

DEC 24



# SIXTH FORM NEWSLETTER

WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

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AUTUMN EVENTS 2024

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T-LEVELS & CAREERS

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LEADERSHIP

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APPLICATION

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#YouDontNeedToTravelFarToGetAhead



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Welcome to our Duke's Sixth Form newsletter.

Duke's Sixth Form is an exciting place to learn and we pride ourselves on how well our students are prepared to progress into university study, apprenticeships and employment. We put a strong emphasis on being the best you can be here and this means working hard, developing great attitudes to learning, and experiencing as many opportunities as you can.

We hope our sixth form newsletter will allow us to share more about life in the Sixth Form with parents/ carers and students moving forwards.

*Duke's Sixth Form would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing the students return in the new year.*



*Danielle Towers*

HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

# WELL-BEING DAY



As the dark and cold winter began setting in November, our Year 13 Business students organised a wellbeing event for our sixth form students. The day included workshops on maintaining your own positive mental wellbeing, stress management and how to access support when needed.

Students looked after their physical health too with a fitness class and making fruit kebabs. There was some cake included too though!

**All in the name of charity, we raised £130 for Macmillan.**



# EDINBURGH

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## SIXTH FORMERS VISIT SCOTLAND



### Edinburgh Visit- 10th December

Joining Duke's Sixth Form should also be about having fun and experiencing new things.

During the last week of term, sixth form students visited the City of Edinburgh. Whilst there they explored Edinburgh Castle before heading into the city centre to the European Christmas Market and for an end of term meal at Hard Rock Cafe.



# SIXTH FORM STUDENTS VISIT PEGSWOOD FIRE STATION



## Young Driver's Awareness Event

As part of Road Safety Week, we collapsed our Year 13 timetable on 22nd October to visit Pegswood Fire Station. The statistics below are scary and we wanted our students to understand that passing your driving test is a privilege but it comes with great responsibility.

Visiting the station allowed the Fire Service to provide an insight into how they respond to road traffic collisions and gave students some important messages to take away.

*Drivers aged 16-19 are a third more likely to lose their life in a Road Traffic Collision than drivers aged 40-49.*

*Approximately one in four 18-24-year olds (23%) are involved in a crash within 2 years of passing their driving test.*

# Duke's Sixth Form Introduces T-Levels

In September, we began offering T Levels here at Duke's. This is our first cohort of Education and Early Years students.

T Levels are a new, high-quality, work-focussed alternative to A Levels for young people once they've completed their GCSEs. Equivalent to three A Levels, an Education and Early Years T-Level will equip students with the practical skills and knowledge they need to progress into the education and childcare workforce, university, or a higher level education and childcare apprenticeship.

What's it all about? The Education and Early Years T Level (Assisting teaching) is a technical qualification that combines knowledge and theory with a practical work placement made up of a minimum of 45 days in an educational setting!

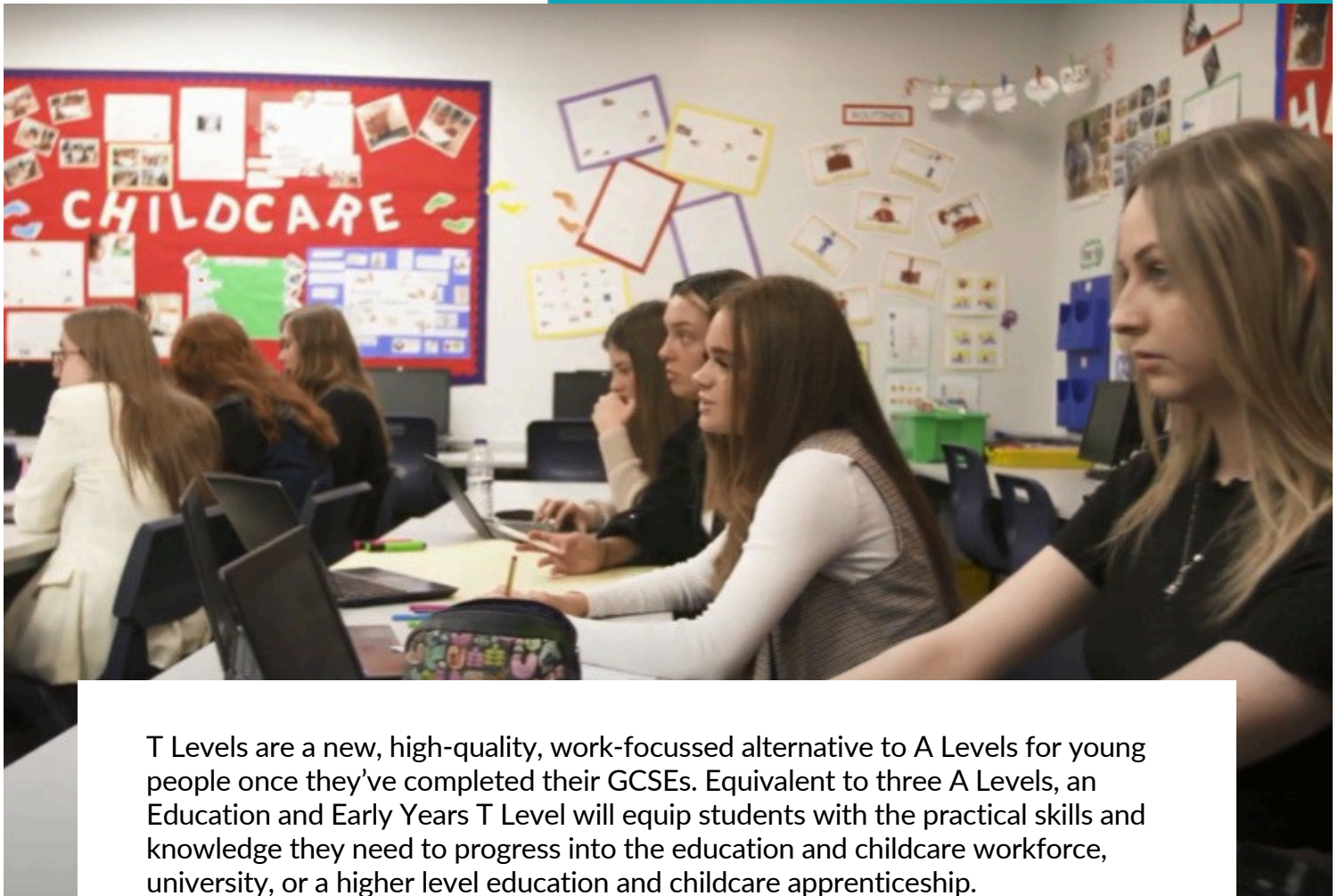
So if you are self motivated and love to combine written assignments with practical learning this could be the course for you! Find out more at <https://dukes.ncea.org.uk/sixth-form/t-levels-education-and-early-years/>

