

NEWSLETTER

THE DUCHESS'S COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL, ALNWICK



AUTUMN 2014

Headteacher's Report

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter for 2014. The summer holidays are a distant memory as we enter December and are already twelve weeks into the academic year.



Systems and structures are in place and once again it is a pleasure to see how quickly our new students have settled. Our Year 9 come from at least seven different middle schools and it is interesting to observe the dynamics of the year group as they get to know each other, recognise

the potential for new friendships; and challenge and support each other to do their best in lessons and extra-curricular activities. We also have a number of new students joining us in Year 12. We wish them all the best in their studies. It is always gratifying when families make

Accompanying this newsletter is the school's 'Guidance on the use of Social Networking and E-Safety' - please take the time to read it.

the positive decision to opt for our school even when they live outside our catchment area.

The end of last year saw a small number of colleagues leaving us. Of particular note was George Adamson's decision to call time on his career at the school. George started with us as an outstanding Head of Music back in the 1990's and left us as an exceptional Deputy Headteacher. Many, many students and their families have benefitted from George's belief in every young person's ability to shine in whatever they do. An impressive role model for us all.

As we continue to strive to become an outstanding school, our exam results in 2014 outshone many of the High Schools both within Northumberland and nationally. Exams are becoming tougher and comparisons with previous years are becoming more difficult. However our GCSE results are significantly above national and county averages with particularly high achievement in English Language, English Literature, Maths, Art, Music, Food Technology, Textiles, French and our BTEC courses. At A Level the Department of Education data shows that our students have made significantly positive progress from GCSE to A Level for the fourth time in the last five years (no other state school or college that is north of the Tyne has achieved this!). I always say that exam results are not all of what makes an outstanding school but they are

the foundation stones; get these right and it builds confidence for us to expand the wider experiences that we can offer our young people to allow them to grow into young men and women we can be proud of. To hear that our external 'validators' such as the Local Authority, Ofsted, and The Department of Education all believe that we are a strong school offering a dynamic, vital curriculum for our students gives us self-belief to keep moving forward. I hope, as parents, you believe in what we do. We can't be all things to all people all of the time but we must never lose the desire to deliver the best possible education for our young people. Regular communication with yourselves is crucial to this.

Finally, a brief update on our New Build. The access road is nearing completion. The floor plans are also in their final stages of design. It is likely that the first 'spade in the ground' will happen in February 2015. It is exciting to believe that we are less than two years from moving - a lot of work to do but a real sense of rapid progress taking place.

Newsletters are always a showcase of what we do. I hope you enjoy the many stories and achievements.

Wishing you all the best.



Best Wishes

Maurice Hall, Headteacher

Alnwick Partnership of Schools

Colleagues in schools across the Alnwick Partnership meet on a regular basis to share information, good practice and ideas for improving outcomes for our children. Over the years, the topic of whether or not a different structure of school organisation would be beneficial to children in the Alnwick Partnership has come up and it was discussed again by colleagues at the partnership's recent meeting earlier this month, together with officers from the County Council. Therefore, on behalf of the community schools in the partnership, a recommendation is being made to the Council's Policy Board in December to approve consultation on a number of possible options for the organisation of schools in the Alnwick Partnership. If the consultation goes ahead, a consultation document with full details of these options would be made available to parents, staff and anyone else with an interest.

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As a method of parental communication and engagement, the school uses a text and email service called **ParentMail**.

We feel that this service is of benefit because:

- Messages will get to you reliably
- You will quickly know about important or urgent messages
- We can tell you more about what's going on at the school

This system sends email messages from 'messages@parentmail.co.uk'.

We would advise that this address be added to your email address books (or approved sender list) to prevent messages from being blocked by your SPAM/JUNK filters.

If you have registered for Parentmail but are having problems receiving the information, please email ParentMail@dchs-alnwick.org for assistance.

If you are not registered with ParentMail at the moment but would like to be, please also email ParentMail@dchs-alnwick.org and the form can be sent to you.

REVIEW



“No no no, you need to be even more masculine” he told her...

Leonie Douglas of Year 13 reflects on the recent production of ‘Cyrano De Bergerac’ where she played the parts of Sister Claire, Ligniere, Montfleury, Musketeer and 1st Cadet.

