

Duke's Secondary School

News and updates

December 2018

WELCOME

to the December update for Parents and Carers...

It was fantastic to welcome so many of the Year 11 Class of 2018 back for our Awards Evening, and to be able to celebrate some truly outstanding results. This gave the opportunity to speak with and congratulate a number of parents and carers, too, and thank them for the significant part they play in ensuring that pupils achieve well. Pupils perform best when home and school work together to support the young people, and I am grateful to so many parents and carers of Duke's pupils who do this so well.

We have also recently said a fond farewell to Mr Fox, our Careers and Enterprise Manager, who has worked hard with hundreds of pupils over several years to help them to work towards a positive career. We wish him well in his new challenge supporting a group of schools, including Duke's!

At the end of this term we will also bid farewell to Mrs Dickinson, our Senior Science Technician, who retires after nearly 35 years supporting students and staff both at the Academy and previous school. We wish Mrs Dickinson and her family well for a long and happy retirement!

You will notice a strong feature in this edition around international travel, and we are proud of the opportunities that we make available to our pupils to travel far and wide. It has been great to hear from them of their adventures around the world during this last term, and I hope you enjoy reading some of their highlights.

With best wishes for Christmas and 2019!

Steve Gibson,
Principal

Health & Social Care in action



Our Health and Social Care students planned and prepared a coffee morning for members of the local community. Guests, pupils and staff had a great time sharing together and breaking down barriers between age groups within our community.



Students then planned and delivered a Christmas party in school for elderly residents from a Barchester Healthcare home in Ashington. Party food, bingo and Christmas presents were the order of the day—and who could forget all the dancing to Ollly Murs!!



Duke's Remembers

Commemorating those who lost their lives fighting for our freedom is something that we take seriously at Duke's School, and our annual Service of Remembrance took place for all Duke's pupils gathered in the atrium. This is a special service for the school each year, and Sally Milner, Chaplain, showed us photographs of the names of servicemen and women from the war memorials in our communities. Many of us had the reality of war brought home when realising that the number of people from Ashington, Lynemouth and Newbiggin who lost their lives fighting in World War 1 was virtually the same as the number of us gathered in the atrium for that service.



Members of the school Combined Cadet Force were also prominent in a number of remembrance events across the area, including parades in Newcastle, Ashington, Newbiggin and Blyth, and supporting at the Polish War Graves in Morpeth. A group of cadets also made a poppy out of stones and installed this on the grass in front of school as a reminder to everyone of the centenary of the World War 1 armistice.



Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to all pupils, parents and carers for supporting our Operation Christmas Child appeal this year. Coordinated by our Chaplain, Sally, this is where we make up and send shoeboxes as gifts for children who have so little. This year, the school sent a fantastic 64 boxes to where they are needed most. Thank you and well done!



Key Stage and Pastoral Teams

We have a range of talented and dedicated colleagues in school who have the responsibility of working with our pupils to support them both in academic progress and in pastoral matters. It is important for children to remember that school is about learning, and when we are at school our focus needs to be on learning, and these staff help to remind pupils about this and to ensure that they are working hard in lessons.



Mrs Gadsby
Assistant Principal

Mrs Gadsby is a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Her role is around engagement, which means working with young people who are at risk of permanent exclusion, and those who are educated in alternative provision. She is also the Safeguarding Lead for the school and responsible for attendance.



Mr Rhodes
Assistant Principal

Mrs Rhodes is a member of the Senior Leadership Team. His role is around achievement, which means ensuring that pupils' behaviour and conduct is positive and is rewarded. Mr Rhodes also ensures that those who choose not to behave appropriately receive the appropriate sanction from the school.



Mr Waterston
Head of Key Stage 3

Mr Barber and Mr Waterston are Heads of Key Stage. They are leaders within the school for the year groups that they are responsible for: Mr Waterston in Years 7, 8 and 9; and Mr Barber in Year 10 and 11. The Heads of Key Stage are responsible for ensuring that pupils make the best progress possible, and they do this through leading the creation of sets and classes; monitoring pupil progress and behaviour; working with parents and carers to get the best outcomes for their children; leading the Pastoral Link colleagues.



