

# Parkviews

February 2015

A NEWSPAPER FROM PARK VIEW SCHOOL

Issue 49

## Wonderful Performing Arts Evenings

A packed term has seen wonderful A-level drama productions, a thoroughly enjoyable North Lodge Christmas Concert and the beautiful Festival of Nine Lessons at St Cuthbert's. However, all were eclipsed this year by the concert we held alongside Ponteland High and George Stephenson High schools at The Sage. When the three schools formed a Learning Alliance two years ago, it was very much with evenings like this in mind. As head-teachers, we shared an ambition that the school experiences of our students should be as enriched as possible, both inside the classroom and in extra curricular activities. Thus, we looked for our staff to work together to not only share their expertise in pedagogy but also to open up opportunities which would otherwise not have existed; put simply, the power of three is always far greater than the power of one.

An audience of over 600 filled Hall One to be treated to an incredibly professional night of music, during which individual students, small ensembles and our junior choir performed in the first half before a second half in which our orchestra and chamber choir excelled. All performed magnificently, with special mention going to our soloists Katie Smith (Year 11) Lewis Wetherell (Year 12) and to Thomas Donnelly (Year 13), who conducted the joint school's orchestra in a piece which he, himself, had composed: a magnificent piece for a magnificent setting.

At a time when too many public voices look to gain political acumen by scorning our schools and blaming the young for society's ills, the night was always meant to be a celebration of our wonderful students: their energy was as enviable as their optimism; their talent a fitting reminder as we sat near the Tyne of everything that makes our region great.

Well done to all and many thanks to the staff who performed, particularly Mr Woods, Mrs Woods and Mrs Flynn, our musical directors for the night.

Mr I R Veitch



## The Bard At His Best

After weeks of preparation and hard work from a dedicated cast of talented year 9 students, the night finally arrived for our Shakespeare in Schools Festival performance of 'Twelfth Night' at The Northern Stage in Newcastle. Students only had one opportunity to rehearse in the space, but

took everything in their stride, approaching the day with a real sense of focus and professionalism. Because of this, it was decided that 'Twelfth Night' would open the night followed by work from three other schools. Both Miss Watson and Mrs Schofield, the shows directors, couldn't have been happier with the outstanding performance our students gave on the night. The production was praised for its comic timing, impressive performances and disciplined ensemble work that ensured that the plot of this complicated and sometimes confusing comedy was delivered with real clarity and enthusiasm. Mrs Schofield and Miss Watson would like to say a big thank you to all the cast and our fantastic sixth form Assistant Directors.



## Future Park View Students



We have primary students from our cluster visiting to cook with Mrs Howe all of this academic year. They have taken part in three weeks of cooking and have all showed themselves to be very enthusiastic, independent and polite. Sophie and Amy from the Sixth Form have helped, putting their cooking abilities to good use and their understanding of young people gained from their admirable and dedicated involvement with running Chester Le Street Brownies. So far the initiative has been a great success, although a starving Headteacher has yet to be sent any samples to try!

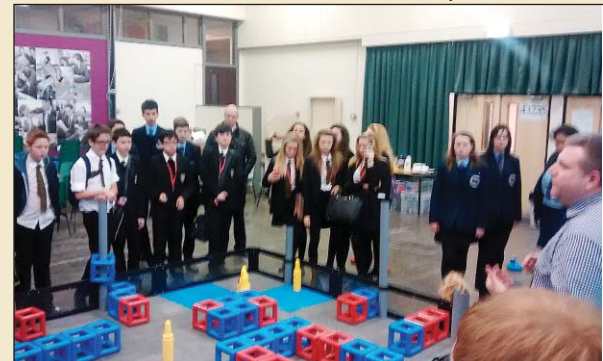
## Speed Dating



Year 8 took part in a 'Speed Career Networking' event as part of their Go Ahead day on 11 November. This activity was an excellent opportunity for the students to gain insights into different careers and broaden their aspirations by asking questions to a number of visitors from different sectors. 10 volunteers visited North Lodge so that groups of students could meet with them and find out about their jobs and the skills, personal qualities and qualifications required. The event was a real success with the students learning about careers in Law, Finance, IT, HM Revenue and Customs, Construction, Hospitality and Catering and Housing.

