



Welcome, Year 6, to Duke's Secondary!



An Introduction to Duke's Secondary School

The name of your new school is **Duke's Secondary School**. The address is:

Duke's Secondary School
Academy Road
Ashington
NE63 9FZ

The telephone number is **01670 816111**.

The name of the school **Principal** is **Mr Atkinson**.

School starts at **8.40am** and finishes at **2.45pm**.

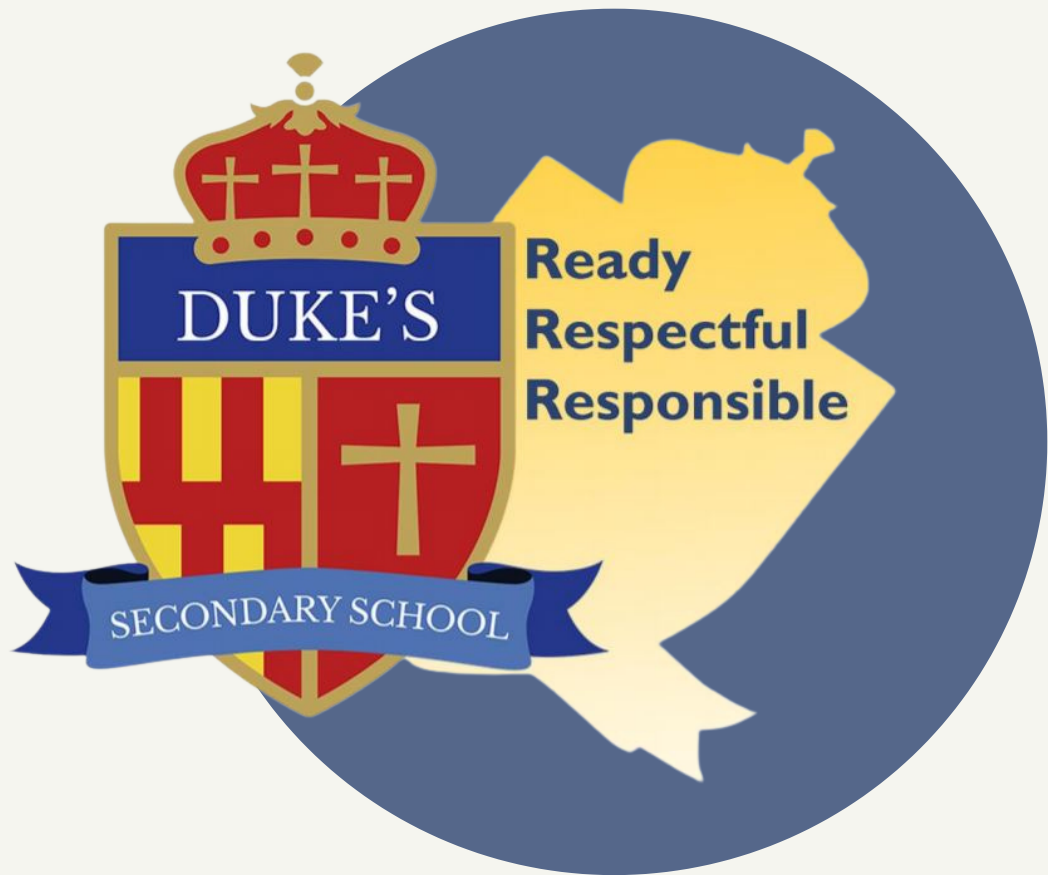
Part of the NCEAT family...

Duke's Secondary School is part of **Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust (NCEAT)**.

If you went to one of the Bishop's Primary School campuses (Grace Darling, James Knott, Josephine Butler, Thomas Bewick or William Leech) you will already know a little about the Trust and our LIGHT values. You might even notice some similarities between your old and new school logos! **We're all part of the NCEAT family.**



School Rules



Our rules are **Ready**, **Respectful** and **Responsible**.

These rules were chosen as they are simple to understand and easily applicable to our everyday lives.