Mr Barber
Head of Key Stage 4



Mrs Young
Pastoral Link for Year 7



Miss Matthewson
Pastoral Link for Year 8



Miss Spratt
Pastoral Link for Year 9



Miss Ireland
Pastoral Link for Year 10



Miss Graham
Pastoral Link for Year 11

Our Pastoral Link staff are often the main pastoral link between school and home. Although each member of staff has another role in addition to their pastoral link work, they are also the first point of contact for their year group. As you would expect, they are busy working with our pupils throughout the school day and are rarely at their desk, so please be patient when trying to contact staff—it may be that Pastoral Link staff do not receive telephone messages until the end of the day when children have gone home. As some parents/carers have raised concerns about being able to contact staff, we have introduced the following email addresses to go directly to the Pastoral Link colleagues above to improve communication. We hope that you find this helpful. You can email the relevant person at:

Year7.link@dukes.ncea.org.uk

Year8.link@dukes.ncea.org.uk

Year9.link@dukes.ncea.org.uk

Year10.link@dukes.ncea.org.uk

Year11.link@dukes.ncea.org.uk

JBVI.link@dukes.ncea.org.uk

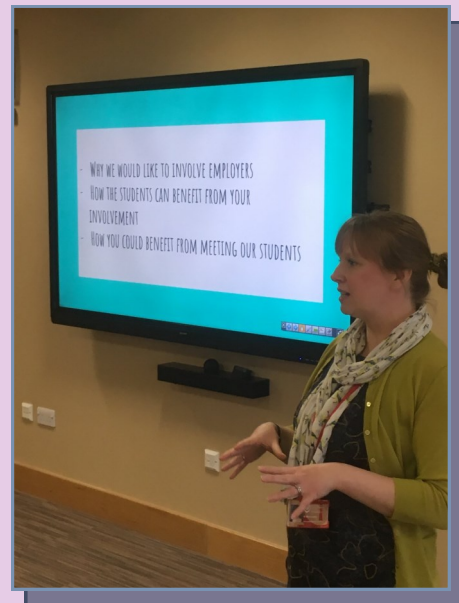


Careers Links Boosted

Staff from Duke's are always looking for opportunities to bring examples of real life into classrooms so that our students are well prepared for their future careers.

Mr Fox, Mr Gibson and a number of teaching staff from Science, Creative Arts and Vocational Studies recently visited the nearby Bernicia offices to speak to a range of business leaders about how they can offer help to students in school. Lots of employers were represented and a number gave suggestions of how Duke's students can get involved in their industry.

We are looking forward to seeing the next steps in this exciting development!



Network Rail Schedule Visit

Members of the Duke's School Railway Club were treated to a visit from Phil Gowland, Mobile Operations Manager with Network Rail. Mr Gowland brought along a range of different equipment used by Network Rail in order to keep the railways operating and safe. Sally Milner, who leads the Railway Club, said "The students were fantastic and learned a lot about careers opportunities with Network Rail and the wider opportunities in rail from this visit."





Musicians perform for retired ministers!

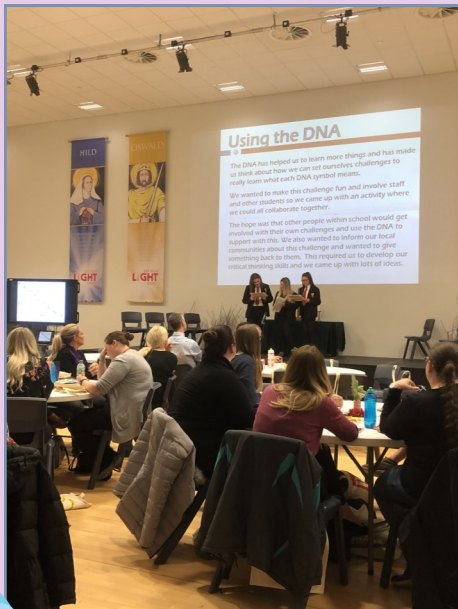
A number of musicians from Duke's School were invited to travel to Bedlington Salvation Army to entertain at the annual Christmas Dinner for retired Salvation Army ministers. The pupils performed a number of seasonal songs, and some soloists helped the afternoon go with a swing. Thanks to Ella Fear, Matthew Lloyd, Rachel Younger for their solos, and an unforgettable "Frosty the Snowman" on solo tuba from Nathan Golightly.

