academic year, it is worth evaluating the current climate that we face in relation to E-Safety in schools. The image above represents a snapshot of the usage of the key social media platforms in an 'internet minute'. It is obvious that the internet is an integral part of the day for most of our school community. We are in a position now where the majority of our students have a phone; a significant proportion of which are smart phones with large data plans available for streaming and surfing. It is important to note that neither the internet or any one application is 'the problem' that we face; it is the fallout from a lack of safe and effective use that is...

### So where are we?

- We have within our curriculum, the delivery of E-safety through ICT and life studies lessons.
- We have the delivery of E-safety through the tutor and assembly programme.
- We have external agencies visit to deliver key messages around staying safe.
- We have an acceptable use agreement which students sign when they access the school network.
- We have links with community safety to raise awareness around internet use and the law.

In spite of this, we still face often significant fallout from improper use of the internet and mobile devices on a daily basis. Efforts to resolve such issues take staff away from the core purpose of teaching and learning and can lead to the involvement of external agencies.

We know from working with parents, that many concerns exist and the most recent data from OFCOM support these concerns.

- A quarter of parents of 5-15s are concerned about the online content their child is exposed to.
- One in five parents of 5-15s are concerned about whom their child is in contact with online.
- A third of parents of children aged 5-15 are concerned that their child may be giving out personal details to inappropriate people.
- Around three in ten parents of 5-15s are concerned about online bullying.
- A quarter of parents of 12-15s are concerned about their child sharing inappropriate or personal photos or videos online.



- One in four parents of 5-15s are concerned about their child seeing content which encourages them to harm themselves.
- One in eight parents of 12-15s feel they don't know enough to help their child manage online risks.

An overwhelming majority of E-Safety investigations in school relate to social media activity from the previous night (often late into the night). As the shared community for the children, it falls to school to mediate and attempt resolution to any concerns. It is made much easier however, when parents support us and are proactive in keeping their children safe.

## Advice:

- Know what your children are doing online – be aware of the sorts of language they use and the conversations that they engage in.
- As they get older, ensure that they become more resilient to the pressures associated with the Internet.
- Be aware who your children are talking to online. Make it clear that people that they don't know are strangers.
- Explain why your children should not give out personal details online.
- Emphasise that having many different 'followers' or 'likes' does not necessarily make them popular.
- Explain to your child that nothing is private on the Internet – anything can

be copied, whether it be private pictures, comments or messages.

- Point out that your child should always consider what an employer or partner might be able to find about them on Google in 5 to 10 years' time.
- Avoid replying to junk, spam or phishing emails, or opening attachments which might contain viruses or malware.
- Make sure that children become better critical thinkers and can evaluate content on the Internet such as propaganda.
- Ensure your child does not meet up with online friends.
- Creating a positive environment where your child can be open and inquisitive and feel confident discussing their online experiences, whether positive or negative.
- Teach your children how to block and report any behaviour or content which makes them feel uncomfortable.
- Investigate ways in which you can set parental controls on devices and home broadband.

## Useful Links:

[www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

[www.internetmatters.org/](http://www.internetmatters.org/)

[www.commonsensemedia.org/](http://www.commonsensemedia.org/)

[www.childnet.com/](http://www.childnet.com/)

[www.e-safetysupport.com](http://www.e-safetysupport.com)

# Susie Cochrane

**Alnwick has long held a special place in my heart as it is my husband's home town. Therefore, becoming Head of Music at DCHS was a very exciting prospect and I couldn't wait to get started last September. Having previously taught in schools in Northumberland (including the Duke's) I was touched by how many former pupils came down to Bailiffgate to say 'hello' or who would just stop me in the corridor to ask if I remembered them. In those first few weeks it was so nice to see some familiar faces.**

The reputation of Music at DCHS went before it but I have been bowled over by the musical talent of so many pupils.



It is heartening to observe the desire to improve their skills and their commitment to the different groups on offer. With so many other calls on their time/interests in this all-consuming age of technology it is to their credit that teenagers still invest so whole-heartedly in Music. The rewards, I can assure them, will be life-long!

I like teaching all my classes. As a Year 10 form tutor I have a vested interest in that particular year group and I have really enjoyed getting to know my form. Year 9's energy and exuberance in their music lessons has made for many hilarious and memorable moments this year. I am indebted to those brave sixth formers who have steadfastly come along to help each week, particularly Emma Coleman.