Watch out for further T Levels coming in September 2025.





# Creating the next generation of skilled Education and Early Years workers



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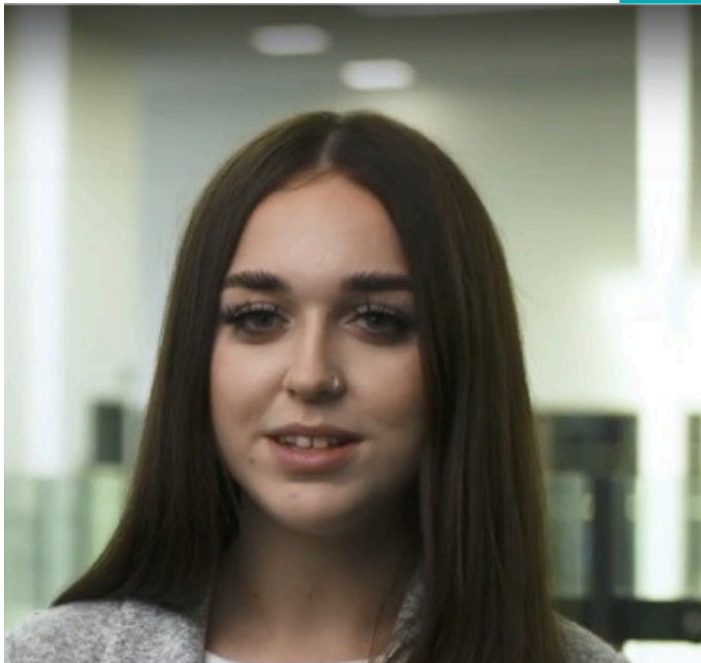
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Duke's Sixth Form, Academy Road, Ashington,  
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Creating the next generation of skilled Education and Early Years workers



## What specific skills will I learn?

Everyone studies a core curriculum of child development and how education works, alongside important topics like safeguarding and special educational needs. Students will then focus on the area of “Assisting teaching” and spend their placement in an exciting educational environment.

## Who is it suitable for?

The Technical Qualification is primarily aimed at post 16 year old students who wish to progress into the education and childcare sector. This qualification will equip young people with the knowledge, skills and behaviours they need to enter skilled employment. The occupational specialism we are delivering at Duke's is: Assisting Teaching. To achieve this qualification, you must successfully demonstrate your achievement of the Core Component and the Occupational Specialism Component.

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# Exploring Post 18 Options

It may be term 1 of a new academic year but we have spent a lot of time exploring post 18 options with employer visits, networking events and workshops looking at the university application process. This is a snapshot of our Health and Social Care students attending 'The Big One,' delivered by Newcastle Hospitals Trust.

Employing over 18,000 people, Newcastle Hospitals Trust have jobs working within the NHS to suit all skills and abilities. A huge organisation supporting the health and wellbeing of the entire population of the North East delivered a session of exploration to allow young people to discover just some of the careers they can embark on which will allow them to flourish, whilst helping others and really making a difference.

Students heard from Chief Executive, Sir James Mackey, on the characteristics and qualities they are searching for within future employees, met with staff from many different departments, roles and levels and experienced the activity zone, which delivered insight into the types of job roles students could be doing in the future.

Our next step for Year 12 students is securing work experience placements for March 2025.



# Leadership Enrichment

In addition to academic study we offer students a wide range of enrichment activities to ensure they are well equipped with the skills needed for success and have fun along the way. New for 2024-25, a group of our Year 12 students are working alongside Off the Grid Adventures to complete a qualification in Leadership. Here they are developing their communication skills in a challenge designed to prepare them for leading a team to reach an end goal.



# APPLICATIONS OPENING SOON

*Watch this space...*

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