The musicians were all given a chocolate orange as a gift from the Salvation Army to thank them for their entertainment.



Teachers Learn from Students

Teachers from Duke's spent an evening together learning more about learning at our December TeachMeet. This is a gathering of teachers, held at Duke's, where teachers spend time listening to presentations from other teachers and educational experts about how to improve teaching and learning. All teachers from Duke's were present, and a number of colleagues from other schools who joined us for the occasion. One memorable presentation was delivered by three of our own students, and gave us an important insight into their views. Well done Megan McCullough, Leoni Laidlow, and Lauren Scott McLean!



Year 7 Football Success!

Well done to Duke's Year 7 Football team who won the East Northumberland 5 Aside championships. They overcame Chantry Middle School, Newminster Middle School, Blyth Academy, Duchess's School, Rothbury Middle, and Ashington Academy on their way to victory!





CCF Inspection

The start of December saw the Combined Cadet Force preparing for their biennial inspection, which this year took place under the watchful eye of Colonel Andy Hadfield of Catterick Garrison. Cadets took part in various activities to show the Colonel what the Duke's CCF is made of, and Year 7 were treated to a fantastic performance of pipes and drums in their assembly. Well done to Major Parker, SSI Tuckey and all the CCF helpers and cadets on achieving yet another milestone!



Progress Evenings

Thank you to those parents and carers who came along to our Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening. We were delighted to see that 52% of Year 11 parents and carers were able to attend and discuss progress in this vital year.

The next evenings are:

Year 10	23rd January 2019
Year 9	27th February 2019
Year 8	1st May 2019
Year 7	19th June 2019

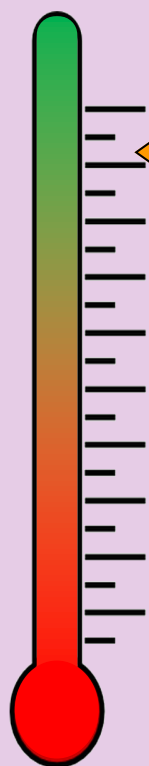


Cross Country Success!

Well done to Amy who won the Year 7 East Northumberland School Athletics Cross Country in November, beating off stiff competition from other local schools!



attendance ~~MATTERS~~

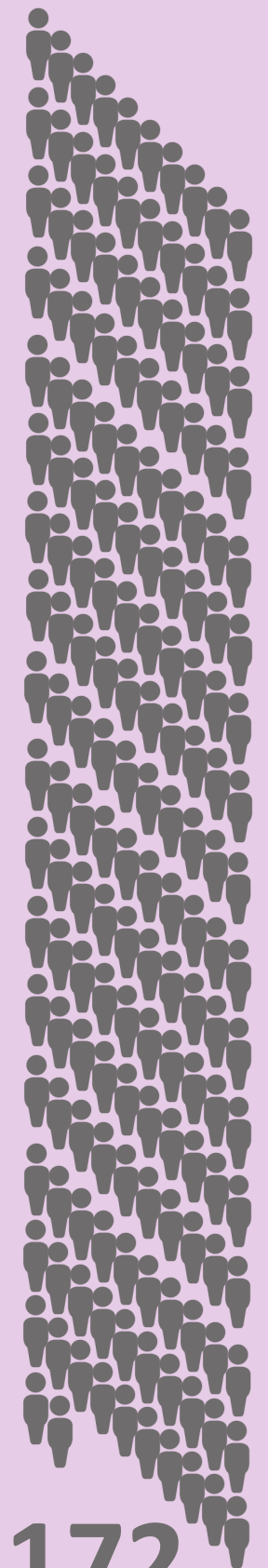


Current Attendance—92.6%



504 students, that's **55%**, have
attendance higher than 95%!

For further information about your child's attendance, please check on Class Charts, or contact your child's Form Tutor or Pastoral Link. Every day at school counts. Missing one day means catching up on 6 missed lessons. Missing a week means catching up on 30 missed lessons. If your child is absent from school for two weeks they have missed 60 lessons. Will your child make the progress that they are capable of by attending 60 lessons fewer than their friends?