Not long after I started at the school I was plunged in to the audition process for the musical. Being part of the 'Rock of Ages' Creative Team was a truly memorable experience, and I am relishing the thought of getting stuck in to the next production.

My interests outside school mainly involve Music (performing with local bands) and Theatre but also outdoor pursuits. On a weekend you will find me walking or cycling in the hills around where I live, playing tennis, or generally mooching about near rivers. Idling on river banks, preferably with a good book, is one of the great, underrated pleasures of life. If I were only allowed one thing to eat in the world it would be honey. I now have my own bees in order to provide a constant supply.

I have made some great friends on the staff since starting at the school; Mrs Rix and Miss Rigg didn't need much persuasion to form a staff band with me. We premiered, along with guest artiste, Mr Dunford, at a certain Head of English's recent birthday celebrations. It could be the start of something big – watch this space.

And, to all those budding musicians out there, if you haven't yet tried that instrument you have always longed to try, come and visit the Music Department, where there is NEVER a dull moment and it is never too late to start!!



# What's changing at GCSE?

**New GCSE Maths and English courses started in September 2015 (first examined in 2017), and other subjects will be following suit in 2016 (first examined in 2018) (Science, Art, Geography, History, French, Spanish, PE, RE, Music, Food Preparation & Nutrition, Film Studies) and some not until 2017 (first examined in 2019) (IT, Technology, Business). BTEC subjects remain unchanged for now.**

The new courses are more challenging than ever, with all the exams set at the end of Year 11. There's even a new '9-1' grading system, where Grade 9 will be reserved for the very top tier of students... at the minute the plan for maths and English is for the top 20% of students who achieve the grade 7 will be allocated the grade 9 and the grade 8 will be calculated within. However, this plan appears not to be the case for other subjects, watch this space...

New GCSE grading structure		Ofqual
New grading structure	Current grading structure	
9		
8		
7	A*	
6	A	
5	B	GOOD PASS (DfE) 5 and above = top of C and above
4	C	AWARDING 4 and above = bottom of C and above
3	D	
2	E	
1	F	
U	G	
	U	

For each subject, the old and new courses will run in parallel for one year - in the first year, Year 10s will be studying the new courses while Year 11s finish the 'old' courses.

- The Foundation/Higher Tier papers are being removed from many subjects (including English) and all students will take the same exam(s).
- There are fewer course options in the new Science GCSEs. Most students will either take the new Combined Science course (worth two GCSEs) or three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Coursework/Controlled Assessment and practical assessments reduce dramatically in the new GCSE courses; it disappears from

some courses altogether - which means some courses run at 100% examination - no pressure!

- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above as currently achieve a grade C and above.
- broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as currently achieve a grade A and above.
- the bottom of grade 1 will be aligned with the bottom of grade G.
- grade 5 will be awarded to around the top third of students gaining the equivalent of a grade C and bottom third of a grade B. This has been defined as a good pass by the Department of Education.

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# MUSIC Department



**The longer days and warmer (?) weather have only increased activity within the Music Department and its many talented musicians have managed to pack a lot in whilst simultaneously coping with exam revision.**



A Ceilidh in the Main School Hall, at the beginning of term, raised just over £500 with a promise of match funding by the Rotary Club, in aid of the Teenage Cancer Trust and the Music Department. The Ceilidh band has been in great demand, performing in Alnwick Gardens twice (for the Duchess' Garden Party and the Alnwick Schools' Partnership Day), at Longhoughton with the Bailiffgate Singers and in the Town Hall for the Alnwick Market.



The village of Chatton was the venue for a concert on 24<sup>th</sup> June, at which many of the Department's groups played. The Wind Band and Scandi band livened up the evening with some spirited playing and Emma Coleman's rendition of Finzi's Bagatelle was mesmerising. The Clarinet and Flute Groups also entertained the audience.



The re-formed Rock of Ages band (Dan Lyst, Alex Rae, Jacob Crooks, Anthony Newman and Cerys Williams), from this year's show, headed off to RGS on 29<sup>th</sup> June for the annual 'Battle of the Bands', a competition for schools from the North East which offers a day in a recording studio as part of the First Prize. This year DCHS entered two bands; members of the Ceilidh Band (Jamie MacAulay, Dan Lyst, Anna Maxwell, Zoe Gilroy, and Jess Dobson) put together an impressive set of tunes.



