

May 2023

In keeping with our commitment to providing bespoke and tailored careers support, Arc students have been working on a life skills project that supports them with confidence to travel by themselves on public transport. Travelling independently is an important part of a child's development and that's why we've introduced this to our careers and skills curriculum this academic year. Over the last half term students planned and then implemented their trip on Friday 5th May. They had a great time, as you can see from the pictures below. I am very proud of each and everyone of them as they grew in confidence throughout the day. Watch out for part 2 of the programme where students will be exploring other forms of independent travel.



Members of the public commented to staff what great ambassadors of Duke's the students were. **Well done to all involved.**

**WELL DONE!**

# CONGRATULATIONS

Over the past few weeks, as part of Earth Day 2023, a group of Y8 students have been working on sustainability alongside the Newcastle United Foundation.

The winning idea from the group, was to use old pallets from St James' Park and turn them into bird boxes and bug hotels, with the aim of increasing natural habitats and improving biodiversity. The boxes have been placed along the wildlife corridor between the club's Training Centre and Academy.

Two of the girls involved, Leah Greatrex and Keira Thirtle said that the project was, 'A really good way to learn about the environment.' They added that they were proud of their achievements so far and are looking forward to the final part of the competition held in Manchester in July.

Check out the link below to see the girls with their creations at St James' Park.

<https://www.nufoundation.org.uk/news/sean-longstaff-it-s-important-to-keep-learning-how-we-can-improve-our-environmental-sustainability>



**GOOD LUCK!**

Submission for the competition is 19th May, and the girls travel to Manchester to see who has won on the 6th July.



On the 25th May Duke's will once again be celebrating **Shakespeare Day**.

There will be a huge range of activities going on in lessons, as well as competitions to enter.

**Activities will include:** Shakespeare Starters in every lesson; quizzes for tutor time; whole school reading; a screening of **Twelfth Night** for selected students and the two competitions below for students to enter!

*Duke's*  
**CREATIVE WRITING  
COMPETITION**

Take a classic Shakespeare play and write your own twisted version of this!

You could modernise the story, you could change the setting of the story, you could change key characters but the storyline needs to remain similar to the original.

Think about Gnomeo and Juliet or She's The Man for inspiration!

This could be hand written or typed and then handed in / emailed to your English teacher by 12th June!



*Duke's*  
**DESIGN A  
SHAKESPEARE SET  
COMPETITION**

**FOR SHAKESPEARE DAY!**

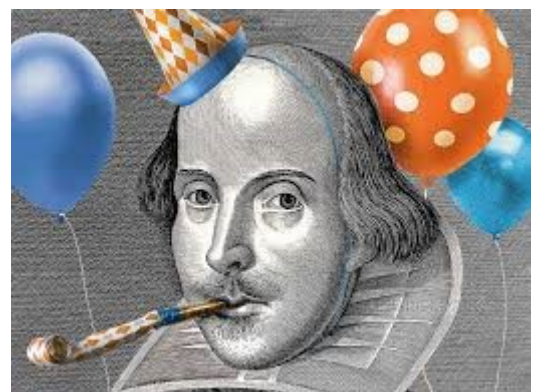
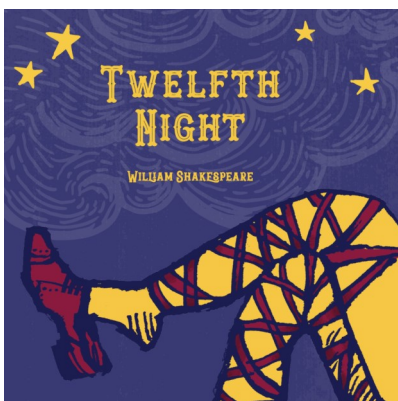
**DUE IN - 12TH  
JUNE 2023**

Hand in to any English teacher!

**RULES:**  
Design a set for any Shakespeare play. This could be a 2D drawing, a digital piece of art or you could make a 3D model of a stage.



See your English teachers for any extra information about the competitions, or the day itself.



# Events in English!

## Rap to Recording Workshops with Year 8

A group of year 8 students had the amazing opportunity to take part in a Young Writer's workshop organised through the Hexham Book Festival between March and May. Recorded rap artist Kay Grayson worked with students in Year 8 over 3 hour long sessions, guiding students in creating their own rap. Students had the opportunity to record their raps at the end of the workshops if they wanted to. Our students engaged brilliantly in these workshops and had a lot fun in the creative process.