172
students have
100%
attendance

—CLASS OF—
2018

Awards Evening

Students from two NCEA Trust schools, Duke's Secondary School and Castle School, came together for a special evening celebrating their achievements and hard work over the last year. The ceremony recognised students from both schools with academic success being celebrated alongside sporting achievement, musical excellence, and also marking the progress that students have made towards their personal goals.

The evening started with seasonal refreshments, provided by Hospitality and Catering students, while guests could look at examples of student work and listen to musical performances from current students.



All of Year 11 from last year were invited to receive their GCSE certificates and various awards. These were presented by The Duke of Northumberland, who spoke at the ceremony on his belief in the power of education to change futures, and recognised some outstanding achievements from students at both Duke's School and Castle School.



Katie Stafford was presented with the Duke's Excellence Award, recognising her outstanding performance in GCSE examinations, where she achieved seven grade 9s and two grade 8s, placing her in the top 1% of GCSE performance nationally.



Also during the ceremony, Ella Fear was presented with the "Best Cadet" award by Michael Orde, High Sheriff of Northumberland. The award recognised Ella's contribution to the school's Combined Cadet Force contingent, and in a surprise to the student, in his role as a High Sheriff appointed by Her Majesty the Queen, Mr Orde then promoted Ella to the rank of Corporal.

The choir gave great musical support to the ceremony, and a number of sixth form students, fresh from their expedition to Kenya, came to tell us about their experience.



The Rob McKay Award, given in memory of a former teacher at the school, was won by Allana Menzies and the Achievement Award was presented to James Kane. Robbie Anderson was awarded Young Musician of the Year, and Rebecca Linden won the Bishop of Newcastle Award for Community Service. Andrew Knight was awarded the Sportsman of the Year and Jessica Scott won the Duke's Award for Enterprise. The evening concluded with the Duke being presented with a portrait of himself created by four Duke's Sixth Form students.

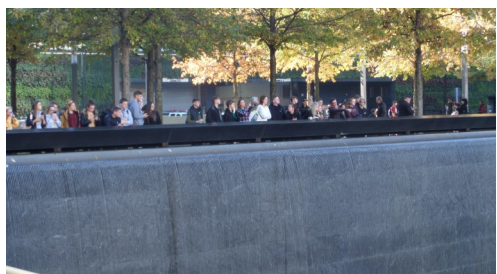
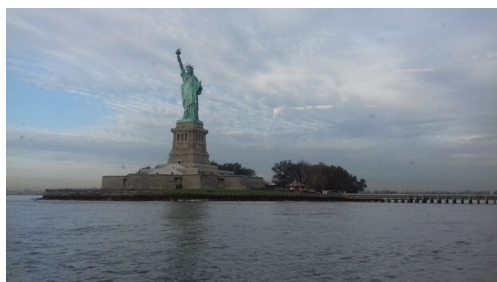


