



Our 'A' and 'B' chess teams played against two teams from Yarm School for a single place in the Scotland and NE England Final of the National Schools Chess Championships. Our 'A' team (Mark Broughton, Ciaran Macdonald, Morgan French, Mrugaya Mulay, Feitong Wu and Lucas Grillot) won all their three matches to claim that place. This was no means easy as Yarm 'A' have been national finalists a number of times in recent years.

Our students will now meet the winners of the match between RGS, Newcastle and Stewart's Melville College, Edinburgh. The prize at stake is a place in the national final (only 16 teams can qualify for this).

The 'B' team (Nick Lin, Partheev Manoj, Jonathan Jativa-Calle, Joel Dyter, Mikey Block, Alexander Johnston) may not have qualified, but they still did extremely well and also deserve congratulations.

3 St Mary's students were excellent ambassadors of the school on the journey home one evening. They saw a little boy called Noah who was lost, they asked him if he was okay and they then took him to his childminders on Benton Park Road and delivered him safely to his childminder.

Noah's Mum, Dad and stepmum contacted the school to pass on their thanks to these students and explained that they were very grateful for their kindness, maturity and care. These students are a real credit to the school, embodying the school ethos and are a very positive force in the local community.

I am delighted to welcome you to the latest edition of St Mary's Shine Bulletin. Once again, it was an absolute pleasure to read about the wonderful achievements of our students. We are very blessed to have such talented students in the school, including so many who have undoubted gifts within art, history, languages, science, sport and many other areas. Most importantly, it is lovely to see so many students demonstrating outstanding effort towards their studies, as well as proving to be such kind, respectful and lovely young people. We are very proud of you.

A special word of congratulations to Mark, Joby, Bronagh and Patrick for gaining places at Oxbridge, as well as to all of the other Year 13 students who are beginning to hear about offers from many other excellent universities. Finally, I am sure we are all looking forward to seeing the culmination of many of our students' talents in the school musical of Mary Poppins next week. Much good luck to all of the students and staff involved in this production.

Miss Patterson, Head of School



Twenty Year 10 and Year 11 students were invited along for afternoon tea in the last week of term before Christmas. They were selected to attend this event because they have consistently displayed an excellent attitude to their work and to all aspects of school life. It was a lovely afternoon and a wonderful celebration of success.



One hundred students attended the school cinema in the last week before the Christmas holidays. Twenty students from each year group were invited to attend the cinema event and the film shown was 'The Greatest Showman'.

The students who attended were selected because of their consistent hard work and exemplary attitude to all aspects of school life. All students enjoyed the film and it was a great event to end a successful term.



Rebecca Ferguson has been selected to represent England in Football, and recently collected her England shirt, which she will wear during matches. We are all very proud of Rebecca and what a fantastic achievement!

YEARS 7&8

Gulzar Mohammad plays for Walker Central Football Club and they won the first match that he played.

Ben went above and beyond on his Artist research for sculptor. Claes Oldenberg. He created his very own model and ice cream sculpture. A brilliant and imaginative use of materials. Well Done, Ben!



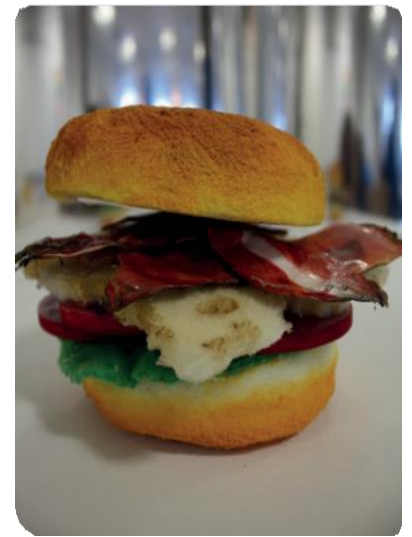
Jamie Bouchard made a very impressive advent calendar for his form class. It was in the shape of a WW1 tank and he did this voluntarily.

Emma has created the most amazing piece of work for her Claes Oldenberg homework in Art. Her written work is cleverly displayed on layers of a sandwich. Each layer is carefully planned and made in a range of materials. We were wowed by Emma's hard work and wild imagination.

