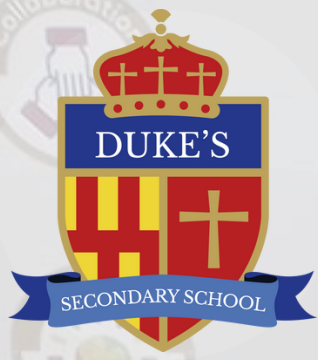




January - March
2025

DUKE'S JOURNAL

#LetYourLightShine



NCEA Duke's Secondary School

JANUARY - MARCH

2025

25th Edition

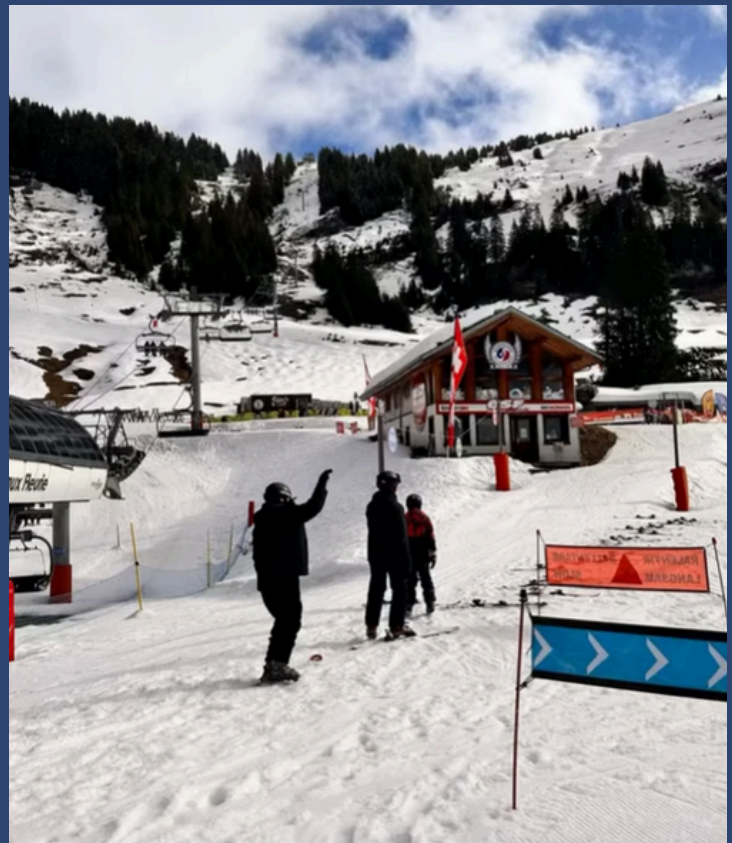


Welcome to the first edition of Duke's Journal 2025.

We have an exciting update for all of our readers! So many interesting and important events have been taking place over the last couple of months, we've been looking forward to sharing the news with everyone.

CONTENTS

- 01 Skiing Trip
- 02 National Careers Week
- 03 World of Work Day
- 04 Sixth Form Taster Day
- 05 A Day in the Life of a Sixth Form Student
- 06 Learn > Revise > Test
- 07 Year 9 Options
- 08 Duke's Science goes Wild!
- 09 STEM Success
- 10 National Space Academy Workshop
- 11 World Book Day
- 12 Sports News



01 SKI TRIP 2025

Date: 09/03/2025

Our skiing trip to Avoriaz, France was an unforgettable experience for the 29 students from Duke's Secondary School. After an exciting flight from Manchester Airport to Switzerland, we travelled to the resort of Morzine, nestled in the French Alps.

Avoriaz offered a variety of slopes, making it perfect for all skill levels. We spent our days skiing through picturesque snow-covered mountains, with everyone improving their technique while enjoying the alpine scenery.



A unique après-ski activity was watching a thrilling ice hockey match! After an exhilarating day on the slopes, we headed to a nearby rink where we cheered on local team Morzine/Avoriaz Penguins. The match was full of energy, excitement, and an incredible atmosphere that kept everyone on the edge of their seats. It was a fun way to unwind and enjoy a different side of winter sports after skiing.



01 SKI TRIP 2025

In addition to skiing and the ice hockey match...

We had time to explore Morzine's charming village, with its cozy cafés and quaint wooden chalets. The trip provided more than just skiing—it was a chance to bond, create lasting memories, and experience new adventures together. From the slopes to the rink, this trip was filled with excitement, camaraderie, and unforgettable moments. Huge thanks to the staff that helped create this memorable trip.