MUSIC STUDENTS VISIT

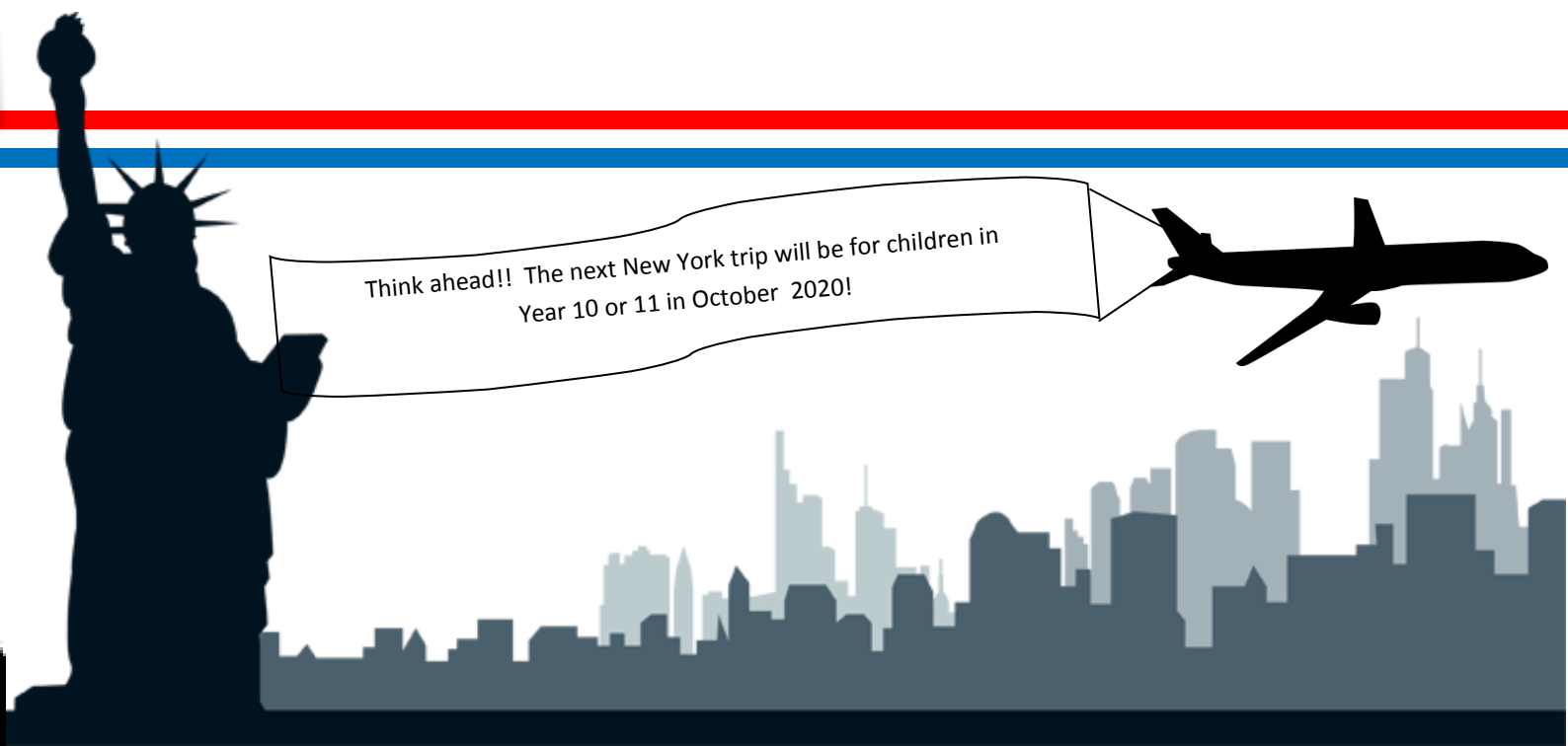


New York, New York!

Key Stage 4 pupils had an amazing experience during half term, flying to the heart of the Big Apple and taking in sights including Central Park, Broadway, the Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, and a taste of life States-side.



Think ahead!! The next New York trip will be for children in Year 10 or 11 in October 2020!

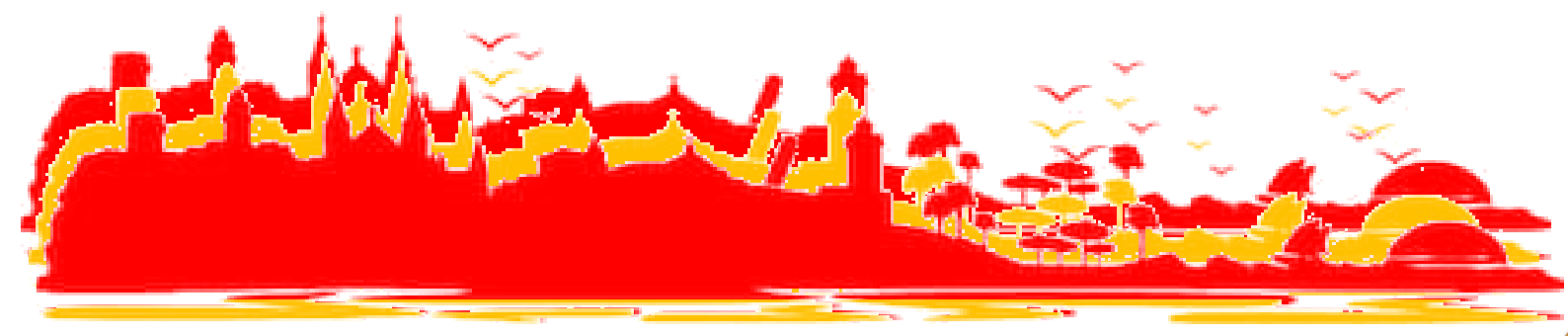




A group of students were able to make the trip to Mallorca in October as part of our European partners work through the Erasmus Project.