## **Music Lesson Reminder:**

Anyone wishing to start music lessons in September should return an application form (available from Mrs Hobson in Bailiffgate office) as soon as possible, preferably before end of term.

## Music Department STOP PRESS

### The Duchess's High - Victorious at North East Battle of the Bands' Competition

Musicians from The Duchess's Community High School won 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes at the recent Battle of the Bands' Competition held at RGS.

'Alnwickey', a new band formed from the school's ceilidh band, wowed the judges and audience alike. Congratulations to **Jamie MacAulay, Dan Lyst, Anna Maxwell, Zoe Gilroy** and **Jess Dobson** for this amazing achievement. The High School's traditional players, scooped 1<sup>st</sup> prize, a recording session, a trophy and £300 of vouchers to spend on music. These five pupils (one of whom is only in Y9) mesmerised the audience and blew the judges away with the quality of their playing. 'No Ocean', a band formed from this year's musical production, 'Rock of Ages', and consisting of **Dan Lyst** (again), **Jacob Crooks, Alex Rae, Anthony Newman** and **Cerys Williams**, were also praised for their performance and won £100 of vouchers and a trophy. Year 11 pupil, **Cerys Williams**, got a special mention for her vocal ability.

That they did so well is down to their hard work and commitment – these pupils have rehearsed consistently throughout the year and the school and community should be really proud of them. We will be back next year to defend our title so all those up-and-coming school musicians... get practising.

**Susie Cochrane, Head of Music**

## Schoolcomms and communications

**REMINDER of letter sent via post to all parents re: Implementing Schoolcomms, an electronic school communication system.**

**You are reminded that from September 2016, the vast majority of communication will be sent to you electronically.**

This will enable you to receive all your information from school quickly and reliably. We can send letters by email to your inbox and short messages directly to your mobile phone as a text message, or if you have an Apple or Android mobile phone, by app message.

This is a system that will enable you to see valuable information about your child at any time either online or if you have an Apple or Android device, on your smartphone. Step by step instructions were in the letter but if you need a further copy of these, please let us know.

**REMINDER that during the afternoon of Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016 we will send a TEST message to all parents.**

There is no need to reply to this test message but if you do not receive the message please let us know by contacting the school via telephone (01665 602166) or email (Admin@dchs-alnwick) as soon as possible.

## School Council

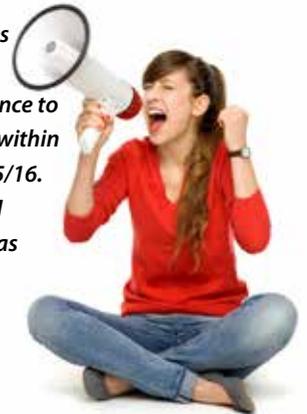
In May, Student Council met to discuss their opinions of the new school, post site visits. The meetings were very positive as students were impressed with the quality of the new build. They noticed wider corridors, improved ICT facilities and more equipment for practical subjects. They thought the design, modern and eco-friendly. Most commented on a sense of space and light, including the yards between the fingers, high ceilings and plenty of large windows. They are also looking forward to using the bleacher seating in the hall and the drama and sports facilities.

Students like the colour coding used to paint each zone of the school. However, they realise it will take a while to orientate themselves and get used to the new school in September. They have made suggestions on possible systems we could use to ease the transition and to make the most of our new facilities. The Student Council Representatives are due to meet with James Clark, our New Build Project Manager, before

the end of the term, in order to re-examine the site plans and find answers to their specific queries.

We also used the May meeting to review the year and the impact of Student Council. Most accept there have been some improvements in the student toilets. They believe the uniform is far better now that we have got rid of the hoodie, but the girls would like to wear cropped trousers. It has been easier to prioritise homework, now that teachers are allowing a full week to complete. Some students would rather not have their work peer marked. They are happy with the quality of school lunches. Most feel bullying is not an issue in school. They would like more advice on careers.