## VEX Robotics

A crack team Team of Year 8 students took part in the VEX



Robotics Challenge last term. A good mix of boys and girls competed in this STEM activity and Park View did very well in a warm up to the Regional Final next Month. The teamwork on display was stunning and the excitement is now building for our own Robot Wars!

## Park View's MaD World

Ten Year 9 students attended a MaD day (medicine and dentistry) taster day at Newcastle University Medical School on the 16th December. They took part in a mixture of lectures and practical sessions in both medicine and dentistry, having the opportunity to use the equipment that the undergraduate students use whilst training for a career in Medicine/Dentistry. They attended lectures covering medical science as well as having the opportunity to make a dental mould. We believe having this type of experience in Year 9 helps students to make the right option choices as well as keeping them on track for top grades. It proved to be a brilliant experience - watch out for the future army of white coats heading out from Park View!

On another visit, Ten Year 10 students spent the day at Newcastle University as part of a Raising Aspirations event. The day allowed students (Adam Anderson, Sinead Bolam, Ellen Couling, Zoe Cresswell, Jade Davidson, Luke Frost, Bobby Greenwell, Cameron Swann, Kieran Walters and Jade Wardle) the opportunity to visit the Newcastle University campus and take part in a range of interactive sessions to increase their awareness of and aspirations towards Higher Education. They were hosted by current university students who worked with them throughout the day to help them find out about all of the things that university can offer them. The learning outcomes for the day included higher education awareness, money management and raising aspirations. All students enjoyed the experience, especially the opportunity they were given to explore the campus!



## AN INCREDIBLY MOVING EXPERIENCE

On Tuesday 11th November, year 9 students took part in a day of activities based on the holocaust. During the course of the morning students learned more about the Nazi regime and its implications for European citizens. They tackled complex ideas such as: 'Who was to blame for the Holocaust?' and 'Could Britain have done more to prevent the Holocaust?' In the afternoon the students and staff were privileged to hear from a Holocaust survivor. Students heard from Eva Clarke who works with the Holocaust Educational

Trust to deliver her testimony in schools. Eva shared with the students her remarkable story. Eva was born in Mauthausen Concentration Camp in Austria. Eva and her mother were the only survivors of their family, 15 members of whom were killed in Auschwitz. Students will now use their experience to help them in their continuing studies of the time period. The talk from Eva Clarke (holocaust survivor) was phenomenal. I have never seen a group of students so engrossed and affected by a single individual.



## A Lot More Than Turkey and Trimmings

'According to the Food Network, the British do not attempt to make their first Christmas lunch until the age of thirty four. Nearly 50% of those polled said they felt a real sense of achievement when finally dishing up the Christmas dinner. However 9% also forget to defrost the Turkey prior to cooking the festive lunch. In December, Park View students have significantly reduced this average age. Chloe Melvin, Brittany Reynolds, Katie Surtees and Shauna Tague along with Connor Atkinson, Darryl Brydon, Scott Cother, Sean Pearson, and Gary Younger decided to plan and prepare their very own Christmas lunch.

Initially Sean Pearson had the idea to invite some residents from a local care home, as part of his Work Skills volunteering unit.

After discussions with the rest of the class it was decided that they would prefer to invite a member of staff who had made an impact on them in their time at Park View. Each student then wrote a personal letter to a member of staff and hand delivered it. (Many tears were spotted, particularly from Mrs Duffield and Mr Christie but for very different reasons).

The students were given a budget and created a shopping list, before searching for bargains in the local shops. Monday 15th came around quickly, (our Christmas Day) The students went shopping before lunchtime, collected all of the decorations



and groceries, then washed and peeled all of the fresh vegetables, The turkey went in the oven, now they needed to prepare the room: how to make room 501 look festive?

