

# DUKE'S



# JOURNAL

Welcome to the fourth monthly newsletter from Duke's Secondary School.

## December 2022

It is almost that time of year again...time you wear your best (or worst) Christmas jumper, top or t-shirt on **Wednesday December 21st**.

You are welcome to make whatever donation you can, but remember that all other normal uniform expectations apply: school trousers/ skirt and school shoes.



Staff and students donated over 1000 items throughout the months of November and December, for Wansbeck Food bank and families in the community.

This reflects the great team work and community spirit from all Duke's students, families and staff and shows great compassion for others, especially in the current economic climate.

Staff from Wansbeck Food Bank were genuinely overwhelmed by how much was donated.

Students from the Arc were a great help in organising and setting up the collection on the day. A huge thank you from Beacon staff to everyone who donated.



Any school holiday can be a stressful time for students, and often Christmas is even more so, with added pressures from family, friends and social events. The **Kooth** and **Quell** services are still operating over the holiday period.

See the images below for dates & times the chat services are running; the website is open 24/7 so you can access the online material.



On December 14th, Duke's held it's annual Christmas Concert.

It was a great success, with over 70 attendees who braved the sub-zero temperatures, and saw a range of brilliant solo and group performances.

These included the Brass Ensemble performing Rocket Ship; a mandolin duet of **Silent Night**; A solo performance of **Winter Wonderland** from Nina Maxwell and a piano solo of **Silent Night** from Grace Lightley.

A huge well done to everyone involved in the preparation and performances!



Another reminder for the upcoming **Winter Warmer** Part 2 in January.

This will be held at Duke's, and will be a warm space to socialise with family and friends. All in our community are welcome.

The Winter Warmer will take place on **January 25th, from 5-7pm**; there will be a hot meal, tea & coffee, entertainment, a raffle and also donations for anyone who may need a winter coat, children's clothes or sanitary products.



**Save the Date!**



## English Adventures

Year 7 students were rewarded with a free screening of **Asterix and the Magic Potion** at the Vue cinema in Cramlington. 65 students were chosen who had shown excellent effort, hard work and great behaviour during their first term in English at Duke's. The students had a great time and even got a free cinema ticket to see any show at Vue cinema in December!

The KS4 reading enrichment club also had a free screening at the Vue cinema in Cramlington. They were able to watch a National Theatre screening of Shakespeare's **Much Ado About Nothing**. The students thoroughly enjoyed the performance and we hope to offer more screenings from National Theatre within school in the future!

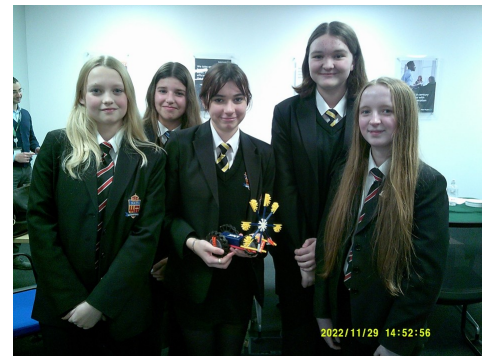
Year 10 readers were also rewarded this half term with a trip to Barter Books in Alnwick. They had a behind the scenes tour of the converted railway station now book shop and were able to spend the day browsing the shelves and reading in the peaceful surroundings. They came home with bags full of books and had a fantastic day!



This month, staff have been asked to nominate students who consistently demonstrate Duke's Elite qualities.

Each nominated student gains a star on Duke's Christmas tree, and is then entered into a prize draw.

**Good luck and well done to everyone nominated!**



**Jessie, Leni, Cassia, Amy and Molly.**

## **Girls and Boys Get SET!**

Year 9 girls and boys have each been learning more about Science, Engineering and Technology opportunities in the region, thanks to the GetSET programme that Baker Hughes runs at its Cramlington site. The programme gives students the opportunity to learn more about the gas and oil pipeline supply and inspection industry, the role of technology within this business, and the career routes and opportunities available locally and further afield. It's an exciting, hands-on programme, and most recently students have been challenged to build a pipeline inspection gadget (PIG) using K'Nex that can climb through a pipe and meet many other criteria. In competition with other schools, our students have consistently won! Pictured are the winning groups with their PIGs.



**Kyle, Lucien, Ayanfe and Victor.**

## Students judge for the Royal Society

Year 8 and 10 students have been busy reading 6 shortlisted science books in an effort to decide which is their favourite. With a few weeks to go they are nearly ready to submit their final decision to the Royal Society, and have their vote counted along with nearly 700 other school groups taking part in this year's contest to find the Young People's Science Book of the Year.

The shortlisted books include *How was that Built?* By Roma Agrawal; *Beetles for Breakfast* by Madeleine Finlay; *Fantastically Great Women Scientists* by Kate Pankhurst; *If the World Were 100 People* by Jackie McCann; *Microbe Wars* by Gill Arbutnott, and *Fourteen Wolves* by Catherine Barr.

We were fortunate enough to have Catherine Barr visit the Bishop's and William Leech primary campuses, and the judging panel helped Catherine deliver her workshop to the Bishop's children. It was really exciting to meet an author and have her discuss her book with us.

**Pictured is the judging panel:** Grace, Amy, Evie, Evie, Bethany, Oliver and Ellie with Mrs McCreedy.



## Faraday Challenge returns to Duke's

Once again we had the pleasure of hosting 5 visiting schools – Ashington Academy, Blyth Academy, Whytrig Middle, Wellfield Middle and the Royal Grammar – to an event run by the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET). Students were set a challenge on the day to design and build a prototype solution to a problem caused by drone-delivered parcels.

Students were asked to take on roles within their group, such as: project manager, budget controller and resources manager and then spend 'money' in the shop to purchase equipment necessary to build their prototype in the day. They then delivered a group presentation about their invention and were scored on all aspects by the IET leader, Mick.

Students had a great time trouble-shooting their way through the day and being given scope to test themselves without teachers interfering! Congratulations to the Royal Grammar School team who won, and well done to all students who took part.

Pictured are the winning team plus our Senior Science Technician Mrs Kingdon who ran the shop.