After being involved in three musicals at DCHS, being promoted to the senior play this year was definitely a step up. No more singing and dancing and frolicking around, I thought, now let’s see you grow up and do some serious acting. Yeah. That’s what I thought.

However, Glyn Maxwell’s adaptation of Edmund Rostand’s *Cyrano de Bergerac* did live up to previous plays I’d seen at the school; from shrill screaming that left my ears ringing for the rest of the week, to emotionally draining fights and love affairs, I didn’t think I’d survive the intensive eight-week rehearsal schedule... But then it became real. Suddenly, I was a nun, which is difficult enough for me to handle, but then having to play a refined woman who plays a perverted man who isn’t actually a man but thinks he’s a man... it all got slightly out of control and I thought: this can’t be a tragedy; sure, they’ll all leave the playhouse crying – but with laughter, and I wasn’t even sure if that would be a result of the witty humour, euphemisms and suggestive remarks perfectly threaded throughout the play, or the fact that there’s a bunch

of girls on stage transforming their skirts into bloomers and swaggering around like blokes.

As for the singing and dancing – don’t think you’d escape it that easily, I told myself; DCHS had upped their game by assigning Amber Brown, year 12, the role of Music Advisor. She transformed the piece by adding her personal flare and compositional talent to the script, giving the actors involved yet another chance to have a bit jest and a sing-song.

That was before it got serious. We had you all fooled right up until the closing scene didn’t we? Surely you didn’t think that would last; remember, this is an ‘Allenby play’, what would his reputation be if he didn’t turn you all into emotional wrecks before you left the auditorium? It came as a surprise to me too; I got told, as probably one of the least sympathetic or emotional people in the school, that I had to force real tears from my face. Just thinking about

this pressure made me want to cry. But I didn’t. Because I can’t. I physically can’t. At least that’s what I thought before we made it to show week. Being in the moment and putting yourself into that situation was enough to set you off even just thinking about going on stage, and don’t even get me started on the fact that now it’s all over.

It has been a pleasure to have worked so closely with such a fantastic group of talented people, and the relationships and memories you get to take away from those eight weeks are priceless. I’d definitely persuade any student to get involved, whether it’s acting, backstage, creating the set, handling the technical side of the show, or even bringing something new to the table. The sentiment you receive at the end is totally worth it, and it is fun, I promise!

Even if Mr Allenby does make you cry by telling you you’re a terrible nun. Life ambitions, she says, shaking her head...



Eight pioneering students have signed up for a Level II Diploma in Agriculture, studying livestock, arable, grassland, machinery and business. The course gives students a good knowledge and a range of skills they can use in the agriculture and land based sector. Each of the students also has a work experience placement to consolidate classroom learning.

Local farms and land based businesses have opened their doors to welcome the next generation of young farmers. Students have been warmly welcomed by Newcastle University, Cockle Park Farm, also Low Steads, Hedgeley Farms, Newham Hall and Eshott Haugh farms. The students have interviewed farm managers, interrogated the balance sheets and learnt from those with a life time of farming experience.

Rosie Barber at Newham Hall Farm was a class favourite; she encouraged the students from the moment we arrived at the farm house. "What have you seen as you walked down the farm track? What did you hear, smell or notice – did you remember to look up as well as all around you and use all your senses? Farming is about detailed observation, noticing slight changes in the condition of livestock, grassland or crops." A great lesson starter, Ofsted would be proud of that one!

I asked the students what did they make of the course?

Oliver Tulip a year ten student from Alnmouth: "It's interesting to see lot's of ideas on different peoples farms, the way they live and the scale of their operations.



Land Based Studies

at The Duchess's Community High School

One farm had two and a half thousand sheep as well as Galloway cattle and a full programme of arable cropping. A return to traditional hill breeds was behind their success, this had reduced feed costs and gave a more reliable calving pattern.

Fynn Stewart: At Cockle Part we saw how David Watson, farm manager, produced beef cross calves, as well as dairy calves. This provided the kind of beef cross calf that makes up many of the beef suckler herds in the region. At Low Steads we saw the other end of the beef industry with top quality cattle bought and reared to finish, ready for sale to the food industry.