Period five came and the students were already pans in hand to start cooking. The starters offered a choice of soup or prawn cocktails. Whilst these were being devoured by the staff, the students finished off and dished up the main, a festive turkey dinner with all the trimmings. They then joined the staff and enjoyed the fruits of their labour. Finally, to end the meal suitably, the students served up an impressive looking gateau. The day was a brilliant and very touching display of teamwork and initiative and it was a pleasure to seeing students working in this way.

# Remember, remember the 5th of November...

Four politically savvy students in Year 9, Mrs Cowie and Mr Wright embarked on a trip to London on the 5th November for an unforgettable Guy Fawkes Day. Departing Durham at 6am, our Year 9 students were eager to draft their questions for Kevan Jones MP. Dane even brushed up on the daily events with The Telegraph!

After a quick dash from King's Cross to Westminster, we met Kevan's London researcher Alex who gave us an excellent and insightful tour of the Palace of Westminster including the famous green benches of the Commons. Once we had finished our tour we joined the line for Prime Minister's Questions. The lively exchange was highly enjoyable and showed us democracy at work. Although it was a close one, we con-

cluded the Prime Minister won that round!

Our political experience continued with a more relaxed exchange over coffee and cake with questions for our local MP. It was a fantastic opportunity to quiz him on everything from road safety, the European Union and Ed Miliband's chances in May 2015. He even gave us some handy tips of becoming an MP.

Departing Portcullis House we boarded the London Eye for a breath taking view of Central London. We spotted a multitude of famous landmarks from Buckingham Palace to Wembley Stadium. Our day was rounded off nicely with a walk past Government buildings in Whitehall and a brief 'selfie' outside Downing Street. This left us just enough time to soak up the ambience of



Trafalgar Square and then back to King's Cross.

Whilst some of us boarded the East Coast Mainline for Durham, one of our student's headed off to Hogwarts instead!

Overall, a fantastic day of politics, history and culture! We are very grateful to Kevan Jones MP for his hospitality and to his staff for all their help in arranging the day.

# Children in Need

Despite the horrific weather and the whole of the North East being deserted on Friday 14th November, in one day only our wonderful 6th form students raised a magnificent £5000 for Children in Need, all of them in many forms of fancy dress.

We had great support from our local stores donating raffle prizes. Stores that donated were Tesco, Morrison, Bon Bon, Wilkinsons, Boyes, B&M and the Sun Newsagents; a big thank you to them all. Also a big thank you to all those who donated to our many students out and about in the rain.

Head boy James Hewitson and Head Girl Molly Wales did a tremendous job organising the whole day with the support of the 6th form Student Leaders. Molly Wales (Year 13) reported, 'Well done and congratulations to everyone that took part in Children in Need! Considering the atrocious weather that occurred, spirits remained high and collectively we raised over £5000! I'm amazed that despite the rain everyone still went out and put full effort into the day!' Children in Need day always sums up all that is great about our students and we are all incredibly proud of them!

Miss Thoms



# Move over Apprentice Candidates

The Future Business Magnates Year 8 team, Courtney, Bethany, Katie, Hannah, Sophie, Matthew, Gimhan and Peter, made a fantastic start to the competition coming third on their first challenge. They are looking forward to working with Steelcraft to help them develop their ideas and business skills.

Miss Muncaster

# INDUSTRIAL CADETS



In December, Gifted and talented Design students were invited to work with staff from Nissan for a week, promoting Engineering skills and knowledge. Students were split into two groups of eight. They had to work as if they were a 'shift team', delegating team leader, assembly line operatives and quality control. They had to assemble a model car with relevant parts (e.g. chassis, exhaust and wheels/bearing), time manage the process, assess the process, then repeat to try to improve it. Then they had to make a bulk amount of cars as if it were a production line. They were in competition with each other and broke all standing records from previous schools. After the week they visited the Nissan site visit and were presented with certificates.