*Students' opinions have made a significant difference to decision-making within the school in 2015/16. I am sure they will continue to help, as we settle into our new site.*



## FORESTERS

14 Fenkle Street, Alnwick 01665 602138  
and at 41 Queen Street, Amble 01665 710424

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# Chef of the Year 2016



**Our Food Department hosted the Rotary Club of Alnwick Annual Young Chef of the Year competition on June 15<sup>th</sup>. Seven students competed, each creating a healthy two course meal from their own recipe using local ingredients. Rotarians Marion Long and Barbara Reid judged the competition based on a range of criteria including, organisation, healthy choice, planning, use of time, hygiene and safety and of course the presentation and taste of the food served.**

Judges felt that the standard this year had risen again and were very impressed with all the contestants; Lauren Carr, Jess Duffy, Oscar Elliott-Selkirk, Kayleigh Green, Poppy McDonald, Isaac Mills and Abigail Sanderson. All were awarded an apron, t-shirt and certificate from Rotary, the



winner was also presented with a cash prize.

The winner this year was Abigail Sanderson in Year 9 who made a main course of Taco Lime Chicken with a Moroccan Chickpea Couscous

Salad followed by mini Lemon and Ginger Cheesecakes. Throughout the two hours' time allowed Abigail proved herself to be extremely consistent across all the criteria and served a delicious, attractively presented meal. Judges commented that



the chicken was beautifully cooked and that the dessert was perfect in both flavour and texture.

In second place was Year 10 student

Oscar Elliott-Selkirk who made an Asian take on Leek and Potato Soup for his starter and a main course of Sairacha Prawns with Noodles and Toasted Seeds. His creativity, use of interesting ingredients and presentation particularly impressed the judges.

Third this year was Issac Mills in Year 10 with a Sweet Potato, Chestnut and Stilton Wellington, and Limoncello Royal Berry dessert.

***Congratulations to all of our entrants, we look forward to next years competition in our new food rooms.***



## Finance and Schoolcomms

**We are very pleased to announce that beginning in September, we will be able to accept electronic payments for school lunches and school trips via Schoolcomms.**

If you are already registered to receive electronic communications you will then be able to top up your child's lunch card either using a bank transfer or debit card. The minimum top up amount has been set to £20 to minimise bank charges for the school.

When paying for school trips you will be asked to pay in accordance with the initial information you received from the trip leader organising the trip.

You will of course still be able to pay by cash or cheque but this is an exciting new option which will enable you to keep track of your school related payments much more efficiently.

***If you have any other questions please feel free to contact either Anna or Monika in the Finance Office: [finance@dchs-alnwick.org](mailto:finance@dchs-alnwick.org)***



THE  
PUBLIC SERVICES  
COURSE FROM  
A STUDENT'S  
PERSPECTIVE

# Uniformed Services

**BTEC Subsidiary Diploma Level 3**

*Patrick Turner*

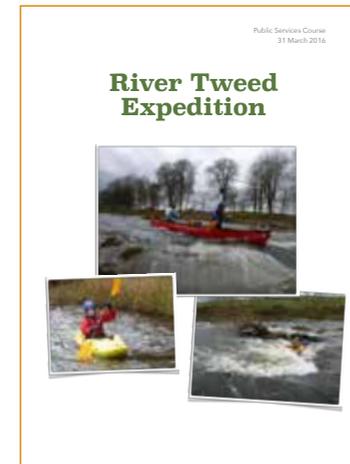
**After taking Public services in Year 9 for further enrichment, I knew I wanted to take it onto further education. So here I am taking it at A Level. I love it and I'm sure other people will too. You should consider taking this course if you want to join the Public Services**

**or even if you are short of options for A Level as this will look good on your CV and will help you to learn a lot of good qualities that an employer will be looking for in a job interview.**

The practical side of the course is all about pushing your own boundaries and leaving your own comfort zone to try something new. You learn vital skills needed for when you get a job and have to work as a team to achieve a common goal or task. For those who have taken Public Services at GCSE, the practical activities haven't changed that much. These skills will include things like team work or communication which are vital in a work force situation. The course also has a lot of fun activities that 'celebrates' your hard work after a term or half term. Before breaking up for the first half term, Mr Brown took our Yr12 class to Willowburn to go on the climbing wall with an instructor who just happens to be his son, Connell. The entire class enjoyed this trip. We were almost like rivals seeing who could climb certain routes as fast as possible or who could master the hardest routes around the walls. You had to be resilient but it paid off eventually after repeatedly trying and failing, learning from your previous mistakes and trying again with a different method. Again like all the practical activities you pursue in the course, it allowed us to push ourselves at our own pace, explore our boundaries and

learn how to improve. Only down side to this trip was the blisters on my hands that you get after climbing continuously like I did without a break. I didn't realise I had them and therefore popped them whilst I was climbing leaving scars on my fingers which are still there 3 weeks later! Within school, I admit you don't get much opportunities to do much practical, however, if you work at the theory part hard and accomplish all the assignments, then it allows much more time for practical activities.

