

# DUKE'S

# JOURNAL



March Edition

# ROCK CHOIR

On Friday 1st March, Duke's Secondary hosted the Rock Choir to aid fundraising for the forthcoming trip to New York.

It was an amazing night with great singing from the choir.

Our very own Primary School Choir made a guest appearance at half time, and even joined the Rock Choir for their final song!

Well done to everyone who sang, and thank you to everyone who came along and made it such a successful night.



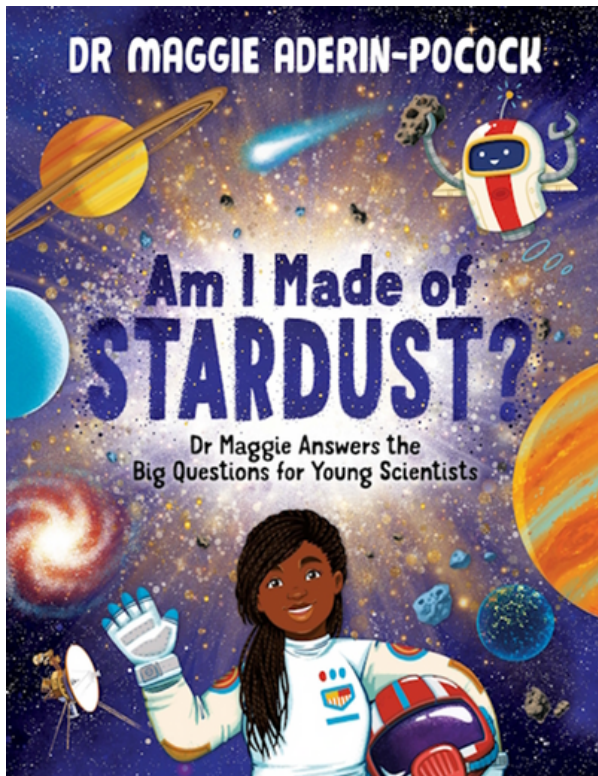
# SCIENCE OUT AND ABOUT!

We've been really busy in science, out and about for all year groups this year.

Newbiggin students joined students from Grace Darling to plant 120 trees in Spittal in October. This was a project coordinated by Newbiggin Town and Northumberland County Councils, and the students have been charged with responsibility for looking after the trees and making sure they grow well and don't get damaged!



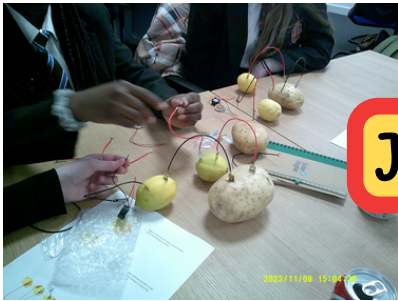
Students have been judges again this year, helping to vote for this year's Young Scientist's Book of the Year award, as organised by The Royal Society. The winning book was announced last week, to the 700+ schools and library groups who got involved. We voted for the winning book: **Am I Made of Stardust? By Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock**. It's got loads of really interesting information in it about astronomy and humans, and our copy is in the Library for students to borrow.



Students from this and last year's judging panels joined some science staff at the Theatre Royal during the February half term, to enjoy the musical **'Fantastically Great Women'**. This is based on the book **'Fantastically Great Women Scientists'** which was one of last year's shortlisted books, written by Kate Pankhurst – granddaughter of Emmeline.



Two groups of future scientists and engineers have been busy working with Baker Hughes in Cramlington to learn more about local and global engineering careers and test themselves with a range of engineering challenges. Students from Year 9 have been to several on-site visits, learnt more about what the company does from their Cramlington office, and been challenged to design a PIG to go through a pipe! This was one of several tasks they've been set and they have risen very ably to the challenge!



A group of year 10 and 11 students have experienced the highs and lows of physics when we went on an out-of-this-world experience to **Disneyland Paris**.