# Park View in the Community



Under the watchful eye of Mrs Wilds, Year 10 students have been working with Chester-le-Street Residents' Association in order to create a new bench for the community. Mr Veitch received the following from the Chair, Mr Briggs:

"Dear Mr Veitch

Can I, on behalf of the residents of Chester-le-Street, say a big thank you to Mrs Wilds and those students who were responsible for our bench project. They took charge of the project and delivered to my group, a wonderful bench, with lovely carvings. The bench will be used by everyone. The students worked well in partnership with the residents. Your students did a lot of searching local history, to come up with pages of work on designs, poetry, and pictures. Their dedication to the project was a real pride in what they were doing. We were really impressed with their commitment and willingness to advise and help in the final decisions. We as a group are proud of the bench and your students work. Can I say again the school should be really proud of those students working for a group on a project, and delivering a wonderful article at the end. Thank your students from the residents, and they can sit on the bench and have their lunch."

# Enriching the Curriculum



Year 12 and 13 German students took part in a German film day at the Tyneside cinema run by Rene Koglbauer and Newcastle University students. A-level German students and teachers from schools throughout the region watched the film 'Good Bye Lenin' and then worked in groups to discuss and analyse the film. Our students even tweeted their reactions to the film in German to Rene! It was a lot of fun to work with groups from other schools and next term, we are hoping to organise an A level study skills workshop at the University with the other schools.

On another German experience, students from 9p1 and 9v1 language classes spent the day talking and learning about the World War 1 Christmas Truce. They looked at whether the Sainsbury's Christmas advert depicted the events of the truce accurately, read some letters from the trenches in German, had a talk from a representative from Sainsbury's about the ideas behind the advert before re-enacting the famous football game! We ended the day with some creative work in German; one group wrote and acted out scenes from the truce, another group wrote an article, some groups wrote poems while others created some artwork based on the truce. We all had a fantastic day!

On Thursday, 20 November, Sixth Form Literature students visited the Bronte Centre at Howarth as part of their study of 'Wuthering Heights'. There, they took part in workshops about the novel as well as visiting the moor on which much of the key action is set. Visibly moved by the experience, Mrs Cullen was seen to break into 'Heathcliff, It's me, Cathy..' in true Kate Bush style whilst Mr Groark smouldered manfully on a nearby rock.

# Sporting Champions

Our usual packed calendar of sport has continued in the Autumn Term with a huge range of opportunities to compete in a wide range of sports across the school. Athletics and Cross Country dominates our successes with some stunning performances from lots of students from Year 7 to 13. Betty Kennedy, Anna Sawicki-McGough, Antonio Green, Philippe Ellis, Courtney Clark, Eva Hardie, Lily Hardie, Eve Southern, Eve Percival, Lauren Hirst, Sophie Lower qualified for the Regional Final of the Indoor Athletics Championships as heat winners! A number of these runners also represented Park View with pride at Cross Country. Our teams of girls from all ages competed in the Tyne and Wear School Girls Cross Country Championship where the junior runners came away with the silver medal. Notable individual performances came from Eva Hardie, Lily Hardie, Eve Southern, Elle Brown, Lauren Husband, Jess Jowsey, Jasmine Gill, Abbie Sheavills and Sam Kirkup. Success continued further up the school with Grace Oliver finishing in 3rd place and Anna Fawcett winning the Senior Girls competition! The boys continued this success as the U13 Boys finished 3rd and the Under 15 Boys also picked up bronze medals too, with notable performances from Bailey Mitchell, Dillon Openshaw, Alex Whellans and Jack Young. In another event, the Junior girls' team and Inter boys' team participated in the first round of the English School Cross Country Cup. Both teams were a real credit to the school and put in some excellent performances. The bus driver also commented afterwards how well behaved the students had been on such a long bus journey to and from Northallerton. The Inter boys missed out on qualifying for the next round. The junior girls however came 2nd overall and will compete in the Regional Final next month.

