

Virtual Author Visit at Duke's

As part of Duke's continued World Book day celebrations a group of year 7 and 8 students enjoyed a virtual author session on Thursday 23rd March. Dan Freedman, author of the Jamie Johnson footballer series, joined students virtually in the library to discuss how he got into writing and how important both reading and writing are to him.

Students were able to chat to Dan and hear how he began his career in football journalism and then turned into a children's author. Students were then able to ask Dan lots of questions about his books, writing process, his thoughts on football and about his TV series of the Jamie Johnson books.

The students had a great time and thoroughly enjoyed talking to a real author of books which they have read themselves. Dan himself said that it was 'an amazing session and it was great to see the students so engaged and enthusiastic throughout'. Duke's library have ordered in extra copies of the Jamie Johnson books for students to borrow and these are also available on the Duke's Eplatform online too.



The Beacon

Over the past couple of years members of the Beacon have worked closely with 'Woodhorn' from Museums Northumberland on both community and art projects. The students have developed a relationship with the community of 'Woodhorn' and, as part of it have also engaged with the staff and general public. Although hard work, it has been tremendous fun for everyone.

To further enhance the relationship with Woodhorn, on Friday 10th March, Learning Support Lunch Club was host to Victoria Coxon. Victoria's visit also linked in with National Careers Week; students listened intently as Victoria spoke about all the different ways that an individual could work in a museum, and learned that the possibilities were vast and varied. All students present were enthused, engaged and as always, a credit to the school.

We are all now looking forward to our next visit in the autumn where once again we have been invited to 'take over' Woodhorn for another day! The staff and students have already started to make plans.

The staff here in Learning Support are very proud of our students and the relationships that are being built upon each year – Victoria herself has said, "Duke's is the best school that we work with and find the students to be polite and hardworking. We know the projects are always in safe hands."

So, bring on the autumn challenge...



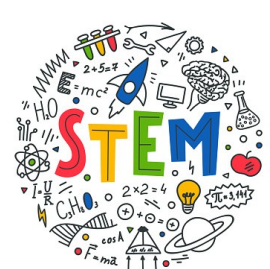
Students Like Us get into STEM!

Year 10 students have been learning more about what a STEM career might mean for them and how they may progress their career, starting now at GCSE, thanks to generous funding received from the Generating Genius foundation. They have funded fifteen students to meet regularly with specially-paired mentors from industry and university for in-depth and bespoke virtual mentoring sessions. Students were also treated to an immersive DNA Forensics investigation workshop, where they got to run DNA fingerprint analysis, test blood for type, examine pathology reports, and review case notes and scene of crime photos to work out the guilty suspect!

Students pictured are the group of 'graduating' students with Mrs McCreedy. Each student was awarded a certificate of completion and £15 Amazon vouchers, and will have a follow-up careers workshop at the start of year 11.

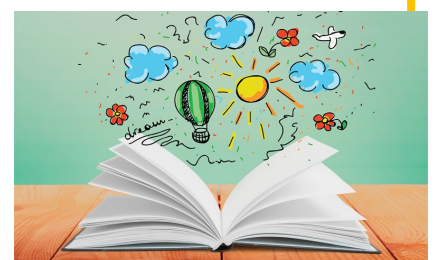
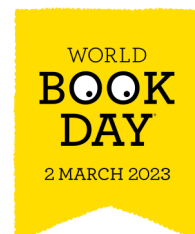


GENERATING
GENIUS



World Book Day was celebrated on March 2nd this year, and featured a range of activities and events at Dukes. Throughout the day students heard a Squashed Story across their 5 lessons; students had quizzes in tutor time to complete for fun and extra activities were posted on Google Classroom with links to writing and illustration masterclasses.

Two competitions from World Book Day are still open! You can design a book cover or write a book review, or both! **Hand your entry to your English teacher on or before Friday 28th April.**



A group of our Year 9 and 10 students have been working with November Club, theatre group this term creating a brand-new audio musical called Josey- The Indignant Daughter. The musical is inspired by the life of Josephine Butler and the causes she fought for that are still being fought today.

Our students contributed ideas for the content and you may also recognise some of their voices in the Podcast.

November Club is aiming for 1000 listens. It is 20 minutes long and is available free via Spotify, Apple or wherever you get your podcasts. In the folder is a graphic advertising the podcast and a photo of some of the students involved.

Students involved were;

Laura Fear (Y10)
Macey Minnock (Y10)
Saveena Mullin (Y10)
Amber Cassell (Y10)
Louisa Firmin (Y10)
Leni Perkins (Y9)
Danielle Archer (Y9)
Grace Walker (Y9)
Caitlin McAlpine (Y9)
Amy Tucker (Y9)
Adele Thomas (Y9)

AVAILABLE NOW!

CREATED BY NOVEMBER CLUB
WITH SUPPORT FROM THE SPACE

JOSEY

THE INDIGNANT DAUGHTER

Katie, the writer and composer, said:

“I am so grateful to all of the women, now and throughout history who have not held back on the causes they believe in, this includes those, of all ages who have generously and courageously spoken, shared, sung and played with us on this audio, it is much greater for you being a part of it.”



A brand-new audio musical inspired by the life of Josephine Butler, a 19th Century social reformer
Available free via Spotify and Apple or wherever you get your podcasts
anchor.fm/josey-themusical

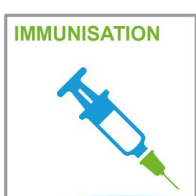




Upcoming Y8 Parents Evening - **Wednesday
03 May 2023 - Information will be sent in due
course**

There will be refreshments on the evening, along with a **school uniform swap shop** (simply bring along clean, no longer needed uniform, to swap for the sizes you need.)

We also have the **Be You** team working in our local area. They will be attending the evening and will be available to chat to parents and carers about what support is available regarding young people's mental health.



Y8 HPV Immunisations - Tuesday 25 April 2023