

Valley Gardens



5th April 2019

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers

This term has been another hugely successful one for pupils at our school. We have enjoyed successes in a number of competitions and tournaments from all different areas of the school curriculum; we are so proud of our pupils.

One of our priorities this academic year has been to increase the number of opportunities that we can provide to get parents into school. Such opportunities include our termly ACHIEVE assemblies, our Friday Headteacher awards, music showcases and productions. We love having parents in school and hope to continue to create more and more opportunities to invite you in.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to the staff, pupils and parents who have been involved in this year's preparations for the Year 6 SATS. The pupils have worked so hard and made such great progress during what is a stressful time for them. We have tried to keep the pressure to a minimum whilst urging the pupils to fulfil their potential. We are definitely in the end game after Easter, but could I beg parents to insist that pupils do their 10 minute daily refresher task just to keep the grey cells working over the two week break. Can I also remind parents that we have breakfast sessions running from now until the SATS which will build confidence and help the pupils to feel more relaxed.

Our work in the summer term includes some exciting developments to our curriculum which have been inspired by our student population and what they have told us they want to learn about. We have reviewed our coverage of the traditional school subjects and allocated some new slots to the timetable for September to teach pupils about things that really interest them. We have a lot of work to do to finalise the plans and to be ready to deliver them in time for September, but the whole staff are enthused by this opportunity and we are sure the pupils will enjoy what is in store. I will be inviting a small group of parents to review our plans in the summer term once we are in a position to do so.

We would like to wish you all a great Easter break.

Regards

David Godfrey
Headteacher

North Tyneside Writing Competition

On Thursday 21st March, a group of six pupils from across the school visited the Langdale Centre to participate in an award ceremony for this year's EYFS writing competition. Scarlett (Yr8), Joseph and Ruby (Yr7) and Libby, Holly and Joe (Yr6) were each acknowledged for their entries and awarded with certificates that represented their literary accomplishments. Accompanying them, both on the bus journey to the Langdale Centre and in the ceremony itself, was deputy head Mr. Hope, who supported the pupils throughout. Such competitions as this are significant because they generate enthusiasm amongst young people to get involved with literature and write more stories of their own. We would like to thank a few people for their contributions: the VGMS English teachers, the organisers (who were part of North Tyneside Literature initiatives) and to the many VGMS students who entered the competition.



MFL Department Trip to the Tyneside Cinema

'Ma Vie de Courgette'

On Tuesday 19th March, twenty pupils accompanied by Mr Oliver and Lisa Fairley, took the metro into Newcastle to attend a film workshop based around the French animated tale 'Ma Vie de Courgette'.

The story is about a boy, nicknamed Courgette, who goes to live in a foster home and develops friendships with a number of other children. Whilst the subject matter was quite serious, it was a funny and uplifting film. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed watching it.

After the film, pupils worked through some activities with the lead teacher, Helene Beaugy. This involved group work, speaking activities and a sprinkling of grammar. Valley Gardens pupils were excellent throughout, participating fully in all activities and impressing both the organisers and the teachers who accompanied them.

A particular special mention needs to go to Phoebe Dixon, who stood up in front of over four hundred pupils from other schools and confidently described one of the characters in the film in French. Helene Beaugy



Théâtre Sans Frontières



We were extremely lucky that Théâtre Sans Frontières visited us earlier this month. Year 5 pupils enjoyed the premiere of TSF's new show "Ti-Jean et la Chèvre", about a travelling story-teller, and his talking goat. During the performance pupils heard tales from across the French speaking world, such as How the Sea Became Salty from Cambodia, The Enchanted Caribou from Canada and The Hat-seller and the Monkeys from Mali.

5MW gave their opinions below:

"We loved the show especially how funny it was!"

"We liked that we could get involved too."

"This made our learning fun, we could hear lots of new words in the play and we loved learning the songs!"

When pupils were asked if they would like to see another show in French – the answer was a resounding "absolutely – yes!" So we look forward to being able to welcome Théâtre Sans Frontières back to Valley Gardens soon!