Abiding by the rules will further enhance the positive and supportive culture we have at our school and maximise everyday learning opportunities.

Student Expectations



During lessons we expect students to follow the **READY** to **LEARN** expectation. These expectations are to help our students focus and learn during lessons.

Useful Apps for Parents and Carers

Class Charts



From September, Class Charts will be the main way that staff at Duke's will communicate with parents and carers. We will send letters and messages via the Class Charts app instead of sending out paper copies of letters or text messages.

The school detention system will use this app to inform parents - there will not be any other method of communicating if your child has a detention, as such, it is vital that all parents and carers engage with the app to stay up to date with the great things happening in school and so they can monitor and track their child's performance.

Social Media

We provide daily updates on our school's official social media channels covering school news, celebrations, events and any other important announcements. You can follow us on the following platforms:



@NCEA_Dukes



@NCEADukes

Email

Duke's has a regular slot in the NCEA Trust's weekly newsletter, 'LIGHThouse'. You can sign-up to receive the newsletter via the Trust website at www.ncea.org.uk to stay up to date with all of the latest news from across the Trust's MAT schools.

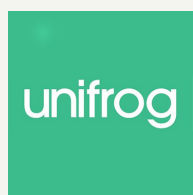
Useful Apps for Students

Google Drive



When you start at Duke's you will be given a Duke's email account. With this, you will have access to **Google Classroom** where some of your homework or classwork tasks will be set. You will also have access to Google Drive to save and organise your work and use **Google Sheets/Slides/Docs** to edit and create your work digitally. All of this is free and can also be used on a smartphone or tablet.

Unifrog



At Duke's, we're committed to providing students with outstanding careers education throughout their time in secondary school. To support this we use **Unifrog**; an award-winning, online careers platform.

Unifrog allows students to explore the world of work and develop an understanding of how their studies influence their future choices. The platform includes a careers library and know-how section, as well as wellbeing and study skills resources.

In the Autumn term, students will attend a launch assembly and will be given the opportunity to use Unifrog regularly during registration periods. We would encourage you to use the platform with your child so you can support them through the process of exploring pathways. We have set up a parent login so that you can use Unifrog as if you were a student yourself, allowing you to truly support your child. The form code you need is:

'*parentsnorthumberland*' and you can sign up here:

www.unifrog.org/code.

Meet our Chaplain

Hi, I'm Sally!



If you went to any of the Bishop's Primary Campuses, you will already know me. If you went to Central, Bothal, Pegswood, Ellington, Linton, Stakeford, or Bedlington Stead Lane Schools and are joining Duke's, I am really looking forward to meeting you!

What is my job?

I am the school Chaplain, we are a Church of England School and I am here to welcome everyone and to help you get the most from your time at Duke's. I take Collective Worship, which you might call assembly, these sessions help us to think about some of the big questions in life. I am part of the team at Duke's that is here to help you settle in, find your way around and make the most of your time at school.

Where can you find me?

I have an office on the ground floor right next to the lift in the Atrium. I am often at the entrance when you arrive in the morning.

What can you ask me about?

You can ask me anything, I don't always know the answer myself, but I often know the person that does. There is no such thing as a silly question, so don't be scared to ask!

I really like meeting people and getting to know them, getting to know what makes them happy, what makes them sad, what they're good at and what they struggle with. We can then all help each other to get more out of life, less sadness and few struggles.

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Welcome to English



What will you study?

In Year 7 you will study a range of texts including: poetry, prose, play scripts and media, as well as a variety of non-fiction texts.

Year 7 follows the literary timeline and therefore all of Year 7 begin the year studying Myths and Legends, a topic you may have studied in Primary already, and this will build on your prior knowledge and introduce you to where literature all began. From Myths and Legends you will move onto study Shakespeare looking at the story of Romeo and Juliet through a media project. Continuing through the literary timeline you will then study a Victorian novel 'Treasure Island' before moving onto war poetry and modern political fiction 'Animal Farm'. The year will end with a modern prose novel focused on American literature.