Great work Jamie!

Jack Davies has been extremely helpful in lessons with his peers. When they have been struggling with their written work he has always been willing to lend a helping hand. Well done Jack!

Max McGhee continues to train hard through the winter for Northumberland County Cricket Club in preparation for what will no doubt be a busy summer ahead.



Keep up the hard work Max!

Joshua Sorenson has been working hard to prepare for Mary Poppins and really stands out with his fantastic

Ruby

singing.

Keep up the great work!

Hamilton did her first roll in the sea in her kayak. Keep up the great work Ruby!

Year 7 students were praised in Assembly for their excellent work in Science over the past half term. Four students have been awarded 'Science Star' for their excellent work in all of the different subjects. They all received a certificate and prize for their efforts. Congratulations to Lyris Psallidas, Josh Kunjumon, Alexa Malia and Joe Lowes

Nancy Richardson and Sia Pugal were awarded a trophy in their Christmas cheerleading show. They are members of the Smith's Academy school of Dance. Well done girls!

The Year 7 Boys football team took part in the North East 5-a-side competition at Evolution Football Centre in North Shields. The boys finished second overall to Churchill Community College. In the group stage fixture against Churchill the boys were up against a very strong team, and were very fortunate to escape with a 0-0 draw. Jaden-James Wilson played in goal and it was an outstanding performance. Jaden made several incredible saves to keep the score at 0-0, with the opposition member of staff stating it was the finest performance he had seen on the day from any player.

Moises Mateus has been working really hard preparing for Mary Poppins. He has learned all of the dances at home and knows all the words. He is so dedicated and absolutely loves being part of the ensemble. Well done



YEARS 7&8

Hadi Mohammed solved his 5x5 Rubik's cube for the first time. Well done Hadi!

Cameron Nesbitt received a mini-promotion for sparring in boxing. Great work Cameron!

Eve Armstrong achieved a highly commended grade in both her stage and disco dance examinations!

The Year 7 netball team won their first ever match, playing against Newcastle High school for Girls. Well done to the netball team!

Hannah McLaughlin came 2nd and 5th in two climbing competitions. Congratulations Hannah!

Amelie Costigan continues to produce brilliant pieces of work in Art. We can't get over how brilliantly accurate and imaginative her work is, every page in her sketchbook is stunning.

Amelie Ritchie Saddler achieved a higher grade in kickboxing. Great work Amelie!

Cole Caven and Emily Jackson play in tennis squads at Forest Hall tennis club. They both came first in the league, which is a fantastic achievement. Congratulations!



Mrs Bailey's English Class were set the challenge to read as much as possible over the Christmas holiday. Mrs Bailey was amazed by how much all of the students managed to read. Anna read an astounding 15112 pages in just three weeks! Fantastic work everyone!

Luke Barton has been learning Makaton, a form of sign language. He is progressing well through the different stages. Well done

Niall Martin achieved his orange belt in Taekwondo.

Daniel Clark recently passed his grade 6 piano exam.

Anya McCarrell has significantly improved in her art skills. Well done Anya!

Congratulations Daniel!

Christopher Brown has made great progress in History recently. He wrote a brilliant piece of work on the Stuarts and has been really listening, even taking extra notes. Well done Christopher!

YEARS 9&10

Aadam Aslam has completed all 12 swimming stages and swam 4000 metres recently. Well done!

Phoebe Sanderson has been selected to represent Newcastle Benfield Juniors U14 Girls football team in Skegness this month. Well done!

Laura Nicolson continues to surprise us in Art with her off the wall ideas. We asked for an artist research page and she gave us this amazing mouldy chair inspired by artist Jasmyn Graybill. We never know what to expect next, but we know it will stop us in our tracks.



3 students received a prize in assembly for Excellence and Improvement in Term 1. Well done to Kate Lowes, Rhys McMichan and Partheev Manoj! Keep up the amazing work!

Mollie Anderson and Eve Pugmire took part in the TG Newcastle Open which took place at Benfield. The girls performed brilliantly on the day and helped to win the team Gold competition.



Ben Gallon has received an excellent mid-season review from Hartlepool United Academy. He is making great progress. Well done Ben!