Current Year 8 & 9 can look out for information on next year's ski trip in the next few weeks or see Miss Cain for more details or to register your interest.



02

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK



National Careers Week is a one-week celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education. Ms Towers, Head of Sixth Form & Careers created an exciting programme of activities for NCW.

One being World of work day which allowed 1029 students to explore their future options on Tuesday 4th March, with over 30 companies in attendance including NHS, Bernicia, ORE Catapult, Northumberland Fire and Rescue, Balfour Beatty, BL Hairdressing and many more.



03 WORLD OF WORK DAY

Date: 05/03/2025

On Tuesday 5th March, over 40 different employers descended on Duke's Secondary School for our annual World of Work Day. Pupils were able to meet and interact with employers from across a range of industry sectors to find out more about the various career paths available to them once they've finished school.

The feedback from employers was all incredibly positive with many commenting on how brilliant and engaged our pupils were in planning for their futures. A huge thank you to everyone who helped to make the event possible.

Danielle Towers (Head of Sixth Form & Careers)

"The event was a huge success. It was great to catch up with familiar faces from local businesses and also welcome new providers & businesses into school. The feedback from our students has been really positive and as staff we were really pleased with how much the students engaged with our visitors. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to network with apprenticeship providers and staff from our local higher education institutions."



04

SIXTH FORM TASTER DAY



NCEA Duke's
Secondary School

20/03/2025

On Thursday 20th March, we were joined by 8 Year 11 students to experience what undertaking a T level in Education and Early Years would be like following Year 11. The students spent the morning in T Level lessons and our nursery style classroom where they came up with activities using playdough to support hand eye coordination and fine motor skills.

The students made their own playdough, completed the activity and then presented their ideas to the rest of the group. After break, the students experienced life on placement by supporting in classrooms at Bishop's Primary School. The feedback from staff on our Primary site was brilliant and we look forward to welcoming our students onto the course in September.



NCEA Duke's
Sixth Form

Duke's Sixth Form

TASTER LESSONS



Taster lessons are taking place
in all Sixth Form subjects on

17th - 20th February PM (Tutor Time)

Come along and see
what Duke's Sixth
Form could offer you.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL FAR TO GET AHEAD

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SIXTH FORM STUDENT

21/03/2025

Written by Lily Wilson, Year 12 Sixth Form Student

I am a Year 12 Sixth Form student at Duke's who studies Sport and Media Studies. I really want to get involved in sports journalism in the future so I thought choosing these options were the best for me. You shouldn't feel worried if you're choosing an A-Level course you haven't studied previously at GCSE level. I didn't study Sport for my GCSEs and still feel confident when turning up to lessons, as well as understanding the information teachers are giving.

Sixth Form begins in the morning at 8:30 am when tutor starts. In tutor you learn what is happening throughout the week as well as Uni-Frog tasks and small PHSE lessons. After tutor you could either have another lesson straight away or a free, which means that you can use the common room for how you wish - you can revise, take notes on previous lessons or use the facilities the common room has to offer such as; darts boards, a pool table, a vending machine and sweet machines. Then whenever you finish your lessons for the day, you are allowed to go home. I really like the timetables in sixth form because on most days, I have more free time to prioritise tasks and can leave when I've finished my work.

There are a lot of different courses that Dukes Sixth Form have to offer as well as a new course called a T-Level, the equivalent to three A-Levels. This course specialises in childcare and friends of mine study the childcare course.

A statement from a Duke's Sixth Form Student includes;

"I love Sixth Form because it gives me a lot of freedom and I enjoy my lessons, while doing the childcare course I feel so much more new responsibility!"

The childcare course involves spending 1 full day every week visiting childcare provisions and working with the children as part of the course due to needing a certain amount of hours on placement to pass.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRAVEL FAR TO GET AHEAD