The theory part of the course comes down on you hard. The jump between your A Levels and GCSEs is immense. You should try to achieve as high as you can in the first assignment that you receive which is about, POLITICS!! Yep, it doesn't sound that appealing however, it is much more interesting than you may think at first, and especially when Mr Brown is teaching you, the topic will never get boring. If you think it does and you complain to him, he will blurt out his favourite phrase of "Oh dear, how sad, never mind" (which you will more than likely hear a lot of) or you are likely to be given a forfeit and you'll be made to run around the block a few times or even press ups! No pressure. But no, the topic is interesting and if you don't think so, still try your best, in all 3 assignments that you have on the course. The next topic after government and politics, is War and Conflict.



Throughout the course you will do 3 topics in both years, 10 assignments in year 12, and 9 in year 13 so a total of 19 assignments in a year, the two previous topics and another one in year 12 and in year 13, there is a topic regarding diet and fitness, an entire topic where you go canoeing and kayaking (yes a whole topic about kayaking at the end of year 13). Ask anyone on the course and they will recommend it to you, even if they aren't intending on joining the forces! I didn't have

any intention of joining the forces until we had a visitor called Kirk Douglas from the Royal Navy who is now a recruiter in Newcastle. He told us about his experiences of being in the Navy, how he has lived all over the world and seen amazing things. And for those who were already intending to join the Navy or other armed forces, he let us sit a Navy recruitment test which he marked

and emailed the results to Mr Brown the following week. And just for extra measures he said what we needed to improve on and what roles we could pursue if we were to join up with the marks we had achieved.

I would defiantly recommend this course to anyone who knows they have issues with self-discipline because this course will help you overcome those issues and stop them from returning well and truly. You don't have to want to join the forces to take the course. My only bit of advice to you is... **be ready for anything!...**

**Despite the regular challenges of exams, moderation and coursework deadlines, The Creative Arts Faculty has been working hard during the summer term to involve students at all levels in enrichment and opportunities outside the classroom and what a feast students have had.**

## Creative Arts Faculty

**Music students have been demonstrating their talents across the county in a variety of musical displays entertaining the public both local and further afield, more from Head of Music, Susie Cochrane elsewhere in this newsletter.**

Film Studies students enjoyed seeing their cinematic work on the big screen, showcasing work they entered as part of **The Royal Television Society Young Peoples' Media Festival** held at Sunderland University.

Head of Film Studies, Lotty Thompson said of the event *"We had a great time, despite students not winning! Students met lots of Industry based people and were able to experience some of the equipment used in the TV/Film studios at the University. A great night was had by all."*

The Art Department once again showcased the talents of A Level and GCSE students through their annual Art Exhibition at The Alnwick Playhouse.

The exhibition, this year held over both upper and lower floors of the Playhouse, demonstrates the wide variety of talents and interests by our students and this year features representations from our Fine Art, Photography and Art and Design students.

We continue to be very proud of our students work and thankful to The Playhouse for their continued support in hosting the work.

We also look forward to seeing and showcasing the year-long documentary DCHS project captured by 4<sup>th</sup> Year BA(Hons) Photography student and past DCHS student Rosie Davison, as she catalogued the transition of the school from one site to its new home.

Photography will also form part of our new GCSE curriculum and builds upon the Year 9 photography club which has been successfully running this year.

The summer term sees the Creative Arts Faculty close its doors at its Bailiffgate site – lots of wonderful memories created here, but even more to be created when



the faculty opens on our new site, where all three departments will be united in one creative hub at the heart of the new school. New courses, better facilities and new opportunities - exciting times ahead!

**Ruth Brown**

*Head of Art & Creative Arts Faculty.*



## School Transport for current Year 11 and 12

Parents of current year 11 & 12 students need to be aware that free school transport for Post-16 students ceased in 2014.

If a student is starting or continuing into Sixth Form in September 2016, information about the Post 16 Transport Policy for 2016/2017 can be found on the Northumberland County Council website: [www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-transport-1/Transport.aspx](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Education/Schools/School-transport-1/Transport.aspx). Parents should familiarise themselves with the policy, in particular Annex 1. An application for County assistance with transport is only likely to be successful if all criteria in Annex 1 are met. Parents will need to submit an application form if they feel a student is entitled to a seat on the school bus.