Lina Lim has been perfecting her accent at home for the role of Mrs Corey in Mary Poppins. Ella Shannahan, Freya Stoner and Iris Kassar have been working really hard and have been very focused in the dance rehearsals. We can't wait to see the show. Keep up the great work!

Courtney Whoriskey has recently moved classes in Maths and Science due to her hard work in lessons. Keep up the great work Courtney!

Callum Liu has recently sat his ABRSM music theory exam and received a distinction for this.

A fantastic achievement!

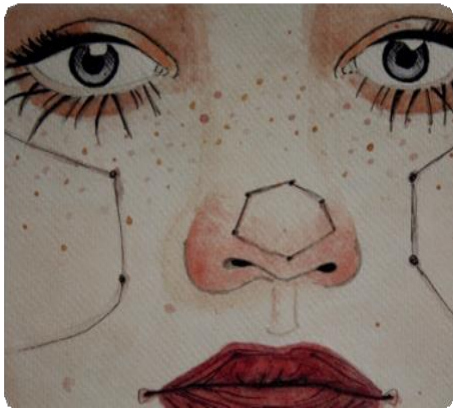
Alan Mohan completed his black belt in Karate which is a fantastic achievement!

Miss Owen held an Attendance Breakfast and 71 students in Year 9 attended this celebration breakfast for having 100% attendance for Term 1. This is absolutely fantastic and shows their dedication and enthusiasm for learning.



Lucy Elder-Smith became a published photographer in Small Holding magazine.

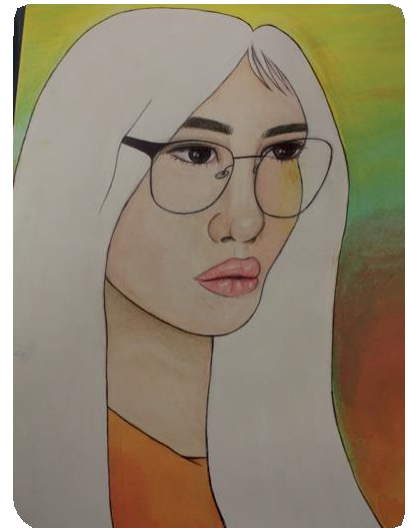
YEARS 9&10



Mercedes Lai an expert painter creates this amazing portraits and captures a true likeness.



Lakhveer Singh Gola has a wild imagination which comes across in his absurd Structure Art project. His skull drawings and paintings have been amazing, and he makes it look so effortless.



Julia Pluto continues to astound us with her incredible painting skills, she can capture a true likeness in her work

On a cold, wintry January morning, Alanna Watler-Wade in Year 10 was making her way to school when she came across an injured Robin. Rather than walking by, and leaving the bird to die, she picked it up, brought it to school, where the RSPCA were called and the bird was handed into their care. This level of compassion and care makes us incredibly proud. Well done Alanna.

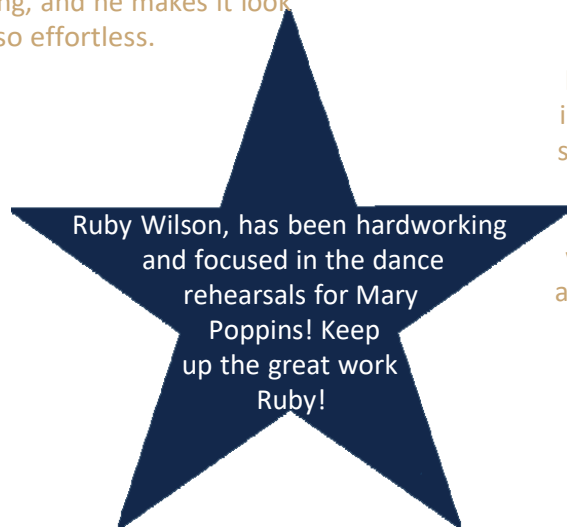


Phoebe Sanderson continues to work incredibly hard in Art, her pencil drawings are stunning. Her work never fails to disappoint!