The Rowing Club's first competition got underway with great success! Mr Christie entered the team in the Durham Area Rowing Competition held at Durham Amateur Rowing Club on 13 November. Bobbi Forster and Katie McMurchie came first and second in the year 10 girls race against some very good opposition, particularly from Durham Johnston and St Leonards. It was a very close race with Katie leading up to the last 25 seconds of the 4 minute race before Bobbi took the lead to win by 11 metres. Both girls can be very proud of the achievement. To complete a great day, Holly Young finished 3rd in the 6th form girls' race. All the girls qualified to represent the school in the County Championship. Special mention should also be made for - Scott Burgess, Ben Muxworthy, Ton Starkey, Hannah Linton and Hannah Barksby. They are new to rowing but competed extremely well in competitive races and were a credit to the school. I have no doubt at all that the future holds great things for them!

Another new sport saw Park View pick up medals in the English Schools Swimming Gala. The Junior Boys, Junior Girls, Intermediate Girls and Senior Girls all competed with established swimming schools and performed very well indeed. Two silver medal and two bronze medals in the relay events represented a very good haul for our young swimmers and we look forward to developing as a squad with a very talented group of junior swimmers coming through the ranks. Some of these swimmers have since gone on to compete in Regional Championships with notable performances from Elle Brown, Lewis Maxwell, Aaron Beckford, Faye Burns, Olivia Nelson and Oliver Wallace! Well done everyone!

In Judo, we are delighted to report that Jane Thomas (Year 9) and James Robinson (Year 11) not only competed at the National British Judo Championships in Kettering but won medals; a GOLD for James and a SILVER for Jane: well done to you both! Amazing achievements!

In Table Tennis, two teams from Park View competed for the first time in the Durham School Games qualifying Table Tennis competition and came 5th and 6th. There were some really good performances and it was especially pleasing to see contributions from several students who have never represented the school at sport before. Well done to: Sean Rowland and Jordan Flemming (Year 10) and Tom Starkey, Scott Burgess, Haydn Williamson, Ben Smith, Carl Pritchard and Ross Hind (Year 11). And finally, Blake Keeble continues to fly the flag for the school, being part of the Newcastle Eagles academy and also playing for the North East in the England Basketball tournament at Leeds. Well done, Blake and all our talented sportspeople continue to surpass expectations on a local, regional and national level.

## Park View Seeks Former Students



Did you go to Park View School? If you're a former student who would like to support current students, we would love to hear from you!

There are students in the classes where you once sat, facing similar challenges and opportunities that you did. Being connected to you could really help them.

It doesn't matter when you left school, whether you're in further education or employment, whether you still live nearby or have moved further away, there are still ways you can help. We would love to hear about your life journey since leaving school, however long ago that was. Joining Park View School's Alumni network can help you to engage with the School in many ways, including; career role models, mentoring students, volunteering, providing work experience, fundraising/donating. Of course you may simply want to reconnect with old class friends or keep in touch with what's happening at Park View School now. Whatever your reasons, registering with Park View School Alumni Network will positively support our School.

Jodie Graham, Business Development Officer said, "We have signed up to Future First's scheme and the prospects it will bring to Park View School. A network of past students with all their valuable experience will be vital in helping us to broaden current students' jobs horizons and equip them for the world of work. There are many opportunities for past students to get involved from mentoring current students to getting back in touch with old class friends."

Registration takes two minutes online or paper registration forms are available from school reception. Once registered you will receive newsletters, invitations and opportunities to join us in many ways. Former students can sign up to Future First's alumni scheme by clicking on the "Former Students" link on the website [www.futurefirst.org.uk](http://www.futurefirst.org.uk). This photograph is of Antonio Lulic, a past student now singer/song writer, delivering a recent workshop to music students.

