

DUKE'S

JOURNAL



NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 2nd DECEMBER



Christmas
Fair

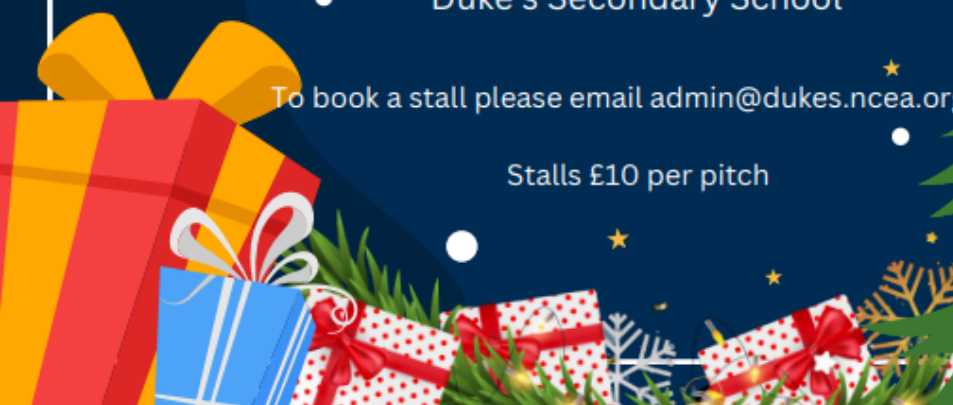

Saturday 2nd December
10-2pm

Craft, gift and food stalls

Duke's Secondary School

To book a stall please email admin@dukes.ncea.org.uk

Stalls £10 per pitch





Stalls...

Wooden Crafts

Megcal Personalised Gifts

Face Painting

Sea Glass & Pebble gifts, frames and cards

Santa's grotto

Christmas Decorations

Bottle stall

Name the Teddy

Raffle

Bric a Brac

Refereshments



Wednesday 13th December



YOU ARE INVITED TO

CHRISTMAS
CONCERT
2023

Wednesday

13th December 2023

06.00 PM

DUKE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL
MAIN HALL

Tickets £2 from the Creative Arts
Department

Refreshments provided by The Fundraising Committee



English News...



On Wednesday 8th November, the English Enrichment club visited Vue Cinema in Cramlington to see a recording of a live performance of Hamlet at the Bristol Old Vic. We were very excited given that the overview on the website told us it was a "visceral production directed by John Haidar" and that he "excavates the dark subconscious of Shakespeare's greatest Tragedy".

We were not disappointed!

The staging was very powerful, Elsinore appeared as an unforgiving grey expanse which really allowed the incredible talents of the cast to shine. This was the first time seeing Shakespeare's work performed live for the students and they were pleasantly surprised by how accessible it was. One of the more surprising elements for the students was the actors speaking in their own modern accents which they felt allowed the actors to express their characters' emotions more realistically. Additionally, as we were the only group booked in for this production, we had the whole cinema hall to ourselves and were able to sit in the VIP section which was very enjoyable.

Following the trip, members of the group shared their views:

"The comedic relief, the acting and the story line made the performance enjoyable. The costuming was effective, Claudius's costume gave him a very villainous presence."

"I enjoyed the modern take on Hamlet. I also loved the production quality, the lighting, the sound effects and the stage directions. They executed the play brilliantly and the characters on stage grasped my attention at every moment. The special effects were clean and precise along with the incredible acting. Each actor embodied their role perfectly."

"I enjoyed the modern twist to the story and the comedic relief. Another thing I enjoyed was the clever ways they did their special effects like the blood released when the characters are injured."

"I enjoyed the unique way they portrayed the storyline by using more modern equipment and clothing instead of something more traditional for the time it was written."

Overall it was an amazing experience and we enjoyed every second (all 10,800 of them!).



Enrichment and Revision

KS4 English Enrichment Club runs every Thursday 3-4pm, we also have our own Google Classroom where lectures, videos and other resources are shared.

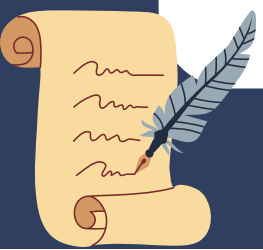
So far we have explored: Fairy tales and their importance in Literature, modern reworkings of Fairy tales (focus on Carol Ann Duffy's poetry), Gothic Literature (a recorded discussion led by Chris Bolek, Professor of English Literature, University College London for the BBC), Social class in Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, *Hamlet*, Shakespeare's Tragedies (recorded lecture from Dr. Hester Lees, Cambridge University) and the Christmas ghost story tradition.