In Key Stage 3 all classes also have library lessons with Mrs Littlewood. This is once every two weeks and is an opportunity for you to visit the library, change your library book and read for pleasure. We update the books in the library regularly and make sure there is lots to choose from in here!

Key Stage 3 classes also get one P4C lesson every two weeks. P4C or Philosophy for Children is a chance for you to practise speaking and listening skills through enquiries. These are based on a stimulus where you will create a philosophical or 'big' question. These questions often tackle trickier topics such as race, identity or gender and you are then given the opportunity to discuss and formulate opinions in a safe environment.



Clubs

We have a wide range of clubs available for Year 7 in the English department which is always expanding! Some of these currently include:

- **Film Club** with Miss Gill - watch and review the latest films as part of Into Film Club.
- **Environmental Club** with Miss Donnelly - help to make sure our school is doing all it can to help the environment and promote the importance of looking after our planet.
- **Creative Writing Club** with Miss Keenan - enter a wide range of creative writing competitions both in school and nationally.

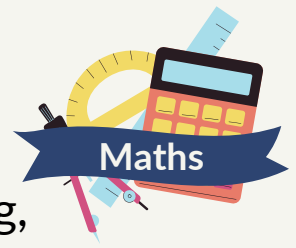
Additionally, we are looking to start a **Debate Club**.

Educational Visits

Every year we try to take Year 7 for as many out of school experiences as possible. Here are some trips we have done in the past:

- **Beamish Museum** – visiting at Christmas when we can visit the Frost Fair and go ice skating
- **Northern Stage Theatre** – where we have watched plays such as The Snow Queen and James & the Giant Peach
- **Vue Cinema** – part of Into Film club watching films such as Wonder, Goosebumps 2 and Hotel Transylvania 3.

Welcome to Maths

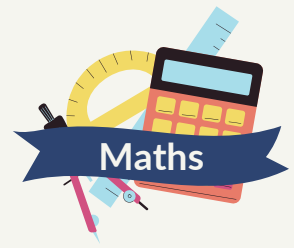


At Duke's we use White Rose Maths Scheme of Learning, which most of you will have seen before in your primary schools. It is broken down into the following units:

	Weeks 1 - 6			Weeks 7 - 12		
Autumn	Algebraic Thinking			Place Value and Proportion		
	Sequences	Understand and use algebraic notation	Equality and equivalence	Place value and ordering integers and decimals	Fraction, decimal and percentage equivalence	
Spring	Applications of Number			Directed Number	Fractional Thinking	
	Solving problems with addition and subtraction	Solving problems with multiplication and division	Fractions & percentages of amounts	Operations and equations with directed number	Addition and subtraction of fractions	
Summer	Lines and Angles			Reasoning with Number		
	Constructing, measuring and using geometric notation	Developing geometric reasoning		Developing number sense	Sets and probability	Prime numbers and proof

What to expect from Maths at Duke's

At the start of each lesson we like to do some retrieval practice to make sure you are not forgetting any maths that you have not seen for a while.



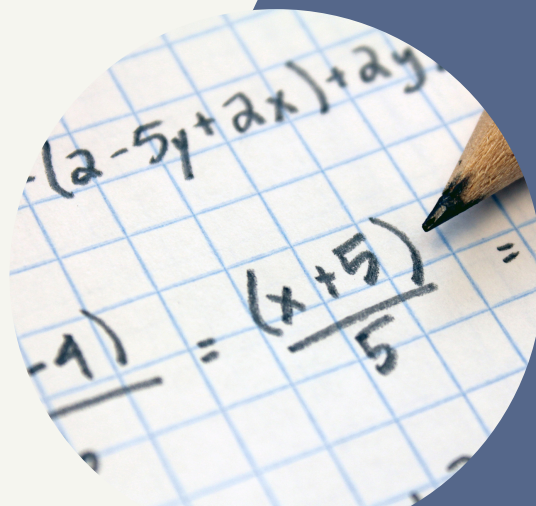
We try to make your lessons as engaging and fun as possible, this way you will hopefully remember the maths and be able to apply the skills and techniques later. Because of this, you can expect to use a range of mathematical equipment, mini whiteboards, games, treasure hunts and make use of interactive whiteboards that are in all classrooms.