If you wish to discuss these matters, or need further information, then please ring County on 0345 600 6400 and ask to speak to a member of the Post 16 school transport team.

## Alnwick success

On the 15<sup>th</sup> June the school ceilidh band, Alnwick, performed for the Duchess's Garden Party. It was a great event and we were joined by the choir for Hallelujah, Water of Tyne and Blaydon Races. Kathryn Tickell was in the audience, coming to congratulate us after, and during, our performance following our workshop with her earlier in the year. It has been a great year for the ceilidh band and we are very lucky to have Mrs Cochrane and Mrs Watchorn to guide us with our traditional music. **Jamie Macaulay**

## Tell us about medical needs and medication!

We keep records in school of information supplied to us by parents/carers to enable us to support students with medical conditions. Details of the full policy, Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions, are on our website as well as copies of forms to complete should your child need medication while at school. Please read the information and complete the relevant forms if your child has a condition we should be aware of. It is your responsibility to inform us of any condition, change to a condition or medication for your child.



# SPORT

## Boys Sports Report

### Cricket

The DCHS cricket squad are having a really successful summer. The U18 team won their only game against KEVI Morpeth, thanks in no small part to **Ed Brunton** who scored 76. The U15's are going from strength to strength. They are currently unbeaten after

victories against Ashington, KEVI, RGS, Dame Allans and Kings Priory.

**Leon Midgley** in particular is having a fantastic season. His last three innings have been 72, 60 and 104. The century is worth mentioning in more detail as it is very rare to see a 100 in a 20 over match, especially at school level. The previous 100 was scored by **Tim Wood** in 2001 – both were scored at Alnwick Cricket Club. Leon has been ably supported by his opening partner **George Cockayne** and they have achieved opening partnerships of over 100 in the last 3 matches, George scoring in the 40's each



Under 15s Cricket Team



Leon Midgley

time. This has given us an excellent start enabling us to use a number of bowlers because the batting opportunities have been limited. The team have been excellent in the field and supported the bowlers well whilst always showing good sporting etiquette.

The winning run finally came to an end in the cup semi-final against QEHS

Hexham. For once the batsman did not fire and only **Mark Humphreys** made double figures leading to a comprehensive defeat against a competent and well organised side.

## Athletics

The area athletics was held at the track in Morpeth, as usual the school had a large number of entries and dominated the majority of events.

Results from the day:

### Junior boys

1500m	1st	Joe Eggleston
300m	1st	Callum Pritchard
Discus	1st	Josh Lowes,
	2nd	Drew Thompson
Javelin	1st	Iwan Read
High Jump	1st	James Davies,
	2nd	Owen Wilcox,
	3rd	Kieran Dover

Shot Putt	1st	Drew Thompson
Triple Jump	2nd	James Stanley

### Intermediate boys

1500m	2nd	Jordan Hedgecock
100m	1st	Jamie Lorimer,
	2nd	Harry Byrne
Discus	1st	Gregor Sharp,
	2nd	Archie Bertram
Javelin	1st	Leon Midgley
High Jump	1st	Daniel Caffrey
Shot Putt	1st	Jack Balmbro

These boys all became eligible to compete at the County event in Gateshead.

## GCSE PE

As part of the GCSE course we value visitors from the world of sport. This term we were lucky enough to welcome **Katy Storey** for a day visit to work with our year 11 GCSE students. She is currently High Performance Sporting Director at Northumbria University and prior to that she was an England Rugby International. She is also a Sky Sports Mentor and it was under this guise that she worked with our students offering them an insight in to high level sport and also encouraged them to fulfil their sporting ambitions.

Another visitor that has been working with our students this term is local amateur boxer **Cyrus Pattinson**. Cyrus is an old boy of the school and also English Champion in his weight category. He spent time with the senior gifted and talented group giving an insight in to his Olympic ambitions. They also discussed lifestyle, rest, training, diet and motivation.

*Both of them certainly had an impact on the students and left them feeling inspired.*



Katy Storey pictured above with some of the students



Cyrus Pattinson and the senior Gifted and Talented boys

## Girls Sports Report

### Athletics

At the 2 major events so far, Tyne and Wear and Area Championships, 26 girls competed for the school.

