

# DUKE'S JOURNAL



**December Edition**

# Community Catch-Up

On the 10th December, Duke's held the first Community Catch-Up event of this academic year. It was a great success, with many families coming along to enjoy free food and drinks, games, a Christmas quiz, gingerbread decorating, bingo and a raffle! There were also donated clothes on offer, and everyone left with something to take home.





# Christmas Concert

On the 11th December, Duke's held its annual Christmas Concert. We had our largest audience yet, of over 100 people, watching the performances of over 45 students from all year groups!

Special thanks go to **Kieran McAlpine** in Y13 for his outstanding contribution to music at Duke's. He has performed in every concert since he joined Duke's and helps with preparing for the concerts and running rehearsals with the Brass group.

**THANK  
you**



**To everyone who has participated, helped out and attended events at Dukes in 2024!**



# ARC1 TRIP TO THE DISCOVERY MUSEUM

On the 17th December, ARC1, went to the Discovery Museum as an extension to learning about Oliver Twist. What was life really like for the Victorians? Was the difference between rich and poor greater than it is today, or have we got better at masking it?

The students were a delight to take out, the behaviour, care for one another and engagement throughout made me proud to be their teacher! Positive comments about their involvement came from the staff at the museum and the staff that accompanied them.

**Students described the trip as:**

**'EXCITING'**

**'I REALLY ENJOYED PRESSING THE BUTTONS IN THE SCIENCE MAZE'**

**'FULL OF SCIENCE'**

**'FULL OF HISTORY'**





# 6th form Well-Being



We are a group of sixth form students who worked together as a team to organise an event for our business course. Our wellbeing event consisted of a range of wellbeing activities for the Sixth Form. We had 4 visitors who delivered activities which included Polly Brennan Mental Health Kit Bag, Circus Of Life, Kooth, and Yoga which ran from periods 1-4. These contacts were given by Paul, so we would like to thank Paul from NCS who helped us with this event. We then had a range of activities during 5th lesson, which students could choose from. These were mug printing, pebble painting, football, gel nail art, music and chill, wellbeing walk, board games, origami, arts and crafts and table tennis.

We also managed to raise £129 for the Macmillan coffee morning which we sold tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cakes. We chose to do this wellbeing event in particular, as we wanted to be able to help the sixth form with their wellbeing and their mental health; doing A level exams and coursework can be really stressful. Overall this event was very successful for us.



# Sports News

Well done to our futsal and football teams who were in action on the 11th:

DUKE'S VI FORM DEFEATED DAME ALLANS 3-2  
(FOOTBALL)

Y9 DEFEATED GOSFORTH AND NARROWLY LOST  
TO BLYTH (FUTSAL)





# SPORTS NEWS

Well done to the Y7 football team who braved the weather conditions at Blyth on the 5th.

Huge thanks to Mr Watson and Mr Nasser for accompanying and managing the boys.







# Year 11 Revision...

GCSE revision is well underway for Year 11, with a range of subjects offering revision at lunch and after school. Well done to those students who attend regularly - remember that **attendance means prizes!** Current attendance leader board is below...

DANIELLE: 14

LIV: 12

LAMISSA: 11

ELLE: 11

ABIGAIL: 10

POPPY: 10

LOUIE: 9

GRACE: 9

OWEN: 9

MARK: 9

CALLUM: 9

ELLA: 8



KEEP UP THE  
GOOD  
WORK





Duke's staff and students raised £100 wearing Christmas jumpers on December 18th!



# Food Bank Collection



Once again, Duke's staff and students did an amazing job of donating a huge range of food and drinks for the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank, for Christmas.

**Many thanks to everyone who contributed!**





# Christmas Activities...

[Visit Northumberland.com](http://Northumberland.com)



[eventbrite.co.uk](http://eventbrite.co.uk)

**eventbrite**





We hope everyone has a  
happy and safe  
Christmas Holiday!

*Merry*  
**CHRISTMAS**



School returns on the 7th  
January!

We know that this time of year can often be difficult. If you need any extra support over the Christmas period, follow the links below:

[Young Minds](#)

[Samaritans](#)

[Mind](#)

[MentalHealth.org](#)