Every Friday evening after a long week at school these girls turn up, have a good workout and good fun. The girls are allowed to play their own music from Spotify to work out with. We generally do boxing, with a bit of running, squats, press ups, sit ups etc.....It's a brilliant way to end the week. The first Friday of term we were outside for some time, and there was snow on the ground!.... The boxers didn't complain one bit! What a fantastic attitude and energy they all possess.

The girls are: Nell Wilson, Emily Cass, Lucy Sagar, Ella Graham, Gabriella Allen.

On the weekend of 26th and 27th January, Joy Eze competed in the Scottish National Championships in the Glasgow Arena. Joy won the U17 60m final in a time of 7.64 seconds. This is the fastest time this year and was a Championship Best Performance. Really well done Joy! Fantastic achievement.



Ruby Wilson, has been hardworking and focused in the dance rehearsals for Mary Poppins! Keep up the great work Ruby!

Mr Turnbull has spoken to Mr Boyle to inform him how impressed he has been with Year 10 in lessons. Students are showing real motivation towards the subject and are progressing well. Prizes have been awarded for the Autumn Term Science Stars and these went to Isaac Howell, Hannah Chapman, Christos Tsimenidis and Grace Gault.



YEAR 11

Pawan Martin is coming to the end of his two year term as a Youth Councillor for Newcastle City Council this year. Recently he spoke in assemblies across all year groups to share the excellent work he has helped to complete and to introduce the new candidates. During Pawan's time as part of the Newcastle Youth Council team they have introduced a Pop Card for students aged 16-18, helped to count the votes in the general and local election, met politicians such as Chi Onwurah to help spread their views, helped to organise and take part in a trip to Japan to meet up with people from different Newcastle's all over the world and talked with the NHS about the accessibility of school nurses. Well done on all of your excellent contributions!!

From mid-January, Year 11 have attended study support sessions in addition to their timetabled lessons. Study Support is a bespoke timetable of extra sessions, in which students are able to revise with the support of their classroom teachers; this is an excellent opportunity for students to begin to prepare for their upcoming GCSE examinations. The behaviour and conduct students have demonstrated during these sessions has been excellent. I am very proud of the academic progress and achievement Year 11 continue to make this year. Well done!

John Carr is hoping to be elected as a Youth Councillor for Newcastle, which would see him meet with other students from across Newcastle on a regular basis to discuss the welfare of youth in the city. John has spoken in front of every year group in school to present his manifesto. John spoke brilliantly to deliver his priorities of improving mental health services, reducing knife crime in the city and highlighting the gap in spending on education in the North of England in comparison to the South of England. Voting recently took place in school and everyone in Year 11 is hopeful John is successful. Good luck!

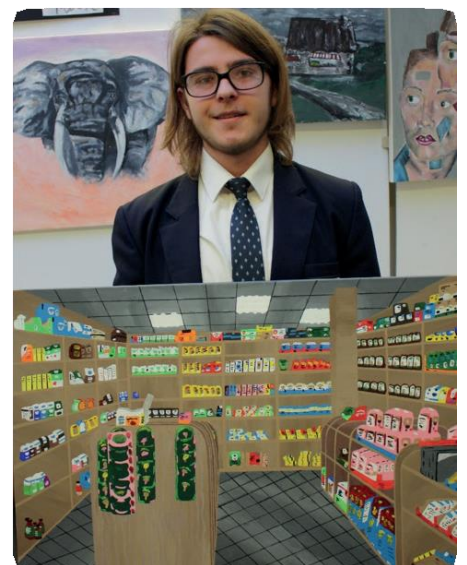


Miss Lague has been really impressed by her Year 11 Spanish class who have been working really hard recently. They have been really focused in lessons and are working hard to prepare for their exams! Keep up the great work everyone!

Jodie Summersby, Adam Butcher and Charlotte Banks have been excellent ambassadors of St Marys. They recently volunteered to read bidding prayer in mass and read in their form group assembly. All three students read clearly and confidently and are very reliable. I'm so proud of them. Mrs. Stewart

George Atkinson, Mohammed Din and Mariyah Ahmed have been very helpful in supporting other students with their revision in form this week.

Thaila Bell and Adrian Atkinson have been working with professionals with Northern Stage to learn about acting as a career. They embraced this excellent opportunity and represented themselves exceptionally throughout their time at Northern Stage.