The club encourages and nurtures a love of English outside of the curriculum. It is not revision* but is great for year 10 and 11 students who are aiming for grades 7+.

If you are interested in joining, please see Mrs Wardle.

***English revision:** past paper clubs every Monday 3-4pm (Literature) and every Thursday 3-4pm (Language).

Additionally, there is an English classroom available every lunchtime for independent revision, just collect a pass from the English office in the morning. There are also a wealth of English revision resources in Google Classrooms.





Congratulations to
Sophie Brown Y9
who won the Halloween Writing
Competition!

Well done to everyone who
entered, there were so many
great stories to choose from.

Specially commended entries
were:



Anna Wilson Y9
Milly Nicholson Y8
Khloe Hunstone Y7

Here is a brilliant extract from the winning story!

Dear diary,
NOTE TO SELF. NEVER. WAKE. UP. IN. THE. MIDDLE. OF. THE. NIGHT. EVER.
AGAIN

I cannot believe I just saw that. I didn't. I'm just seeing things. Right? Yeah maybe i'm just tired, or i'm overly addicted to twilight. Who knows! Or maybe my cousin is crazy and I've been correct this entire time. Questo non può succedere (this can't be happening). I spent the next 40 minutes pacing in my bathroom trying to calm myself down, then when I finally began seeing the sun come up, I jumped in the shower and waited until I heard my cousin go downstairs. I ran straight into my room and found my diary. Oh wait, you probably wanna know what happened. I'll catch you up!

Congrats!



Christmas Writing Competitions!

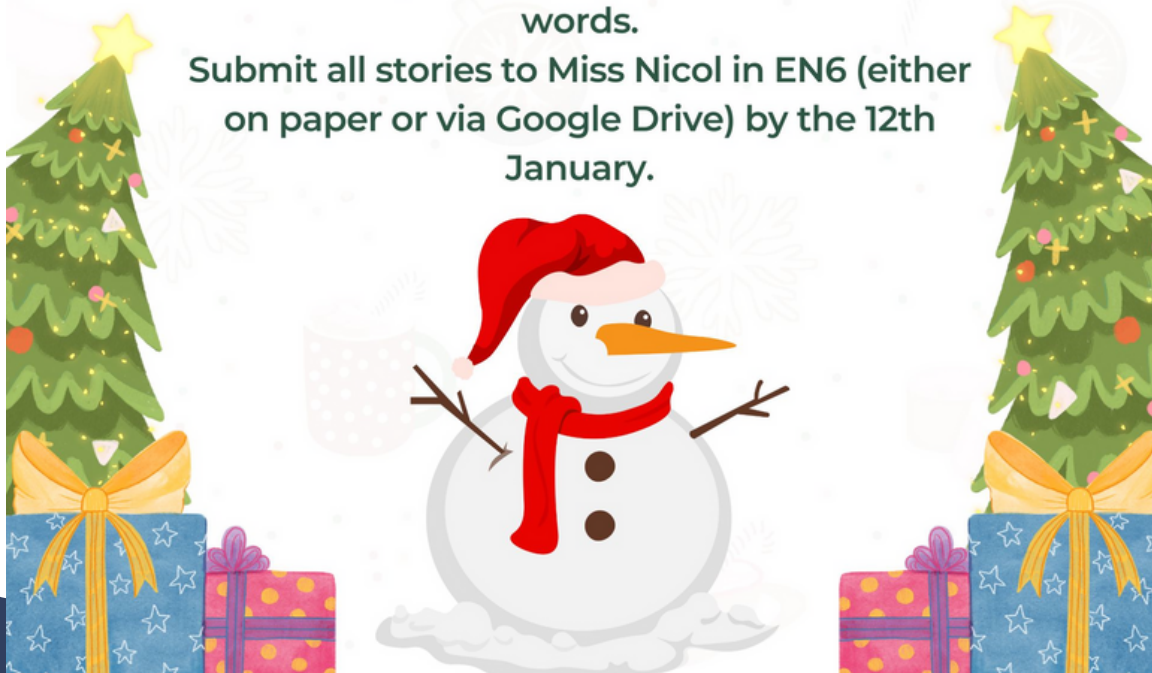
See below or in your Google Classroom for details...