Students had a fantastic time in Mallorca, taking part in various cultural activities. These included visiting art galleries, old windmills and having a breathtaking ride on an old wooden train through the mountains.

The Year 10 students who were part of the trip learned a lot about local culture. Mrs Harvey, languages teacher at Duke's, said "The students behaved exceptionally and we were very proud of them! I hope that the partnership with our Erasmus partner school continues. Well done everyone!"





Sixth Form **KENYA** Volunteering expedition

A group of JBVI Students set off for an experience of a lifetime in Kenya back in October, accompanied by Mrs Fletcher and Mr Simpson. But this all started months earlier, as students and staff worked hard to raise the funds needed to pay for the trip through a range of activities, including being sponsored to spend the night inside Chillingham Castle! The NCEA Trust governors also supported the trip through the NCEA Endowment Fund, a fund set up by the original sponsors of the Academy to provide additional opportunities for young people to develop new experiences beyond the classroom.

Our first full day as volunteers saw us at the Enketeng Lepa Primary School, a school for girls rescued from FGM and the children of widows. While we were visiting, the boys played football where we struggled to beat the school team, then we danced for students and they sang for us. We learnt about all the hard work at the women's village. The day was filled with more song and dance and another perspective of life in Kenya.



We next spent a few days at Olkoroi Camp in Olorte. Here we planted Meringa trees as part of a new project to build a sustainable food garden at the local Maasai school. We also dug out some very large weeds as well as digging the holes for the new fence to protect it all. We joined the red tribe for a day and painted a house for a lady who had previously had to walk for an hour and a half to get to the bead work centre. After we had finished she owned the best house in the village. We also attended a church service with the local community and had a question and answer sessions with some local warriors before leaving for Labentera.





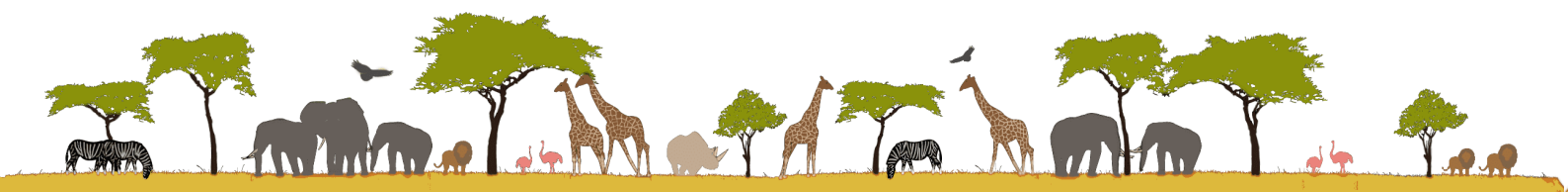
We played our second game of football against Maasai Academy. It was a long and well fought-out game. We lost 11-10 in a game that went on for over two hours on a quartz pitch!



We helped to build two roads. Our first road to Enturra Naibour had a spectacular view of Lake Natron and allowed the Land Cruisers access to an area that had previously been cut off for the last six months. Our second road was in Labentera which would allow Land Cruisers to carry meals to the top of the local hills, providing a better service and so more income to the local Maasai tribe.



To see what local conditions were really like, we worked and lived for a dollar a day. Some of the group shopped and then cooked the food while some of us cleared a local swimming hole of debris that had built up over the rainy season.