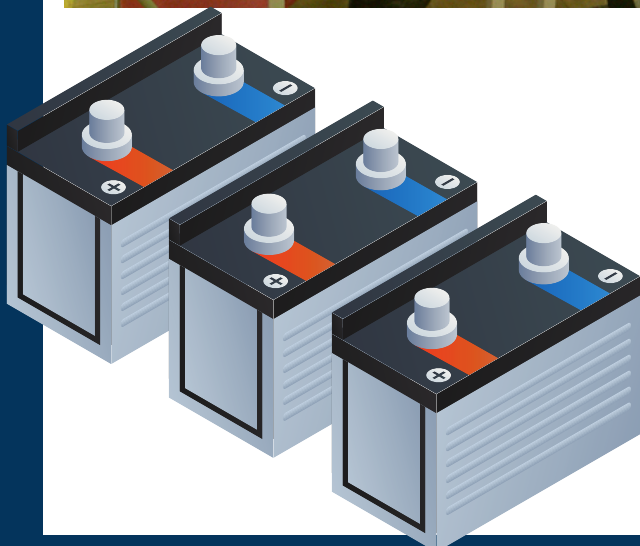
As well as sampling as many rollercoasters and other theme park adventures as we could cram in to two days, they were also introduced to some of the science that sits behind running a theme park like Disneyland. Part of this involved building their own model rollercoaster and deciding whether it would be rideable or just make people feel very sick! We had an amazing time away despite the snow, and really maxed out the opportunities that we had there.



And last, but not least, of the events that have happened, was the team of six year 8 students that competed in the **Faraday Engineering Challenge** event at Wellfield Middle School this March. Their challenge was to design and build something to do with highways and roads: from cars and lorries, road surfaces and crossings, to parking and assistance. Students were given broad guidance on how to attempt the challenge but were on their own with their designs and decisions. Our team designed and built a prototype portable electric car battery charger, for when a car battery runs out and you need a quick boost. They had to work together as a team and deliver a presentation about their work to the other students and the staff adjudicators.



*Great Job!*



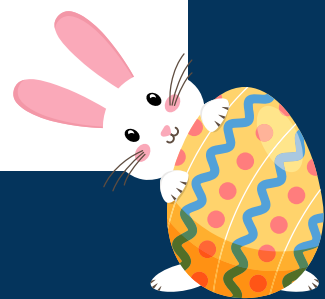
**Phew! We've been really busy out and about, and there's still plenty to look forward to! So if your children are interested in anything science, technology or engineering-related, they should keep their eyes open in the science corridor for the glittery signs which advertise forthcoming trips and visit opportunities.**

### **Two things to look out for:**

**Year 7s and 8s:** The Royal Institution, who run the Christmas Lectures, will be visiting school to deliver a truly SPECTACULAR science show on Wednesday 24th April! But, better still: they will also be running a family show in the early evening: families most definitely welcome! Look out for an email soon with more details and how to get your free tickets.

**Year 8s and 9s:** the RAF are coming in on Wednesday 15th May to run a challenge day linked to flying, aerospace, aviation and all things related to this broad and exciting industry! It's a competition with prizes, and there's only 60 places.

**So, if you're interested in planes or science and engineering more generally, then let Mrs McCready know that you would like to be considered for an exclusive place on the team! And if you want to know anything else about any of the opportunities that are coming up or have already happened, please get in touch with Mrs McCready.**

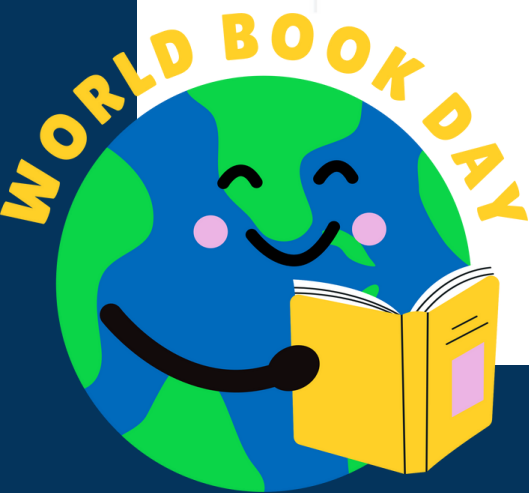


# Duke's 'World Book Day' celebrations

World Book Day was celebrated in Duke's on Thursday 7th March. Across all lessons students heard staff reading a 'squashed' version of *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. Additionally, there were lots of tutor-time activities such as quizzes and staff sharing what they are currently reading. There were also games such as guess the staff 'shelfie' and desert island book pile.