We also provide you with knowledge organisers for each topic which allow you to see what you will be doing in the next few maths lessons and also remind you of key facts required for the lesson you are doing that day.

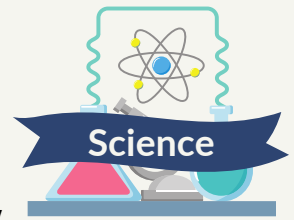
We also set additional tasks on a website called **Hegarty Maths** which are to help close any gaps in your learning but there are also lots of maths games for you to play.

Extra Curricular Activities and Clubs

- Homework Club
- Problem Solving/Bar Modelling
- Lego Club
- Connect 4
- Rubix Cube Club



Welcome to Science



In Science lessons here at Duke's you'll learn lots of new skills and ideas. You'll get to take part in lessons about the biology of living things, the chemistry of how chemicals react with one another and the physics of how things move and work.

We have a number of clubs we'd like you to get involved in, and we'll tell you more about each one when you arrive!

We have:

- A STEM club where we can do experiments that help us answer life's big questions
- A robotics clubs if you love coding and building robots
- A gardening club to learn how to grow your own fruits and vegetables
- An ecology club where we look at ways to protect the environment and rear real butterflies

We spend a lot of time doing practical activities and use some great pieces of equipment that help us understand concepts a little easier.

You'll see things burn and explode, you'll grow your own plants and learn all about how to give the best electric shocks using static electricity.



Welcome to Humanities



In Humanities, students use their skills to investigate the past, think critically about the world around them and develop an understanding of the changes in our dynamic world.

During Year 7, students cover a range of units which will help them to appreciate the diversity of our planet. They will develop knowledge and skills helping them to think globally and historically.

History

In History, students investigate the Romans, Normans, medieval Newcastle, medieval medicine, medieval warfare and Richard III.

During these units, students have the opportunity to act out their own Roman Army formations, design their own castle, design a medieval guide and learn about the Black Death.

We use a range of activities in lessons including drama and news reports. They can even take part in a fake trial where they are on a jury to decide the fate of the potential murderer!



Geography



In Geography, students investigate both the human and physical aspects of geography.

They start by looking at the different ecosystems on our planet and have the opportunity to design a plant or an animal which would survive in the rainforest. They also look at life in other countries such as Kenya so they can compare and appreciate the differences in culture and environment.

The final unit of the year gives students time to consider the impact that we have on the environment; we investigate different environmental issues ranging from what happened in Chernobyl to plastics in the oceans.

Students will have the opportunity to design posters to highlight how we can be more environmentally friendly as well as discussion work on the different environmental issues facing our planet.

Extra Curricular Opportunities

Extra curricular opportunities in humanities include the History Club where students are able to develop their knowledge on topics which aren't covered in lessons.

In addition to this there is also the International Schools Club where they will have the opportunity to get involved with schools in other countries and the opportunity to meet and get involved with activities with students from those schools.

Welcome to MFL

Meet the team...



Salut! I'm Miss Opstad, I speak French and German.

French isn't just about what we do in the classroom we have some exciting things planned for you in Year 7.



Bonjour! I'm Mrs Harvey. I speak French, Spanish and German.

I love games, competitions and making language learning fun! I can't wait to meet you all!



Welcome to RE



In Year 7 you will study a range of topics, views and religions to really get you thinking deeply.

You will study:

- Does God exist?
- Who was Jesus?
- How should we look after the poor?
- Spirituality and Art

Why?

Religious Studies will open your mind. It helps us makes sense of the world around us, to understand what other people believe and helps us answer some of the Big Questions about life and beyond.