Science Week at Valley Gardens

Our Year 7 pupils enjoyed applying the science of melting ice to make their very own vanilla ice cream and Year 8 pupils enjoyed a range of activities including the substance X mystery, crumple zone designs and flame tests.



Community Helpers

A big thank you to our 3 super litter pickers ; Sammy McTomney 5SN, Tristan McGillan-Jenkins 5SN and Rachel Kimber 6BK. These 3 pupils volunteered to take part in a community litter pick at Churchill playing fields. A bag and a half of rubbish as collected in a short space of time, well done for helping the community!



Tomorrow's Engineers

This term a team of 13 pupils AKA ECHO 8, entered the Tomorrow's Engineers Robotics Challenge. The day was fantastic and our pupils were great ambassadors.

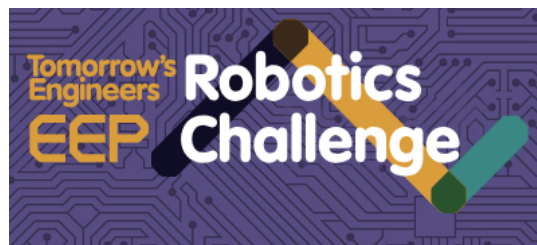
The competition entailed the pupils competing in the following:

Robot that will travel over 4m as fast as it can

3-5-minute presentation about an engineering solution to a humanitarian aid problem

Robot performance Presentation about the robot Teamwork challenge

The team came second in the 4m challenge but the greatest achievement of all was the improvements the team made throughout the day and their enthusiasm for next years competition! Well done team ECHO 8!



Y5 Boys Bronze Medalists



The Year 5 boys progressed brilliantly through the group stages of the Tyne and Wear Games Boccia Finals, held at The Parks, North Shields. Unfortunately they just fell short in a really tight semi but still came home with a bronze medal. Well done boys!

Y7 Girls Bronze Medalists



The Year 7 Girls Football team took part in the Tyne and Wear Games 5-a-side Finals, held at the Beacon of Light. They put in a great performance against very strong opposition winning bronze medals.

Well done girls!

Poetry Festival

The Whitley Bay Poetry Festival is a phenomenal experience and is great for the local area because it encourages tourism and correspondingly boosts local financial prosperity and cultural diversity. In addition to this, it enables young writers to advertise their work.

Many students at Valley Gardens Middle School entered poems based on our local town, Whitley Bay. There were two categories that our pupils were eligible for and five entries were shortlisted in each category. In the Under 18 category, Lucas Lister and Joseph Chandler (Year 7), Marianne Sams (Year 8) were shortlisted. In the Under-11 category Ted Roberts, Gabriel Leighton and Austin Sweeney (Year 5) were all shortlisted. Joseph Chandler won the Under-18 category and Gabriel Leighton went on to win in his age category, Under-11.

Some of the poetry that we have written will be placed in shop windows around the local area. Together we have thoroughly enjoyed the Whitley Bay Poetry Festival experience and were overjoyed to be some of the top five individuals in our categories. By Lucas Lister and Joseph Chandler

<https://www.whitleybaypoetryfestival.co.uk/poem-entries-2019>

Y5 Achieve Assembly

Year 5 Achieve assembly was held on Tuesday, recognising a large number of students who have gone above and beyond what was asked of them on a regular basis. It was wonderful to hear the choir showcase their talent and to have parents share in our celebration. Well done to everyone.

Comic Relief

The amount raised from non-uniform day for Comic relief was a whopping £634.96. There were some very inventive costumes on the day. Thank you to all who contributed.

Downs Syndrome Awareness Day

Today is World Downs Syndrome Awareness Day .

This morning we have made cakes to sell to

raise money for our local Downs Syndrome Charity.

Last week, we went to the supermarket and bought

everything we needed. We also went to the

cafe and had a drink (some of us had Coke!)

and a bite to eat.

We made over 100 cakes with the help of Mrs

Robson, Mrs Roper, Mrs McGinley, Miss Lavender, Mr

Johnson and Miss Wilson. We worked together in

pairs and mixed the ingredients together, before we

put them in the oven.