**Area** Due to excellent performances at the area competition, the following 14 girls were selected to compete for North Northumberland at the County Championships at Gateshead on June 11<sup>th</sup>. **Lottie Hume** (Shot and Discus) and **Katie Hilton** (Triple Jump) performed so well in competition they won their respective events and County Champion Titles. They now go on to represent Northumberland at the Inter-Counties at Middlesbrough on the 18<sup>th</sup> June. **Well Done!** **Sophie Bronze** will also compete at the English Schools Finals at Gateshead in July. She comfortably got the qualifying standard in 3 events but has chosen to compete in the Shot. Sophie also took the North East Regional senior girls title in heptathlon and goes on

to represent Northumberland at the national finals in September.

**Junior** **Callie Henderson** 1500m & Long jump, **Claire Robson** 800m & High Jump, **Issy Rowland** 200m, **Lottie Hume** Discus & Shot.

**Inters** **Katie Hilton** 100m and Triple Jump, **Jess Barnaby** Hurdles, **Jess Duffy** 800m, **Holly Mossman** Discus, **Izzy Nowell** High Jump, **Kitty Lindley** Shot. **Jade Barrett** 200m, **Grace Forsyth** Javelin, **Sophie Enser** 1500m.

#### Tyne & Wear

Congratulations to the following inters team (Y9 & Y10) who came 4th out of 13 schools (including the private ones) at the Tyne and Wear championships at Monkton. We were only 3 points behind 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

**Katie Hilton** 2nd 100m, **Lottie Hume** 1st Discus, **Kitty Lindley** 2nd Shot, **Jade Barret** 200m, **Jess Duffy** 800m, **Callie Henderson** 1500m, **Izzy Nowell** High Jump, **Jess Stephenson** Relay, **Issy Rowland** Relay, **Grace Forsyth** Javelin.



Girls Inter Athletics Team

### Rounders

Friendly matches and tournaments are arranged throughout the summer. Rounders is particularly popular and 20 girls regularly turn up for practice each week. Two teams of Y9/10 combined competed against Berwick for a place in the finals of The Northumberland School Games. Duchess girls were triumphant with a solid win over Berwick. Well done to Captain Kitty Lindley who did a marvellous job organising everybody. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the finals the girls played the best from the other Northumberland areas. They did not lose a match and retained the title of County Champions. (The Duchess teams have won this title 3 out of the last 4 years.)

### Beach Rugby

Two tag rugby teams are travelling to

Tynemouth Long Sands on 5<sup>th</sup> July to compete in the Northumberland and Tyne and Wear Festival.

### Football

Congratulations to the U16 football team who finished runners up in the county league finals. In the final, John Spence got a very late goal difference equaliser to put our girl's in silver position.

### Sports Dinner

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June saw over 90 of our talented sports people all dressed up to celebrate their successes on the sporting field.

They tucked into a delicious buffet at the rugby club and enjoyed the speeches by their captains and cheered at the awards given.



Year 10 girls who won the Northumberland School Games Rounders competition

## Important Calendar Dates

Wednesday, July 13	Y9 Presentation Evening
Thursday, July 14	Y10 Presentation Evening
Friday, July 15	School closes for students for Summer Holidays

### Results distributed from Lindisfarne Middle School

Thursday, August 18	A2 Results from 8.00 am until 12:00 noon AS Results from 10.00 am until 12:00 noon
Thursday, August 25	GCSE Results from 9.00 am until 1.00 pm

*Any queries to [exams@dchs-alnwick.org](mailto:exams@dchs-alnwick.org)*

Monday, September 5	Training Day
Tuesday, September 6	Training Day

### 2016 – 2017 beginning of term

Wednesday, September 7	Y9 and Y12 students only – 8.50am (returning 12th September)
Thursday, September 8	Y10 and Y13 students only – 8.50 am (returning 12th September)
Friday, September 9	Y11 students only – 8.50 am (returning 12th September)
Monday, September 12	All students in school – 8.50 am

## Holidays and Training Days for 2016-17

Dates for the above are published on our website using the tab Lower School, then Useful Information and clicking on Term Dates.

*Please note that since being posted to our website some weeks ago, there has been a change to the Training Day which was originally publicised as 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017; this Training Day has now been moved to Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 to facilitate the opening of the new school.*