Lessons will involve discussions, debates and written work often delivered in unusual ways (have you ever had a silent debate?) Each lesson the best student or best group will receive recognition from their teacher; student of the month and most improved student will receive a certificate and phone call home each. The end of the year also sees a 'Student of the Year' chosen from each year group.

Enrichment Activities

- Homework Club
- Debating Society
- Philosophy Book Club



Welcome to Art



We are an open plan department - that means we have no walls. This is great as you get to see what other students in other lessons are up to. For example, you will be studying the formal elements and natural forms in Year 7, but next door to you, you could see Sixth Form doing a personal project or Year 9 doing animal horoscope work. You may think this noisy but actually it's a really fun atmosphere.

In Art we use a range of materials in Year 7 from paint to clay! Our department has three teachers Mrs Gatti, Ms McNally and Ms Leigh, who runs our pride society. This year we have had ceramic and animation clubs with local professional artists after school and parents are invited to join in with these clubs too.

Our aim in Art is to share our passion for creativity and for you to be proud of your artwork. We aim to Tweet as much work as possible so ask an adult to follow us on **@DukesArtDesign** then you can see what our students are doing.



Welcome to Design & Technology



In Design and Technology we use the design process, skills and knowledge to design and make products that meet the needs of a design brief.

We work in three main material areas to make exciting products:

Term 1 - Textiles - making an ugly doll. Making templates, using fabrics, hand sewing to create a soft toy

Term 2 - Graphics - making a pop up card for an occasion of their choice. Experimenting with pop up ideas, developing design ideas and lettering for the card, presentation skills

Term 3 - Resistant Materials - making a wooden desk tidy in the shape of a creature(pencil holder). Designing, cutting, shaping and finishing wood to create the finished product.

Extra Curricular Activities

There will be a lunchtime craft club running for KS3.



Welcome to Music



What does Music involve in Year 7?

Students in Year 7 will use a range of different instruments including keyboards, guitars, percussion, African percussion etc to produce performances. As well as this, there is a focus on using computers to create and to record music, in particular using Garageband.

Extra Curricular Opportunities

Individual Instrument Lessons form the extra curricular element for Music in Year 7. Students who had instrument tuition in Year 6 at Primary School have to continue their lessons in the same instrument, or can sign up if not). Lessons include singing, guitar, mandolin, ukulele, violin, cello, clarinet, piano, keyboard, flute, saxophone, bassoon, trumpet, cornet, trombone, baritone, tenor horn, steel pans and music theory.

Ensembles

Pupils can join ensembles including choir, steel pan group, brass ensemble, wind band, string group, guitar group, boys rock ensemble, flute ensemble, clarinet ensemble, woodwind group, keyboard group.

We also have the school production that students who are interested in musical theatre (music, dance, drama) can get involved in.

There are regular concerts and visits as well as visiting guests/performers on occasion.

Welcome to Drama



What does Drama involve in Year 7?

In Year 7, students are introduced to a wide range of drama exercises in order to develop communication and interaction skills.

Students will participate in a series of physical theatre workshops and be able to showcase their mime and movement presentations in a safe and engaging environment. Students will then have the opportunity to explore and perform a range of repertoire including texts written by Charles Dickens and William Shakespeare.

Students will utilise the skills and techniques developed in the introductory part of the year to create and perform devised group performances.



Welcome to Food



In Year 7 you are introduced to 'Healthy Living'.

Lessons are one hour over the two week timetable.

During this time you will do a mixture of theory and practical lessons, starting off with health and safety in the practical room and personal hygiene.

Over the year we will also look at weighing and measuring, different types of equipment and nutrition as well as functions of ingredients. You will also gain skills in product evaluation and how you can alter your dishes for specific customers. Your teachers will be, Mrs Shinkfield, Mrs Fitzsimmons and Mrs Walker.