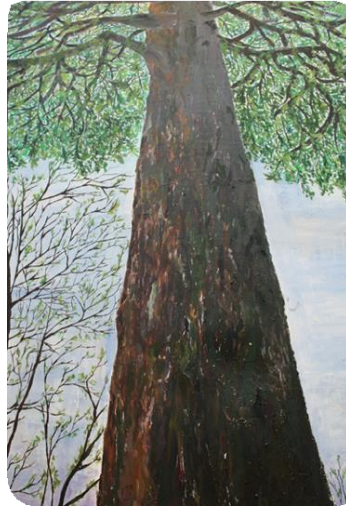


Jakub Anulewicz spent hours and hours creating his local supermarket in acrylic paint, the details in his painting are incredible.

SIXTH FORM



Aidan Dillon has created a fantastic piece based on his Irish heritage, showcasing his excellent control of materials and clever composition ideas.



Isla McCheyne has wowed us with her superb paintings of landscapes. Her work from Gibside Chapel is incredible.



Ellie Frith injects comedy into her role as Roberston Aye and has always been very helpful standing in when people are missing and working really hard to ensure rehearsals run smoothly.



Matthew Brown, Charlie Kain, Isaas Kain, Asif Khan and Tim Jones in Year 12 currently do volunteer work at St. Alban's RC Primary School. The boys give up their free time to offer support and friendship to children with special needs and also lead the young people in games of football. Our students have been praised for their fantastic attitude and commitment to helping others.

Rachel Bell, Alex Dagg, Lewis Hallett, Adam Hastings, Matthew McDyer, Mrugaya Mulay, Tim Nicholls, Jack Roughead, Matthew Sheerin, Flynn Tynan and Jake Wilson have spent a week on an 'Industrial Cadets' programme with Accenture. Accenture is a global management consulting and professional services firm that provides strategy, consulting, digital, technology and operations services. Students have developed a range of technical and interpersonal skills in the IT sector. Organisers of the programme have said that "the students have displayed extremely professional behaviour and applied themselves really well...they have a high level of ability and are really focussed." Well done to those involved!

Jack Ward is constantly thinking of unique ways to bring his character Bert to life and is clearly preparing for rehearsals at home. We can't wait to see Mary Poppins show, keep up the great work Jack!

17 Year 12 Students visited the Literary and Philosophical Society in Newcastle city centre. Students were given an access-all-areas tour of the fantastic building and learned about the fascinating history of the UK's biggest independent library outside of London.

The students asked insightful questions and really made the most of the amazing opportunity, representing the school fantastically well.

Y12 Health and Social Care and Childcare students had a one week work experience in November. They attended a variety of settings such as primary schools, nurseries and a care home for older people. The workplace mentors in the setting have provided excellent feedback on their skills and abilities within the settings. The students worked very hard and showed great initiative, they established wonderful working relationships with the staff and service users.

After achieving a Gold Certificate in the UK Maths Trust Senior Mathematical Challenge, Joby Tennant (Y13) went on to compete in the UK 'Senior Kangaroo'. The top 25% of students taking part in this level of the competition received a Merit certificate for scoring over 35 marks. Joby received his Merit certificate for a fantastic score of 45 marks.

Our Oxbridge applicants have now heard back from the universities and we are delighted to share that Mark Broughton and Joby Tennant in Year 13 have been offered places to study at Oxford.

Mark will be studying Engineering at Keeble College and Joby will study Maths at Lady Margaret Hall. Patrick Caragay and Bronagh Leneghan in Year 13 have both been offered places to study at Cambridge. Patrick will study Chemical Engineering at Trinity College and Bronagh will study Linguistics at Homerton College. This is a fantastic accomplishment for the students and we are delighted for them.





Once again, it has been an absolute pleasure to hear about all of the wonderful achievements of our students and the many ways in which they are developing their God-given gifts and talents every day. It is amazing to see the huge variety in activities that our students are involved in both inside and outside of school. You are all an absolute credit to our fantastic school community and you should all be very proud of all of your amazing successes. Keep up the great work!

Miss Lague, Assistant Headteacher Pastoral



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