All students have access to a bespoke Duke's World Book Day activity sheet through their English Google Classroom - this has links to two competitions, all the resources shared across the day, recommended reads and masterclasses from authors and illustrators.

		
<p><b>Competition 1</b>  <b>£10 Amazon voucher for the winner!</b>            Submit a detailed book review (at least 250 words) on either your favourite book or a book you have recently read.  <b>Hand entries into the English department by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024.</b></p> 	<p><b>Competition 2</b>  <b>£10 Amazon voucher for the winner!</b>            Create a book cover for either your favourite book or a book you have recently read. It must include a design for both front and back, including a blurb.  <b>Hand entries into the English department by Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024.</b></p> 	<p><b>Desert Island Books:</b>            Some well known teen authors have shared which books they couldn't live without on a desert island and Duke's staff have made their own lists too!            Can you identify the staff member from their desert island book list?  <a href="#">WBD 2024 Desert Island Reads .pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Squashed Story:</b>  <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>, written by Jane Austen, follows the turbulent relationship between Elizabeth Bennet, the daughter of a country gentleman, and Fitzwilliam Darcy, a rich aristocratic landowner. They must overcome the sins of pride and prejudice in order to fall in love and marry. Here we have a 'squashed' version read by Mr Worde. You can access the original on the Duke's website:  <a href="#">Squashed Story - Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen</a>  <b>Audio:</b>  <a href="#">Part 1</a>, <a href="#">part 2</a>, <a href="#">part 3</a>, <a href="#">part 4</a>, <a href="#">part 5</a>, <a href="#">part 6</a></p>	<p><b>World Book Day 2024</b>            Here are a selection of Duke's World Book day events and competitions for you to enjoy at home.</p>  <p>Click on the hyperlinks to access resources</p>	<p><b>Shelfies</b>            Some well known teen authors have given us a peek at their book shelves. Duke's staff have shared theirs too!            Can you identify the member of staff from their 'shelfie'?  <a href="#">WBD 2024 Duke's shelfies.pdf</a>            Also have a look at what Duke's staff are currently reading:  <a href="#">Duke's Staff current reads</a></p>
<p><b>Duke's eBook / audiobook platform:</b>            Remember you can borrow eBooks and audiobooks from Duke's virtual library. You can read on a laptop or download the free app to read / listen on your tablet or phone! <a href="https://dukes.epiplatform.co/">https://dukes.epiplatform.co/</a>            Your username and password is the same as you use to log into the Duke's website!</p>	<p><b>External competitions and challenges:</b>            There are several competitions you can enter via the <a href="#">World Book Day website</a>            Book Trust has compiled its <a href="#">favourite books for teens</a> - see how many you have read and challenge yourself to read new ones.</p> 	<p><b>Author Interviews:</b>  <b>Michael Morpurgo</b> is the author of many books for children, five of which have been made into films e.g. <i>War Horse</i> and <i>Private Peaceful</i>. Here discusses how he became a writer  <b>Jacqueline Wilson</b>, the creator of Tracy Beaker and former children's laureate, reads from her book <i>Lily Alone</i> and answers questions from young readers.            Jacqueline Wilson discusses her inspirations and writing essentials, plus activities with Nick Sharratt, illustrator of many children's books, including Jacqueline Wilson's books.</p>







# English Rewards

Duke's English have presented the top readers in Key Stage 3 (best engagement with Accelerated Reader) with a VIP food voucher to allow them to select a treat of their choice from the canteen at break - well done!