Adam Cowans: "I didn't know there were so many ways to establish arable crops. There's been a big move to reduce the amount of field operations, saving fuel and reducing carbon footprint – as well as costs. Most of the farms we have seen are only ploughing when they really need to, this reduces the risk of damage to soil structure and can give higher yields and higher margins.

Georgia Young: "We've seen a wide range of farms with a wide range of ages. It was good to meet Vicky Hogg at Hedgeley Farms, she was really young and it's good to see that you

can get a job as an Assistant Manager at this age. She really knew her stuff and you can see that it's worth learning if it gets you a job like that one. They shared all the details of their costs and we learnt about benchmarking one business against another and being able to set targets for performance."

Alicia Ingram: This course is providing vital experience for us wanting to go into jobs in the agriculture/animal area and we are already learning things that will benefit us in the future. All of the farmers are very interested in us and what we do in the land based sector. I've already been offered the chance to help at lambing time next year. I'd like to be a vet, so this will really help my application to University.

We're still finding our feet and although already supported by Askham Bryan College, we hope to be working with the Country Trust in partnership with the school, to gain access to more farms throughout the north east and continue to develop and challenge the students.

We would welcome the chance to visit any farm in the region. If you'd like to forward your details we'll be in touch to discuss what we can do.



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Being a new Year 9

“

I recently moved up to the Duchess's Community High School and I have many opinions on it.

My fears were getting lost and making new friends. The high school is a very big place and I was very worried I would get lost. But after a couple of weeks using a simple map we knew our way around.

I like a lot of things about this school:

It is awesome how many new people we've met and the amazing opportunities available to us.

The differences from this school to middle school are it's a lot bigger, there is more opportunities and there is more freedom, you feel more independent.

Emma B & Emily G ”

“

Before I came to Duchess I was worried and scared that I wouldn't make friends and I was worried that I might get lost. I have enjoyed High School so far as I haven't got lost and I have made loads of friends. I know where all of my classes/ lessons are as well. I enjoy most of the lessons and break and lunch. ”

Ellie McRea

“

Starting in High school was probably the scariest thing I've ever done. I knew there were 250 pupils in my year, I'd come from Belford Middle, that only has 80 pupils altogether, so I was terrified. I'd only met my class once, I didn't know anyone.

But on my first day, I went in and I smiled and I tried to make friends and I did, some of the best friends I'll ever have, I reckon. It took me only 1 or 2 weeks to learn where I needed to go, and now it's just my normal everyday routine.

I struggled in my Maths and French and other sets at first, but so did everyone. My parents constantly told me everyone is in the same boat and later on, I learnt that when I began, it wasn't lessons that terrified me, it was the social side. So anyone like me, will probably only be worried about making friends. But looking back it wasn't something to be worried about, but neither ” where the lessons.

Isabelle Sutherland

“

When you first come to Duchess in year 9 it is pretty daunting, but it's good as you come in a day earlier than the rest of the school, so you can settle in. Even when the rest of the school starts, all the teachers are very kind and help you find your way around. Any illusion you have of Year 9 being scary isn't right. Once you settle in, you have nothing to worry about. If you do have any worries when you get to Duchess you can speak to your form tutor or any other teacher. Most lessons are really good, and you make new friends really quickly especially in your form group. You can also take part in a variety of clubs/activities for example rugby and different musical bands. ”

Gordon Rae

“

Going to the high school was really scary and nerve-racking. The school looked massive and all the year 11's were like giants, the first week went so fast.

After the first week everything calmed down and it was like we had been here for years, you barely notice the year 11's towering above you and you get used to where your classes are and which teacher you had.

By half term a lot had changed, you had new friends and didn't talk to old, but you never thought about that. You had learnt how the school worked. ”

Jade Aynsley

NORTHUMBERLAND

COUNTY COUNCIL

Education Welfare Service: Child Employment

Did you know that?

- All children from the age of 13 years and who are working must be registered with the Local Authority and be issued with a work permit.
- It is an offence for an employer to employ children without registering with the local authority first.
- The numbers of hours you can work whilst attending school are restricted. Children must not work before 7am and after 7pm.
- Any children working without a permit is not covered by their employer's liability insurance.

If your child is working please ensure that an application form for a work permit is completed.