Write a story from the perspective of a snowman. Maybe he sees something incredible. Maybe he is brought to life in a Christmas miracle. It is up to you!

Your story should be no more than 500 words.

Submit all stories to Miss Nicol in EN6 (either on paper or via Google Drive) by the 12th January.





Christmas Writing Competition

★ OPEN TO YEARS 10 AND 11

Write a story about Christmas in the year
3023.

Is Christmas the same as today? Are there
new traditions? How has Christmas changed
over a 1000 years?

Your story should be no more than 500
words.

Submit all stories to Miss Nicol in EN6
(either on paper or via Google Drive) by the
12th January.



Cooking in the Community

Tuesday 21st November saw the start of our 'Cooking in the Community' events at Dukes. Parents were invited into school for a series of cookery lessons and each got to take home a meal they had prepared in school for a family of four. We were joined at our inaugural event by our Head Teacher, Mr Atkinson, who joined the parents cooking Spicy Pasta. The session was very well led by Jan Shinkfield, our teacher in charge of hospitality and an experienced chef. The sessions included many useful tips on how to prepare the food and how to easily vary the menu for different diets. Look out for our next sessions running next term or email susan.fletcher@dukes.ncea.org.uk to book a place.



DUKE'S LANGUAGE LEADERS VISIT TO THOMAS BEWICK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Last week some of our Dukes Language Leader students had the opportunity to plan and teach a Spanish lesson to some Year 6 students at Thomas Bewick Primary school. The lesson was about the Mexican festival Dia de Muertos (The Day of the Dead), which the students found very interesting. It involved a competition to design a Dia de Muertos mask, where the Duke's students chose the winners, and learning some phrases in Spanish.

Leyla Mae Mercel (Year 10) said "It was an exciting opportunity to experience what it's like to be a teacher!"

Nathan Connor (also Year 10) said "It was a great cultural experience for the primary students. They really enjoyed it."

They are now planning a lesson about Christmas around the world! Watch this space!





Sports News

November has seen a number of football fixtures taking place allowing students to let their light shine through competitive sport! Girls U13's and Boys U15's teams both made their debuts this season having embraced training sessions provided by Miss Regan, Mr Campbell and Mr McManus. Boys have had fixtures @ U12, U13, U14 and VI Form. Year 8 reserve trials were well attended with a B & C team due to play a Round Robin against other schools in December.

Football Results

GIRLS U13 CUP Home Vs Dame Allan's - Duke's 2 - 3 Dame Allan's (AET)

BOYS U12 CUP Away Vs Excelsior Academy - Duke's 1 - 1 Excelsior (Duke's win 2-1 on Penalties)

BOYS U13 vs James Calvert Spence -

BOYS U14 CUP Home vs St Mary's - Duke's 2 - 2 St Mary's (St Mary's won on Penalties)

BOYS VI FORM

Away vs Bede - Bede 2 - 3 Duke's

Home vs Duchess - Duke's 3 - 3 Duchess

Home vs Excelsior Academy - Duke's 6 - 4 Excelsior





Sports Extra-curricular

A wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment activities continue to make the department a hive of activity during Lunch and After-School. November has seen Kinball making its popular debut in yr 11 core lessons as well as adding variety to Volleyball lessons at Key Stage 3. Girls have braced the elements with a football unit of work.

New additions this month include KS3 Lunchtime Futsal for Yr7 on a Tuesday Week A, and Yr8 on a Tuesday Week B. We will be adding Trampolining (in partnership with Wansbeck Gymnastic and Trampoline Club) to the after school activities list soon - so see Mr Hunter to reserve a place!

Students have enjoyed some alternative curriculum lessons during bouts of recent wet weather. Girls have enjoyed taking part in Clubbercise complete with flashing glow sticks, and the boys have thoroughly enjoyed glow in the dark dodgeball!

Netball Club is still running after school on Mondays. It would be great to see more faces there. All girls played netball as part of the Curriculum throughout September and October and it would be great to see the girls who enjoyed it, after school to further develop their skills.



Click [HERE](#) to see the range of extra-curricular activities for half term 2

Save The Date

Saturday 2nd December: Christmas
Fayre at Duke's

Wednesday 13th December: Christmas
Concert at Duke's

Christmas Holidays: 22nd December -
9th January

22nd January: Y11 Mock Exams begin

15th February: Y11 Mock Results
Evening