## KS3 Reading Celebration event



A group of KS3 students have been rewarded for excellent effort and attainment in reading, the students were selected based on outstanding Accelerated Reader scores. Students were invited to a reading tea party with parents and carers in Duke's Library. It was a lovely event and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.



## World Book Day competition winners

The English faculty had a difficult task in selecting the winners from some incredible entries to our World Book Day competitions, well done to all who took part.

Isla Blake, year 8, won the book review competition with a detailed review on why Roald Dahl's 'Matilda' will always be a favourite book of hers. Lily Jones, year 8, won the design a book cover competition with a very creative design for the book 'Solitaire' by Alice Oseman. Both students received a £10 Amazon voucher. Well done, again!



At the end of the Spring term, Duke's held a non-uniform day and raised money for the **National Autistic Society**.

Thanks to everyone who donated, we were able to donate a whopping **£467** to the charity

Well done!



# Congratulations!

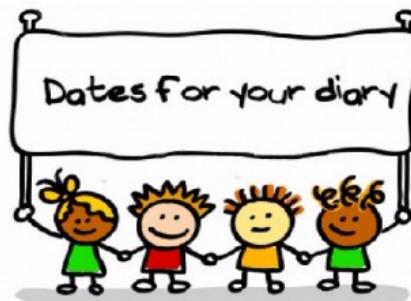
Duke's

has raised a fantastic

£ 467.55p

for the **National Autistic Society**

Date: 31.3.23



**Students!** Sports Day is just around the corner and will take place on the **13th July**. Get off that couch and into training!



The final **Community Catch-Up** event of this school year will be held on **Wednesday 28th June**. As usual, there will be free food and drinks, and entertainment as well as donations of clothes and toiletries to take if you need them. More details to follow—keep an eye on Duke's social media for how to RSVP!



# Looking After Your WELLBEING ONLINE


We all know that taking care of our minds and bodies is essential to keep us feeling happy and healthy. The thing is, we spend so much of our time online these days that it's also important that we remember to look after ourselves in the digital world, too. Our poster has got some simple but useful tips for supporting your wellbeing while you're gaming, on social media or just using the internet.



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2023



Healthy Relationships

## Do you want to get on better together?

### Quotes from a parents:

*'I really did not think this would help.  
This course is life skills! Wish we did this sooner,  
really enjoyed the videos.'* - dad

*'We are now communicating a lot better, we can  
talk about feelings rather than ignoring them. I  
can see my child is happier too'* - mum



Listen to others, watch videos with a relationship support worker.

Relaxed **x3 week** virtual sessions, 1 hour a week in the comfort of your own home.

## Me, You and Baby Too

*for soon-to-be  
& new parents*

Wed 7th June  
7:30 - 8:30pm

Thurs 14th  
September  
10:00 till 11:00

## Getting it Right for Children

*for separated Parents*

Wed 5th July  
7:30 - 8:30pm

Wed 11th October  
7:30 - 8:30pm

## Arguing Better

*for parents and anyone  
who cares for children*

Tues 12th September  
7:30 - 8:30pm

Wed 15th November  
7:30- 8:30pm

Contact: [vicki.collins@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:vicki.collins@northumberland.gov.uk)  
or call 07955 310 917

If you are unable to join virtual sessions,  
additional advice and support is available

2023



## Healthy Relationships

### Upcoming bitesize drop-ins for Northumberland Staff

Jackie and Vicki will be providing monthly updates and training via teams for staff working with families.

These sessions will cover all aspects of Healthy Relationships, new family hub updates and give you an opportunity to ask any questions.

They will be 15 minutes long, so grab a drink and learn.



#### Look out for these ..

What support is available for parents in Northumberland	How to include fathers in Relationship support	Parenting when Separated support.
How to access your Getting on Better Tool kit	How to use the Healthy Relationship Screening tool.	Impact of unhealthy relationships on children. (parent feedback)
Having difficult conversations?	Using digital offer with parents?	Open clinic to answer questions

These are optional so accept or decline your teams invite when you receive it.

To be removed from email list or to be included, please email:

[vicki.collins@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:vicki.collins@northumberland.gov.uk)