More information and application forms can be obtained from:

LIST North (Child Employment)

Lion House

Willowburn Industrial Estate

Alnwick

NE66 2PF

Tel: 01670 623344

ART ON TOUR!!

Students and staff from the DCHS Art Department have been 'out on tour' visiting Newcastle's cultural highlights and absorbing the best of what our local galleries can offer. Art students from years 11 - 13 took part in a fantastic series of drawing workshops at the Great North Museum followed by visits to the Laing and Baltic art galleries.



As the festive season approaches and the nights draw in, students and staff prepare to yet again entertain and delight in a wealth of talent and festive fun. So open your diaries and feast upon the up and coming creative delights coming your way!

Rotary Concert - Thursday 11th December - Details to be announced

Federation Carol Concert - Monday 15th December - Details to be announced

Mayor's Carol Concert - Wednesday 17th December - Details to be announced

Advance Notice - Musical - 4th-7th March 2015 - Alnwick Playhouse - Further details to be announced.

Keep checking the school website for more details and for details of further events and performances.

New to Year 12

The change from lower school education up to sixth form can be a big one, but I also took the chance to switch schools, so was new to The Duchess's come September. Actually I had thought about it before going into year nine, but hadn't for various reasons; now I was doing my AS levels and was happy to have taken the opportunity.

I think there were fifteen of us new to the school, and if it wasn't for the efforts of the year thirteen senior students the first week could easily have been a mess of stumbling around trying to find classes, offices and all that important stuff. Luckily, they were really helpful, even if one did admit, 'It's OK, I still don't know my way around'. I think this was meant to be reassuring.

New school issues dealt with, I was finding the lessons to be pretty enjoyable. I think because you're only doing three

or four subjects you can really focus on the ones you like, so you do start taking more of an interest. And some of the stuff really makes you think. For me, physics is something I really like, but trying to get your head around what's actually happening inside a wire can be quite stretching - which is a good thing, because that's when you need to go and look deeper or discuss it with your teachers.

One of the other things about sixth form is that because of the classes you choose, you're in with other people who tend to have similar mindsets and similar interests. It makes it really quite easy to find your footing in a new school, so the whole 'settling in' business was more fun than hassle. Though it might still be a while before I know my way around!

Jerome Lloyd



Administration of Medication to Pupils

Agreement between Parents and School

Parents and Carers should be aware that, because of new guidance published by the Department of Education in April 2014, a new policy called 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions' has been put in place by the school. This policy chiefly refers to essential prescribed medication. Parents and Carers should note that they must supply a written request in order for medication to be administered to pupils during school hours. It is only possible to administer medication that the child's doctor has prescribed or a parent has authorised.

It is also important to keep the administration of medication to a minimum and parents are requested to consider the possibility of administering the daily doses out of school hours. If this is not possible **there is a consent form that must be completed and returned to the school before school staff can administer the medication.** The form is available on our website along with the full policy.

Note: Medicines must be kept in the original container as dispensed by the pharmacy.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As the weather becomes cooler & wetter we have received a number of queries regarding school uniform. Below is a list of the full uniform requirements.

School tie

White, long sleeved shirt

Black, school V-necked jumper (or old hoodie if Year 10 or Year 11)

Black trousers (not denim or jeans style)

Black, knee length, formal skirt

Plain, black, grey or white socks or black tights

Black leather or 'leather look' shoes

An outdoor coat or gilet (not denim or leather)

Hats, scarves & gloves are permitted if it is cold or raining. Hats to be removed on entry to the building.

Scarves & gloves to be removed on entry to the classroom.

Hair colour must be natural

Make-up should be discrete

Jewellery can include a wrist watch, small signet-type ring & 1 ear stud in the ear lobe.

We do not require students to wear black or dark coloured coats or outerwear, but do expect coats to be just that and not a hoodie or fleece top.

GREAVES GRINDLE

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In the event of school closure due to adverse weather conditions, e.g. heavy snowfall making roads inaccessible, Radio Newcastle will be informed. They will issue school reports during the Breakfast Programme (on radio frequency 95.4) from 7.00am until 11.00am. There will be a daily update until the school reopens.