Practical lessons over the year include:

- Fruit salad - knife skills
- Welsh Rarebit – use of the grill
- Melting Moments – use of the oven
- Cowboy Beans and Sausage – use of the hob
- Apple Crumble – rubbing in method
- Fruit Scones – rubbing in method (adding liquid)
- Pizza Whirls – savoury rubbing in method
- Vegetable Stir Fry – Revisit use of the hob
- Focaccia – bread making skills
- Eve's Pudding – creaming method



Welcome to PE



We will seek to offer all of our students a PE programme that is broad and balanced, with a strong emphasis on physical activity, skill development and health and well-being. In order to achieve these aims, we will strive to provide a learning environment where students feel valued and enjoy taking part.

We believe that regular active involvement in 'high quality' PE, sport and physical activity raises standards across the secondary curriculum and addresses key issues such as health and well-being, confidence and self-esteem.

Sporting Success

NCEA Duke's prides itself on its comprehensive and full programme of intra and inter-school sport. It is our policy to field sports teams, and we attend most inter school sporting events that are facilitated by the Ashington and Amble School Games Development Manager and other community organisations.

We have fielded teams in: athletics, cross-country, football (girls and boys), basketball, cricket, gymnastics, handball, netball, volleyball and rugby.

Extra-Curricular PE & Sport

A broad range of sports and activities are offered to all students and a number of 'quality assured' sports coach's work with us to develop sport.

A range of lunch/after-school clubs are offered by our staff, sports leaders and coaches for students from Year 7 upwards.

Welcome to IT & Computing

In Year 7 you will learn many things including:

- How to use a computer safely
- Staying safe online
- Programming skills
- Digital graphic skills
- How to use common software applications



You will also be able to access some computer rooms at break and lunch time. This is your chance to use the computers just for fun.

Extra Curricular Opportunities

We also have a range of clubs which include:

- Code club
- Minecraft club
- Design and create your own mug
- More to come...



Welcome to PSHE



PSHE as a subject is not assessed, but at Duke's, we believe that these lessons are very important to help people prepare for changes and situations that life brings. You get one lesson a fortnight.

Most lessons are taught by Mrs Freeman, but there are a handful of other staff who teach in different year groups.

Students cover elements of key concepts and develop an understanding of how they can be linked and developed through time and changes they experience. This involves relationship and sex education, life's changes that we go through, drug awareness, tolerance, democracy and mental health to name but a few. We also like to prepare students by teaching CPR in Year 9 as well as some standalone first aid lessons.

This is all achieved through a spiral curriculum where areas are revisited and importantly built upon to make connection relevant to age and situations. An example of this is the relationship and sex education where Year 7 start with puberty, worries and support and each year we move on and develop further through conception, contraception, body image, abusive relationships, negotiation skills, consent and parenting.

Lessons allow opportunities for discussion and listening to others views. Sometimes people can get emotional and people often feel comfortable enough to share some of their own experiences if they want to, or voice their opinion.

Welcome to Learning Support



In Learning support you will always find someone who will try their best to help you in any way that they can.

It is Mrs Collin the SENDCo's role to support you if you struggle with learning for any reason. This might include you having a learning passport or receiving some additional support in lessons.

Nurture and Intervention

As well as a team of highly skilled learning support assistants who work in lessons and with small groups at tutor time you will find nurture and intervention.

Nurture Club runs at break and lunch times, this is a great way to meet new people and make friends while playing lots of games and developing life skills. Nurture also leads on fundraising and we often have trips out and visitors in linked to our fundraising efforts.

Mrs Henderson and Mrs Oakley would love to see you and talk to you about Nurture Club, or any ideas you might have for fundraising including who to fundraise for.

Intervention is open early in the morning so you can come and relax before the school day starts, it is also open at break and lunch time when there is usually a film on.

In Learning Support you will also find Dottie, our pet gecko, who loves to have visitors and meet new people!



Want to know more?

Moving to Duke's is going to open up a lot of new, exciting experiences and opportunities for you. We hope you have found this booklet helpful and most importantly, that you remember there are lots of staff in school to help you.

If you need any further information or have any questions about any of the content in this booklet, don't be afraid to ask your Tutor or Class Teacher or you might find what you're looking for on our website at **www.dukes.ncea.org.uk**.