We will sell them this afternoon in a

special assembly where Rachel and her friends are

performing a song with signing. A lot of the pupils and

staff are wearing odd socks to show their support.

Jack, Sulaiman and Jude. Year 7.





INDUSTRY SPARK

Industry Spark

On Tuesday 2nd April 15 pupils from Year 8 competed in the regional competition Industry Spark. Industry Spark is an exciting employer led competition, designed to match real-time local labour market information. The inter school competition offers students insights into the fastest growing sectors for careers in the North of England. The whole year group researched and developed ideas to help these sectors with specific problem they had. After pitching their ideas to their form tutor, 4 teams were chosen that represented the 4 different sectors: Engineering, Manufacturing, Digital and Health and Sciences.

The final teams presented their ideas to a large audience made up of leaders in these career sectors and fellow pupils from our 4 pyramid middle schools.

All teams represented our school with maturity and professionalism, with one team winning the overall prize for the Digital sector, winning them an opportunity to a session in the Immersive Lab in PROTO emerging technology centre which is the first of its kind in Europe. This will include a full building tour followed by a demonstration of the immersive technologies and a practical session where they will get a chance to try some of the kit for themselves.

Well done to all Year 8 and to the final teams!

Digital Brief - 8BU: Niamh Watson, Marnie West, Kate Gardner, Marianne Sams, Caitlin Pethick.

Health and Social - 8DR: Alex Fraser, Harshvardhan Singh, Zack Wilkinson, Liam Burton, James Corson, Ollie Mortimer –Kearns.

Manufacturing - 8FA: Freddie Nesbitt, Sean Dalziel.

Engineering - 8SC: Will Michael, Harvey Jude, George Stephenson



Do you want a job in a school kitchen?



Catering Services are holding drop in recruitment sessions every Thursday from 2.30 – 4.00pm (Allow 1 hour for interview)

At North Tyneside Council
Cobalt Business Park
NE27 0BY

For a guaranteed interview, please bring 3 forms of personal ID with you such as:

- Valid passport
- Driver's licence
- Birth certificate
- National Insurance number
- Proof of address in your name

For more information
Visit my.northtyneside.gov.uk/cateringjobs
Tel: 0191 643 8355



Epraise Activities

On the last day of this term our pupils had the opportunity to spend their well-earned epraise points on various activities provided by our wonderful teaching and support staff.

We hope that the pupils enjoy their chosen activity and look forward to the next available opportunity to earn and spend some more points!



Brighter Futures Zambia

A group of year 5 girls from 5WL and 5DB organised and ran a cake stall to raise money for Brighter Futures Zambia. They raised a total of £41.40 selling delicious home baked brownies and cakes. The money raised is going to help vulnerable children in a preschool in Zambia so they can have equipment to play with. Well done girls.

Upcoming Events and Activities

8th—22nd April

23rd April

2nd May

6th May

w/c 13th May

19th –24th May

22nd May

w/c 27th May

3rd June

w/c 3rd June

5th June

7th June

9th—14th June

12th June

18th June

w/c 24th June

5th July

w/c 8th July

8th July

9th July

10th July

11th July

12th July

w/c 15th July

w/c 15th July

19th July

Easter Holidays

Pupils return to school

Polling Day (School Closed to Pupils)

Bank Holiday Monday

Year 6 SATs Week

Year 7 France Trip

Y6 Minor Athletics Finals

Half Term Holiday

Pupils Return to School

Waste Management Assemblies

Family Fun Run 6.30pm

Y7 & Y8 Minor Athletics Finals

Y8 Spain Trip

FOVG Uniform Sale Evening 6-8pm

Sports Photographs

Y6 High Borrans Trip

FOVG Summer Fair 6-8pm

Health Awareness Week

Y5 Sports Day (AM)

Y6 Sports Day (AM)

Y7 Sports Day (AM)

Y8 Sports Day (AM)

Bastille Day

Achieve Assemblies

End of Year Trips

Last day of Term