We will also be able to send any confirmation of closure by text and / or e-mail to all of those families registered with Parent Mail. Should the weather deteriorate please check your mobile phone / e-mail to confirm whether any information has been sent. We will also post a notification on the school website (www.dchs-alnwick.org) and on

Northumberland County Council website:

www.northumberland.gov.uk

Further details, with Bus Company telephone numbers, are on our website

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Student Voice & Student Societies

This year we hope to enable our students to have more of a say in what happens at DCHS. A number of new initiatives are on the go.

We have recently appointed a number of year 12 students as Pastoral Leaders. This role involves running Student Council sessions and reporting back to Directors of Learning and the Senior Leadership Team. They will also run drop-ins, so that students are able to voice their opinions or offer further suggestions.

Our Pastoral Leaders are:

Year 9 Leaders:

- Amy Barrett
- Sam Murray
- Rosie Murton

Year 10 Leaders:

- Jack Bagness
- Zara Browell
- Jarod Lewis

Year 11 Leaders:

- Olivia Burt
- Toni Hall
- Louise Laidler

We have also given students the opportunity to establish their own

Student Society. This is a club that is run for and by students. The society is given a budget of £20 and can use this money to buy equipment, run trips or to raise more money.

We have a number of Student Societies now running, including:

- Fundraising for charities led by Sophie Knox in Yr11
- Animal Rights led by Katie Mewett in Yr10
- Physical Training Club led by Tonicha Caufield in Yr9
- Card Games Club led by Kieran Wood in Yr11
- 'Gentleman's Dispute' web series led by Jack Colledge in Yr11.
- Chess Club led by Kieran Wood in Yr11

It is not too late to set up another society; students should contact a member of the Student Voice Working Party for an application form (see next page).

Our first meeting of Student Council this year will be held on 20th November. We will be using the school's * and EBI system (*= good, EBI = Even Better If) to allow students to evaluate the first half term. We will also be looking at the school environment, both indoor and outdoor and would like to know if students have any suggestions for improvements in this area.

The Student Voice Working Party consists of **Lisa Smith** (Assistant Headteacher), **Susan Green** (Maths), **Anna Harrison** (Humanities), **James Thompson** (RE).



Jessica Young, Year 13, has been selected for the Scotland Women under-20 squad following a trial held at Murrayfield, home of Scottish rugby. The aim of the under-20 programme is to identify, develop and prepare young players to progress on to the full Scotland Women senior squad.

The first training day was held on 23rd November at the University of Edinburgh's Peffermill playing fields and will be followed by training camps in December, January, February and March, leading to two matches later in the spring against teams representing the RAF and Czech Republic.



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SPORT

Boys Sports Report

U14s Football Report

The U14 boys' football team have begun the season in perfect fashion with the perfect start of four wins, in four games. The team has amassed an outstanding 24 goals scored and only conceded once.



Under 14 Football

The season began with hard fought win over the Berwick High School. While the final result of 8-0 suggests that it was an easy game, the team had to work hard to overcome communication issues that always arise when a newly formed team play together for the first time.

Next was another home tie, this time to the Northumberland Church of England academy. NCEA looked dangerous from the first whistle and when their two pacey forwards combined excellently, the Duchess U14s found themselves 1-0 down. However, with the calm composure of **Reece Thompson** at centre back and **Leon**

Midgley beginning to dictate the game from central midfield, the Duchess soon began to dominate the game. The final result was a 6-1 victory for the Duchess with **Leon Midgley** scoring four to take his total to six goals in two games.

The U14s first away fixture was against Bedlington High School. We arrived to find a team of only 9 (due to illness) and sportingly agreed to play with equal numbers. With a squad of 16 and the use of rolling substitutes permitted, the "fresh legs" of our players soon overran Bedlington. A hat-trick from full back **Joe Pickard**, a third goal in three games from **Jordan Hedgecock**, a goal with his first touch from **Brandon McCann** and an excellent strike from **Liam Cravagan** saw a comprehensive 6-0 victory.

The final game of the term saw the Duchess's pitted against KEVI in the county cup. In blustery conditions both teams struggled to pass the ball with the wind effects producing a scrappy game. However, as the previous games had shown, the Duchess's U14s have an excellent crop of players and soon the team had begun to camp in the opposition half. An excellent display that gave **Jay Graham** his third clean sheet in his three games in goal, the Duchess again ran away with victory. The familiar names of **Leon Midgley** (2), **Brandon McCann** and **Jordan Hedgecock** giving the excellent team performance the 4-0 result it deserved.