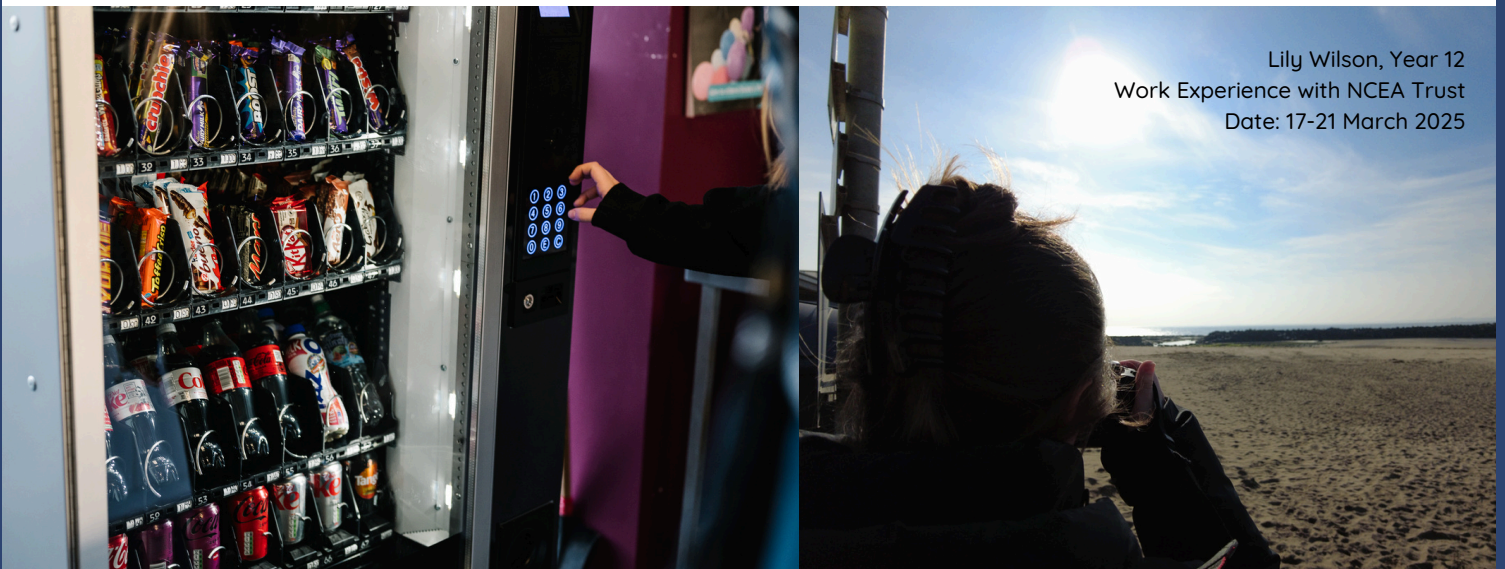
Continued story by Lily Wilson...

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Duke's Sixth Form also offers work experience opportunities. This involves going to a place of work that seems interesting to you or something you are wanting to do in the future. You stay with the employer for a week and take on the different roles they have to offer. For example, if you were interested in working in a primary school then you could go ahead and contact the head teacher of a school of your choice and get the opportunity to work in the school-based setting for a week, learning and understanding the various different roles within the profession. My work experience has been with NCEA Trust learning about the role of Marketing; including copywriting, photography, video editing, writing press releases and graphic design.

When I was in year 11, I wanted to go to Newcastle Sixth Form College but upon going to open evenings in our sixth form, it changed my mind for the better. Being in Dukes Sixth Form is much better in my opinion, because you are surrounded by people you are familiar with, you know the majority of the staff and don't have to worry about making new friends.

There are opportunities to leave school whenever you need and shops are very local too! I really believe that choosing to go to Sixth Form was a great choice as it feels very freeing and less like your in a secondary school setting. I think overall sixth form is a great choice if you still want to have the structure of school lessons but crave a bit more responsibility.



Lily Wilson, Year 12
Work Experience with NCEA Trust
Date: 17-21 March 2025



06

LEARN, REVISE, TEST

LEARN

Getting organised and starting early

- Create a revision timetable
- Organise your notes
- Create revision resources such as flash cards



REVISE

Organising learning material and familiarising

- Memorise learning material
- Practice revising using flash cards, mindmaps, practice questions etc.
- Vary revision activities to make it more interesting and engaging.

TEST

Test your knowledge by applying it to questions

- The more you test and use knowledge gained, the more flexible your knowledge will be.
- Easier to recall information through different contexts.
- Try using past papers and different ways of asking the same question to test your vitality and level of knowledge gained.





Duke's Secondary

3 Steps to Effective Examination Preparation



Learn >

1. Get the **Revision Environment** right.
2. Create a **Revision Timetable**, prioritise your weaker subjects.
3. **Read and Organise** your notes.
4. **Fill in any gaps** in your notes and check your understanding.



