



'Project Restart' has been a success for our schools

We are almost at the end of the half-term in which we fully reopened our schools, in our equivalent of what the Premier League called 'Project Restart'. I am delighted to report that this has been really successful and above all else safe.

No organisation is immune to the risks of coronavirus, but our effective risk assessments and control measures have meant that we have moved quickly to deal with any positive or suspected cases. This has allowed us to contain any cases and stop the spread within our schools. This has required a great deal of vigilance and investigation time from staff, but we have also greatly appreciated where parents and carers have alerted us as soon as possible if their child or a close contact needed a test. We've also been helped by the increased local availability of tests.

Although we expect that there will be more disruption to learning over the coming months, I wanted to end this half-term by emphasising the positives. Firstly, even though this is a very long half-term and pupils had spent a long time out of normal routines, they have coped remarkably well with their return to school. As I've mentioned in previous editions, it has been fantastic to have our schools filled with happy children once again. Pupils' attitude to learning has been excellent and they've worked very hard. I'm sure, like the staff, that they will be ready for their half-term break by Friday afternoon!

This week we've had an OFSTED visit to Duke's School, as part of their national programme of looking at how schools have dealt with coronavirus and supported pupils during lockdown. I'm very happy to say that the visit was an entirely positive experience and we received very encouraging feedback from the inspectors about all that we've done and are doing now to support pupils in catching up. We will receive a letter from the inspectors to share with you after half term.

Finally, I would just like to say a few words of thanks. Firstly to our staff, who have worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth start to the new school year. It has been a huge pleasure to welcome new staff across the trust, including the great team at Warkworth Church of England Primary School. Secondly to the pupils, for returning with such positive attitudes, coping so well with new routines and being so enthusiastic. Finally to parents and carers, your support has meant a great deal to us and without this we can't be anywhere near as effective in working with your children as we are with it. I hope that everyone enjoys the half-term break.

P.S. For parents with children in Year 6 at Bishop's and Warkworth, please don't forget to submit your application for a secondary school place for your child (see information below).

Alan Hardie
CEO

If your child is in year 6 at Bishop's currently—you need to apply NOW for Duke's School for September 2021 (deadline: 31 October)

If your child is in year 6 at Warkworth currently—you need to apply NOW for James Calvert Spence or Duchess School for September 2021 (deadline: 31 October)

If your child is due to start secondary school in September 2021 you **must** apply for their place now. To do this please visit the Northumberland County Council website. There is a yellow banner at the top of the homepage, click on this:

[General Alert: Admissions to Middle, High and Secondary Schools Sept 2021](#)

The deadline for application is **31st October**, any application received after that date will be classed as late.

Alanya Wilson

Studying History, Philosophy, English and Media at Duke's helped Alanya progress to university and secure a job as a secondary English teacher.



The former pupil from Moorside Primary and Duke's Secondary chose to continue her studies at JBVI after being impressed by the dedicated teaching staff, and the wide range of course options.

Describing her seven years at Duke's as supportive, caring and fun, Alanya enjoyed the variation the courses offered which meant she learned something new every day.

"The Sixth Form area of the school was great and the support was second to none," she said. "The teachers truly do have your best intentions at heart and will do anything to ensure you succeed".

"We also had the privilege of being able to attend work experience and I attended various work placements including The Chronicle, Local MP Office, Bishop's School, and ITV."

Alanya's advice for other students is "Get Involved. If you're given an opportunity, take it, It wasn't my grades that got me where I am, It was work experience, volunteering and student leadership skills that set me apart from everyone else. I put myself out there".

Alanya left Duke's Sixth Form in 2017

Lewis Sampson

Since I left sixth form I've been able to gain a bundle of new experiences and skills which has pushed my physical and academic learning in the sporting sector. I am currently in the last year of my degree which is Sport and Education at Newcastle College University Centre.

In my 2 years at university, I've gained coaching badges in cricket and basketball, in addition, I've gained first aid, safeguarding, coaching fundamentals and coaching disabled people in sport. This has not only built my academic side but it's improved my personal skills which has allowed me to be more confident in the sporting industry.

Throughout my first and second year in higher education, I did a placement at Duke's which allowed me to get first hand experience of teaching. This really has helped me to develop my teaching skills as I was able to shadow a professional who has been in the teaching industry for years. I was able to analyse their teaching styles which have worked so successfully for many years. The skills I have developed from this placement are skills that I use everyday in my current line of work.



Lewis left Duke's Sixth Form in 2018.

A message from Sally Milner, NCEAT Chaplain

This week I was at the Urgent Care Unit at Wansbeck Hospital helping someone access their service. I have been there a couple of times for myself over the years. Despite the extra challenges of keeping everyone COVID safe, all of the staff were wonderfully patient, professional and kind. There was a genuine warmth and a desire to do the best job possible and not just enough to tick a box and get onto the next person. They may have been tired, they may have been worried but they didn't let it show for a moment. "Can I help you?", "Do you know where you are going?" "Tell me if this is sore" "Any problems, just come back".

On Sunday 18th October, the church remembered St Luke. Known as the "the good physician", or "good doctor" after a reference in St Paul's letter to the people of Colossus, Luke has a gospel named after him and is also thought to have written the Book of Acts in the New Testament. He is the patron saint of doctors. As we do our best to stay safe and keep everyone COVID free, what better time to pray for all those in the healing professions and everyone keeping the NHS going, whatever their role.

*Lord Jesus, who healed the sick and gave them new life,
be with doctors, nurses, carers, and all in our NHS as they act as agents of your healing touch.
In desperate times, keep them strong yet loving;
and when their work is done,
be with them in their weariness and in their tears. Amen.*

Sally Milner, Trust Chaplain
@NCEAChaplain



Enabling everyone in our communities to let their light shine