U15 Football 2014

The U15 football team have played 3 games so far this season winning one, drawing one and losing the other. Our first game was against Berwick who won the U14 league last season. We found ourselves 2-0



Under 15 Football

down at half time despite putting in a good team performance. In the second half we were awarded a penalty which **Max Clark** scored to make the remaining 20 minutes interesting. We equalised through a **Gregor Sharp** strike and were unlucky not to go and win the game in the remaining minutes of the match.

Our second game was a home match against NCEA. Duchess started the game playing attacking football and thanks to a **Brandon Mallaburn** hat-trick, found ourselves 3-0 up after 20 minutes. We let our lead slip and at the half time whistle the game was 3-2 with NCEA finding a way back. After the restart, NCEA scored and the game was now 3-3 with plenty of time remaining for both teams to push for victory. NCEA took the initiative and for the first time in the match were now leading. Duchess equalised through a penalty to make the score 4-4 but could not stop NCEA from winning the match 5-4. In the end, this was a thoroughly entertaining match which saw plenty of goals being scored by both teams.

Bedlington High School away resulted in Duchess winning the game 12-0. The opposition played with 9 men and could not cope with our goal scoring threat of **Gregor Sharp** and **Brendan Mallaburn**. The two lads score 3 and 5 goals respectively to put the game out of reach for Bedlington. **Will Symonds** also scored 2 goals to help Duchess claim the first win of the season.

Year 9 Rugby

The u.14 rugby team have started the season with good numbers and an influx of players new to the game. They have played 5 league and cup games with improvement evident during the term. **Jamie Comber** has been an excellent captain and he has organised the team well. **Ashley Sinton** and **Rohan Taylor** have performed well during all the games.



Year 9 rugby: Jamie Comber

The year 10 rugby team have enjoyed a mixed term with regard to results but have shown great spirit in some difficult games. **Rory Davidson** has been an inspirational captain and **Oliver Tulip** has been selected to represent Northumberland U15's. Although the 15-a-side games have been hard work, more success was achieved at the 10-a-side tournament where they managed to win 3 games and played well.



Year 10 rugby

Girls Sports Report

Hockey

Another very busy start has been made to the sporting year by all girls participating in sport, whether recreationally for fun or for more serious competition. The U15, U16 and U18 hockey teams have made a positive start to the new season and the U15 team are enjoying more success than last year as they are another year 'hockey wiser'



Hockey

and have a real fighting spirit. The new U14 players show real promise and have made serious progress having played very little 11 aside before in their Middle Schools and are expected to compete against private schools that have played together for 4 years already! **Rebecca Reed** and **Daisy Hope** are training with the U16 county squad. **Well done to them!**

Football

Our 3 football teams have made a great start in the County leagues. (4 wins 2 draws and 2 losses).

Netball

Netball this term has been very positive Lots of girls especially in yrs 9 and 10 attending practice and keen to play in matches. Seniors are struggling with the pull of academic extra classes but do prioritise for matches. We compete in county tournaments with relative success:

Seniors finishing 4th

U/16 finishing 4th

U/14 finishing 7th

Like all extra-curricular we aim to include as many students as possible. Girls are attending both Boulmer and Morpeth clubs to gain more experience which is great. **Molly Baxter** is in the county U14 development squad

Rugby

Some Yr10 and Yr11 girls have some serious rugby lessons on a Thursday when Juliet Short from the RFU development team came in during lesson time to coach. The U15 and U18 players enjoyed some hard hitting competition in a 7 a side tournament. The U18 were victorious over Morpeth and the U15 girls narrowly got beaten in the play off for 6th place.



Girls Rugby

Cross Country

The inter girls and boys cross country teams came 3rd in the County round of the English Schools Cup which was held on The Town Moor narrowly missing out on Regional qualification. Our first runner home in 10th place was **Fiona Robson**, and for boys, **Jakob Cross** came 1st! The cross country team travelled all the way to Glasgow to compete in the St Aloysius invitation road relays a tradition we have been following for over 10 years. Very wet and cold conditions tested the runners and the girls finished in a very creditable 5th place out of 12 teams, and the boys, 5th out of 14 teams, from all



Cross Country

over Scotland. Team: **Abi Lewington, Fiona Robson, Eve Buddle, Jenny Bolam, Becca Reed** and **Rosie Murton, Warron Davison, Jakob Cross, Ben Kelly, Alfie Murton, Harry Davison** and **Phil Winkler**.