## The winning students are:

Taylor Edwards  
Daniel Jenkinson  
Grace Simpson  
Lucas Ramm  
Kacey Wootton  
Zoe Norman  
Freddie Armstrong  
Iyla Davison  
Caitlin Austin  
Olly Pringle  
Amber Maddison  
Kaiden Middlemass  
Abbie Rowley  
Eva-Mae Cook  
Lina Kartoeva  
Toren Jones

Daniel Hedley  
Nathan Curtis  
Lacey Wake  
Jess Nichols  
Sky Harris-McMurdo  
Anna Wilson  
Keisha Young  
Hollie Turnbull  
Garylee Taylor  
Lexi Ford  
Logan Goodwin  
Charlie Marson  
Lydia Scott  
Harriet Taylor  
Ella Taylor  
Samuel Tasker

Jayden Baker  
Hannah Ratcliff  
Logan Fox  
Ellie Borthwick  
Liana Holmes  
Ellie Doughty





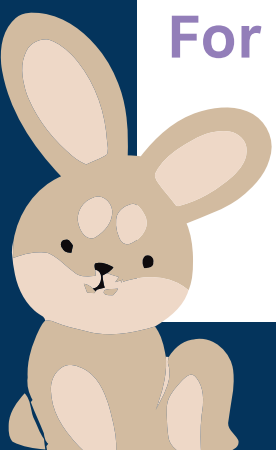
APRIL IS  
**STRESS**  
AWARENESS MONTH

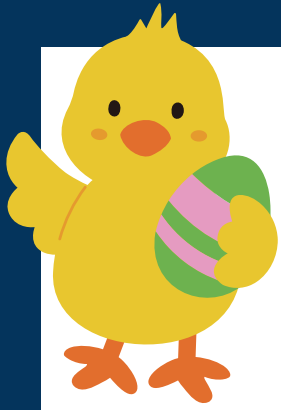
Little By Little, A Little Becomes A Lot  
The theme #LittleByLittle highlights the transformative impact of consistent, small positive actions on over-all wellbeing. For Stress Awareness Month 2024 we, at The Stress Management Society, want to emphasise how even the smallest steps taken each day towards self-care and stress reduction can yield significant improvements in mental health over time.

We encourage you to focus on making manageable adjustments to your daily routine. While the impact of small actions on their own may seem little, the cumulative effects of these habits can end up being profound!

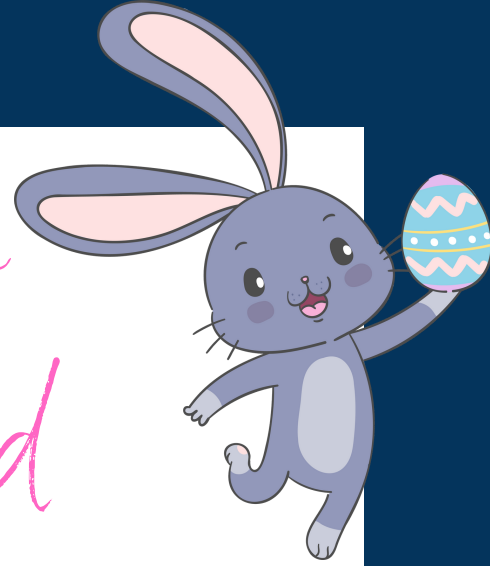
**For more information, follow the link below:**

**[Stress Awareness Month](#)**





# *Easter Fun in Northumberland*



Follow the links below to find some interesting and exciting things to do, in Northumberland, over the Easter break.

**The Tourist Trail**

**Alnwick Castle**

**Visit Northumberland**



# Save THE Date

## Assessment:

Week beg. 17th June: KS3 Progress Tests

Week beg. 25th June: Y10 Progress Tests/ Y12  
Mock Exams

## Parent Evenings

8th May: Year 7

12th June: Year 8

## May Half Term

24th May - 3rd June