Revise >

1. **Condense Your Notes**- make them manageable.
2. Create **Flash Cards** to learn information from class notes or **Revision Guides**.
3. Create **Mind Maps** to learn topics from memory.
4. Try to copy down **Flash Cards** and **Mind Maps** from memory.
5. Use the **List It** technique and Mnemonics to help you remember information.



Test >

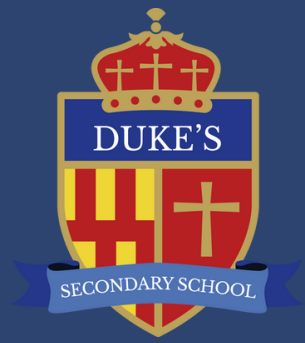
1. Use **Exam Papers** to test your knowledge.
2. Use **Mark Schemes** to mark exam papers and identify gaps in your knowledge.
3. Use **Other Memory Tests** to test knowledge and understanding:-
 - **Brain Dump**
 - **Teach** someone
 - Get someone to ask you **Questions**
 - Make links between **Keywords**

SCAN
ME



07

YEAR 9 OPTIONS



19/03/2025

Written by Lily Wilson, Duke's Sixth Form Student

Year 9 students should now be thinking about what their possible next options are for year 10 regarding their GCSEs. This includes choosing two subjects they are interested in or two subjects that match their aspirations. We will offer guidance to ensure they have the best chance at gaining as many relevant qualifications as possible - as well as the opportunity to choose EBacc, which is made up of subjects considered essential to many degrees including English, Maths, Science, History or Geography and French.

Students will be doing eight GCSEs starting with English language, English literature, Mathematics and either dual or triple science. If choosing dual science, students should pick one option from each of the three blocks but if choosing to do triple science then students should pick one option from block two and three ONLY. Students can't take the same subject more than once and a reserve choice must be selected in the case where courses become oversubscribed.

This year we are introducing 14-16 Engineering Skills Academy, which will be ran side by side with Northumberland College. Students will spend three days in Dukes receiving English, Maths and Science lessons and two days in college working towards an engineering qualification, gaining valuable work experience with employer based learning in the engineering sector and industry masterclasses. However, students will need to be achieving a grade 5 in English, Maths and Science at GCSE level in order to be eligible for this course.

Remember to choose subjects that you're interested in, talk to your teachers and seek their advice and DO NOT pick a subject just because you like the teacher or because your friends are taking the same course. If you require any advice don't hesitate to ask questions!

14-16 Engineering Skills Academy



A joint venture between Duke's Secondary School and Northumberland College to provide an engineering pathway of excellence for students at Duke's.



TOP TIPS



DO'S

- Choose what you're interested in
- Talk to teachers
- Seek advice
- Know the course and take time to review the outline

DON'TS

- Do not pick something just because you like the teacher
- Do not follow your friends
- Do not hesitate to raise concerns or worries about choosing your options

Guidance on how to decide Y9 Options...

All pupils will study the subjects in this column	Option Block 1 Open Option (Students should only make a choice from this option block if they have not been told to take Triple Science)	Option Block 2 Open Option (All students choose one subject from this column)	Option Block 3 Open Option (All students choose one subject from this column)	
GCSE English Literature		GCSE Geography	GCSE Geography	EBacc Choices
GCSE English Language		GCSE History	GCSE History	
GCSE Maths			GCSE French	
GCSE Triple or Dual Science	OCR Health and Social Care	GCSE Art	GCSE Art	Open Choices
CORE PE	BTEC Construction	BTEC Business Enterprise	GCSE Music	
CORE PSICHE	WJEC Hospitality and Catering	BTEC Performing Arts	GCSE PE / Sport	
CORE RS or GCSE RS	BTEC Sport	BTEC Construction	BTEC Media Studies	
		Cambridge National ICT	BTEC Travel & Tourism	
		WJEC Hospitality and Catering	OCR Health and Social Care	

08

DUKE'S SCIENCE GOES WILD



YR 7 & 8

Students participated in the RAF 'Blast off to RIAT' workshop on Thursday 20th February, where they designed and built their own space lander! The whole-day event involved team work, creativity, resilience and engineering skills, and showcased how the RAF has a wide range of job opportunities in traditional Earth-based flying, and in cutting edge space exploration! Two teams will be going on to develop their designs, with the chance of winning tickets to this year's Royal International Air Tattoo, this summer.

Y7 & 8 have also been reviewing the six shortlisted science books, to decide which is their favourite for the coveted 'Book of Year' prize, awarded by the Royal Society. We have submitted our decision, and are now awaiting the prize ceremony to find out who the 700 schools and library groups across the country jointly chose as the winner.