Achievements in the pool by students from The Duchess's Community High School

Kate MacPhee

specialist swims 400, 800 Freestyle and 200 Individual medley

Regional Championships: qualifying for 8 events 4 finals and a bronze Medal 400 freestyle

Scottish Nationals: 6th 8th and 10th

Open water: county silver regional 4th

Kate reached the county Beacon squad allowing her to train every week in Sunderland with the top swimmers in the county and also made the Scottish national development squad.

She will be representing her club at the national swimming championships in the 400 freestyle and the open water championships.

Iain Rennie

Regional championships: qualifying in 200 freestyle and final in 400 Freestyle

Scottish nationals: 10th 400 freestyle 13th 200 freestyle

Ben Kelly

Qualified for regional championships 200 Breastroke

Amy Thorne

Regional championships qualifying in 100 and 200 BC

Edris Ramezanpour

Regional championships: qualified in 200 fly, 200 Back and 400 Freestyle
County and regional open water championships

Samuel Cross

Regional championships in 50 and 200 freestyle and 100 fly

Harvey Coxon

Regional championships: 100 Back

All these swimmers made the county championships earlier in the year as did Rosie Murton, and Emily Stenton.

Important Calendar Dates

Monday, December 8	Progress Check 2 opens	Tuesday, April 13	School reopens after Easter Holiday
Monday, December 15	Aln Federation Carol Service 6.30 at St Pauls	Thursday 16 – Monday 20, April	A2 Art Exam
Friday, December 19	Prize Day	Tuesday 21 – Friday 24, April	AS and Photography Exam
School closes for Christmas Holidays		Friday, May 1	Training Day
2015			
Monday, January 5	Training Day	Monday, May 4	May Day Holiday
Tuesday, January 6	School reopens for Spring Term	Thursday, May 7	Y11 Presentation Evening
Week beginning January 12 Year 11 Mock Exams		Monday 11 May – Friday 5 June	Y12 Study Leave
Week beginning January 19 Year 12 Mock Exams		Thursday, May 14	Summer Exams begin
Week beginning January 26 Year 13 Mock Exams		Wednesday, May 20	Y11 Leavers Assembly
Wednesday, January 8	Parental Surgery – Alnwick	Friday, May 22	Y13 Leavers Assembly
Wednesday, January 28	KS4 Options Evening	Friday, May 22	School closes for Summer Half Term Holiday
Week beginning February 2 GCSE Music Performance exams		Monday, June 1	School reopens after Summer Half Term Holiday
Wednesday, February 4	Sixth Form Options Evening	Monday, June 8	Progress Check 5 opens
Monday, February 9	Progress Check 3 opens	Wednesday, June 10	Y12 Higher Education Evening for parents/student finance
Week beginning February 9 A Level Music Performance Exams		Tuesday, June 26	Y12 Higher Education Day
Friday, February 13	School closes for Spring Mid Term holiday	Friday, June 27	Y11 Prom
Monday, February 23	School reopens after Spring Mid Term holiday	Friday, June 27	University Open Day – Newcastle/Northumbria
Monday, March 2	School Musical – Dress Rehearsal	Monday, June 29	Y12 Work Experience Week
Tuesday, March 3	School Musical – Alnwick Playhouse	Wednesday, July 1	Y10 Presentation Evening
Wednesday, March 4		Thursday, July 2	Y8 Intake Day
Thursday, March 5		Friday, July 3	Y7 Sports Day
Friday, March 6		Monday, July 6	Y10 Exams (all week)
Saturday, March 7		Thursday, July 9	Y9 Presentation Evening
Week beginning March 16 GCSE Art Exam		Friday, July 17	School closes for Summer Holidays
Monday, March 23	Consultation Day	Thursday, August 13	AS/A2 Results
Monday, March 23	Progress Check 4 opens	Thursday, August 20	GCSE Results
Friday, March 27	School closes for Easter Holidays	Tuesday, September 1	Training Day



The
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