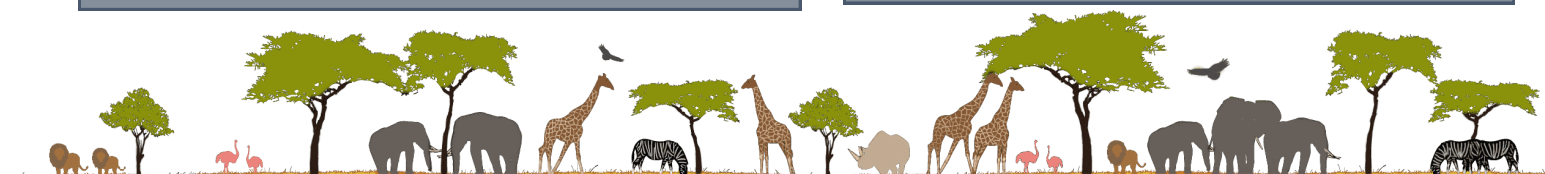
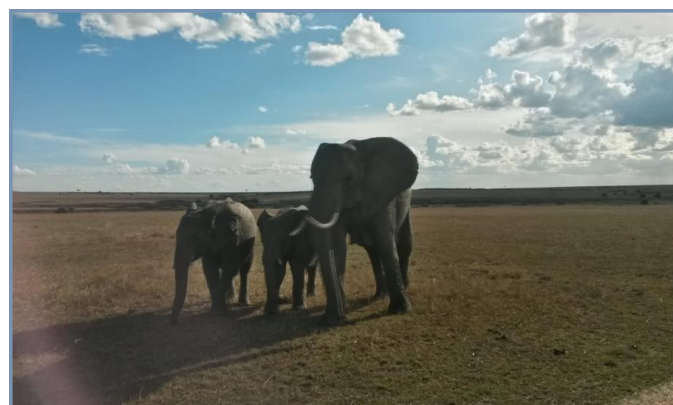
The local Maasai tribe held a celebration in our honour, we were all blessed and celebrated on our entry into the village. There was a party afterwards for everyone although we thought it was a bit smokey! The Maasai love song and dance so we sang 'Blaydon Races' for them before we left.



It wasn't all work in Kenya. We spent our first full day white water rafting with Savage Wilderness. We practiced the manoeuvres on land before entering the water. We had lots of fun before we came back to Wildebeest Eco Camp – then headed off to the depths of Maasailand.



Finally we went on safari in the Maasai Mara game reserve where we saw an abundance of wildlife.



CHRISTMAS AT DUKE'S

Wednesday 12th December

Year 7 Christmas Disco

4.30pm

Friday 14th December

Jayess Newbiggin Brass Band Concert

7.00pm

Wednesday 19th December

Christmas Lunch at School

Wednesday 19th December

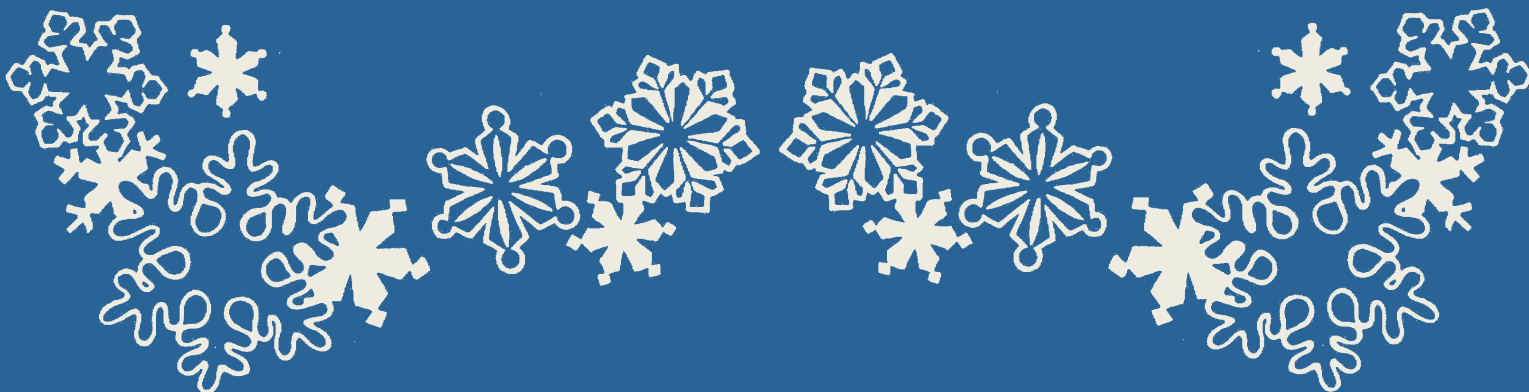
Duke's Christmas Concert

7.00pm

Friday 21st December

End of Term

Duke's School Closes at 12.45pm for all pupils



Duke's Secondary School

Principal: Mr S Gibson | Deputy Principal: Mr R Atkinson | Vice Principal: Mr B Line

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