



## Well done Class of 2018!

Pupils at Duke's Secondary School celebrated their GCSE and A Level results alongside their very proud teachers and parents in August 2018! In the first year of reformed GCSE results, despite the increased difficulty of the exams and the structure of courses having been made even more rigorous, the academy celebrated a significant improvement in pupils' results this year.

The GCSE results came only a week after celebrating some fantastic post-16 results, as our talented Sixth Form students collected their results and progressed onto a wide variety of university courses and apprenticeships.

"We are delighted with the results that our students have achieved," stated Steve Gibson, Principal of Duke's Secondary School, "and these results celebrate the hard work, dedication and determination of our young people, their teachers and staff at school, and the support of their parents. We are proud of the achievements of our pupils, and look forward to seeing our Year 11s making progress back in sixth form, and hearing all the stories from our Sixth Form leavers making their way in university, training or employment."



Some highlights from the provisional results show some outstanding individual exam performances, including achievements at the highest grades, whether at the new Grade 9 at GCSE, or achieving A\* at A level, or a Distinction\* at BTEC vocational Level 2 and 3. GCSE results improved significantly on the previous academic year, demonstrating the changes and improved progress being made at the school.

## Improvements recognised and awarded at Duke's

We are delighted to announce that Duke's Secondary School has been awarded four highly prestigious quality marks in recognition of the hard work and improvements taking place within the school. The Prince's Teaching Institute have awarded their Quality Mark to three faculties, recognising increasing challenge within the curriculum; enthusing pupils through subject-based activities beyond the curriculum; developing staff's specialist subject knowledge; and, raising the profile of their subject. These have been awarded to **English**, **History** and **Modern Languages**, and are very well deserved!

In addition, Duke's has been awarded the Investor in Careers award, recognising the hard work and expertise within the school in developing young people's understanding of careers, and their aspirations for the future.



# Duke's welcomes Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York

All visitors to school are special, and this occasion was no different as in the first week of term we were delighted to welcome Dr John Sentamu, the Archbishop of York to Duke's. As Archbishop of York, Dr Sentamu is a senior bishop of the church, second only to the Archbishop of Canterbury. His visit was part of the Diocese of Newcastle Pathways Mission, and Dr Sentamu enjoyed meeting with Duke's students and staff during his visit. We were also pleased that the Archbishop was able to present six of our pupils with their Archbishop of York's Young Leader Award, recognising their hard work and dedication in completing this prestigious qualification.

Dr Sentamu met with groups of sixth form students, and groups of pupils from years 7 to 11, before leading an assembly for Year 8 where he described God's presence with us as being as close as when we breathe on our finger.



Head Girl, Heidi Hamilton, presents the Archbishop with a Northumbrian cap!



Head Boy, Dylan Wilson, makes his first speech, thanking the Archbishop for his visit.

The Archbishop presents the Young Leader Award to Kate Hudson, Laibaa Khan, Courtney Garner and James Bell.



The Archbishop unveiled a plaque officially naming the school as Duke's Secondary School.

**Welcome to new staff!**

The end of one school year and the start of the next always brings with it the opportunity to say our goodbyes to staff moving on to new things and to welcome those joining the team here. This term, we have welcomed the following new colleagues to the staff at Duke's:

**Mr Agoro, Mr Farrer and Mrs Oakley** have joined the Additional Educational Needs Team.

**Miss Deal and Miss Keenan** have joined the English Faculty.

**Mr Lawson and Mr Wandless** have joined the Science Faculty.

**Mrs Harvey** has permanently joined the MFL team.

**Ms Leigh and Mrs Clark** have joined the Creative Arts Faculty.

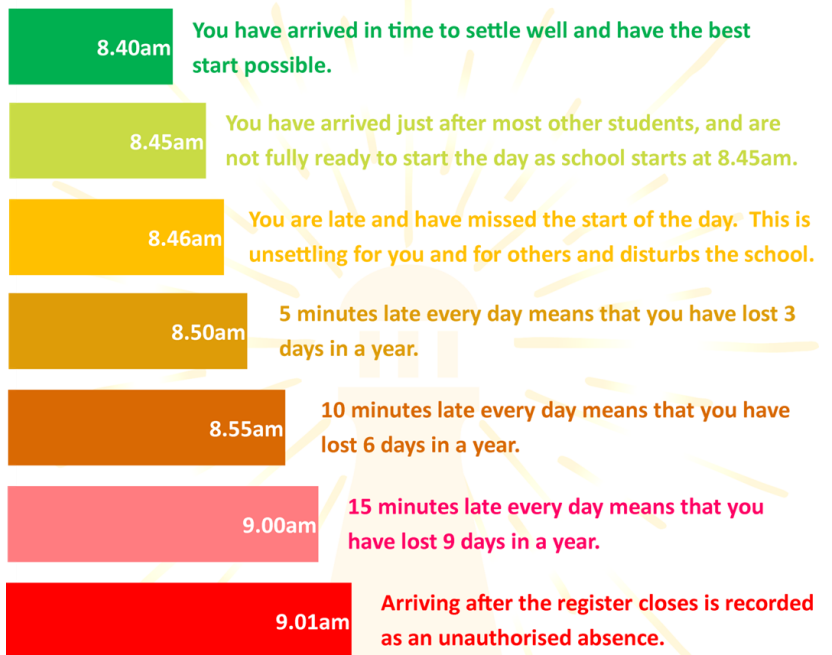
**Miss Waterfall and Ms Crowthers** have joined the Humanities Faculty.

**Mrs Race** has joined the Alternative Provision Team.

A very warm welcome to Duke's!






*Mr Gibson*

# Every Minute COUNTS



**Who do I contact?**

If you need to speak to someone at school about your child, there are a number of people you can speak to. However, each year group has a dedicated member of staff attached as the Pastoral Link who you can contact. These are:

				
<b>Mrs Young</b> KS3 Learning and Progress Manager (Pastoral Link for Y7)	<b>Miss Matthewson</b> Behaviour & Intervention Assistant (Pastoral Link for Y8)	<b>Ms Spratt</b> Learning & Progress Support Officer (Pastoral Link for Y9)	<b>Miss Ireland</b> Behaviour & Intervention Assistant (Pastoral Link for Y10)	<b>Miss Graham</b> KS4 Learning and Progress Manager (Pastoral Link for Y11)



## 5 Minute Walk Plan



To encourage our pupils to have at least 5 minutes of exercise each morning, and to help us as a school to be good neighbours to those who live near the campus, we ask that parents/carers support the school by arranging to drop-off and collect pupils anywhere on the green routes shown on the "5 Minute Walk" map below. Any point on the green route takes no more than 5 minutes to walk to the pupil entrance, and the dashed green lines show some of the many potential walking routes onto campus. The roads in red are part of our "Good Neighbour Traffic Exclusion Zone", and we would encourage parents/carers not to drive onto the red roads within 30 minutes before or after school arrival and departure times. This allows the roads to be kept free for approved transport of pupils with disabilities, and for county buses.

Please note, that the turning circle at the front of the school is for authorised disabled drop-off and pick-up only.



**ClassCharts**

ClassCharts is our online system which teachers and support staff use to track achievement and behaviour throughout the school day. We are keen to improve communication between school and parents/carers and one of the key benefits of using Class Charts is that we are able to securely share your child's achievement and behaviour report with you electronically and so keep you up to date with how their day is going as it happens.

Each child has a unique access code which we will issue to parents/carers. Once you have been issued with a code you will need to create an account and enter the code here: <https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>

You can also find links to mobile phone apps for parents/carers from this page or in the Apple store or Google Play store. If you have more than one child in the school then you can enter additional codes once you have created an account and are logged in.

We will be issuing these unique codes to parents/carers over the weeks leading up to half term.

Mr Rhodes

## Key Dates this term

Wednesday 3rd October 2018	5.00pm to 7.00pm: Year 7 and 8 Disco
Thursday 4th October 2018	Deadline for UCAS applications for veterinary, medicine & Oxbridge degrees
Friday 12th October 2018	Year 10 and 11 presentation on Apprenticeships
Tuesday 16th October 2018	Year 9 "Restart your heart" event
Wednesday 17th October 2018	Sixth Form trip to Kenya departs
Friday 26th October 2018	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY—SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November 2018	HALF TERM HOLIDAY (Including Year 10 & 11 trip to New York)
Wednesday 21st November 2018	Duke's School Prize Giving
Tuesday 27th November 2018	Sixth Form Ethics Conference
Wednesday 28th November 2018	Year 11, 12 & 13 Parent/Carer Evening
Thursday 29th November 2018	Creative Arts trip to London
Monday 17th December 2018	6.00pm: Year 11 Music Recital concert
Wednesday 19th December 2018	Duke's School Carol Concert
Friday 21st December 2018	Last day of term—school will close for pupils at 12.45pm.



Have you visited our new website yet?

**[www.dukes.ncea.org.uk](http://www.dukes.ncea.org.uk)**

For up to date news and information from  
Duke's Secondary School.