YR 9

Students have been participating in Girls and Boys GetSET programmes, which develops understanding of engineering roles with one of our local employers, Baker Hughes. This showcases the opportunities available through the global company, through practical, hands-on activities. Students have had to design and build a prototype pipeline inspection gadget (PIG) and test it in a model pipeline. We have also visited their factory in Walker to see how pipelines which carry oil and gas are manufactured and tested.

YR 10

Year 10 students on the STEM Like Us programme are receiving one-to-one mentoring so they can develop their career aspirations, learn more about how to achieve their goals, and develop a pathway to success. Along the way, there are challenges and competitions to participate in, and the highest achieving students will win a prize at the end of the year. Last year's cohort's winners will be attending a celebratory event at the House of Lords, London, in the summer.



09 STEM SUCCESS

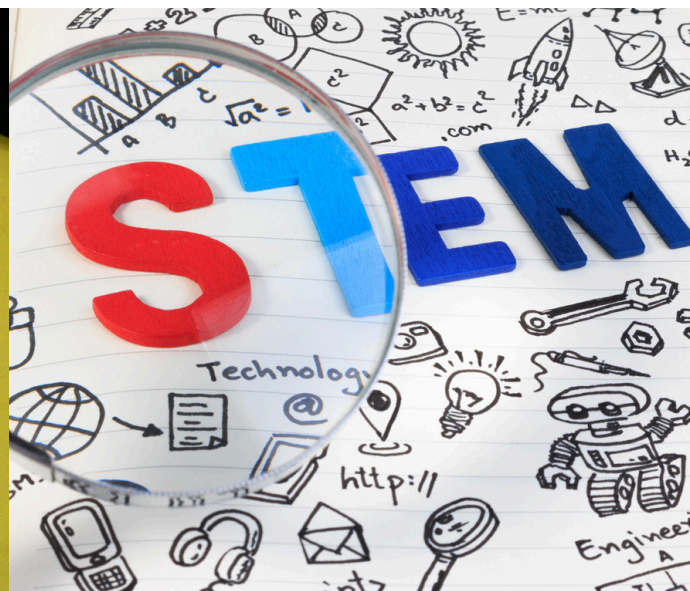
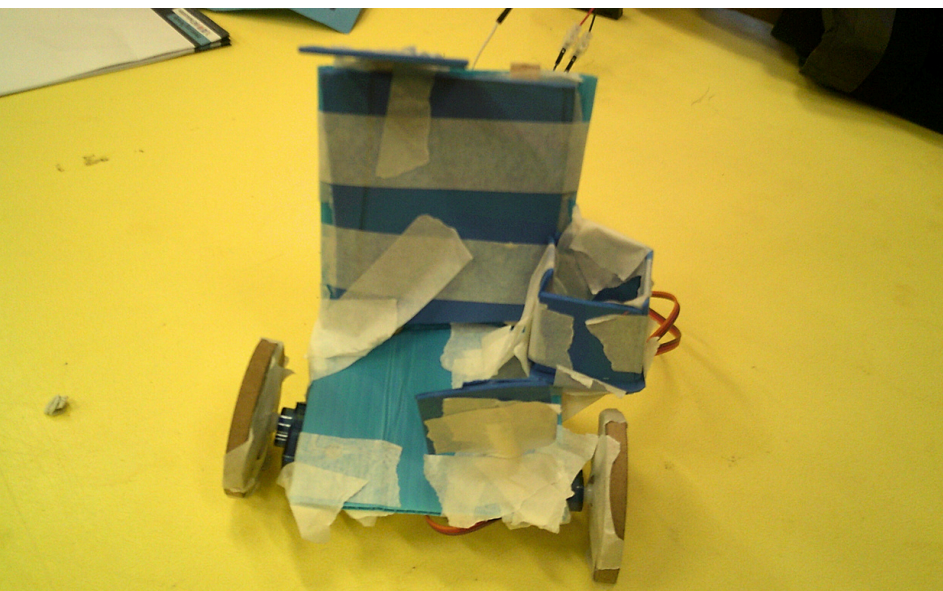


NCEA Duke's
Secondary School



Date: 03/03/2025

On Monday 3rd March Duke's Y8 team represented the school at the Faraday Engineering Challenge. They did very well and created an impressive state-of-the-art wheelchair prototype, which fitted the challenge brief very well indeed. See team photo and device attached.



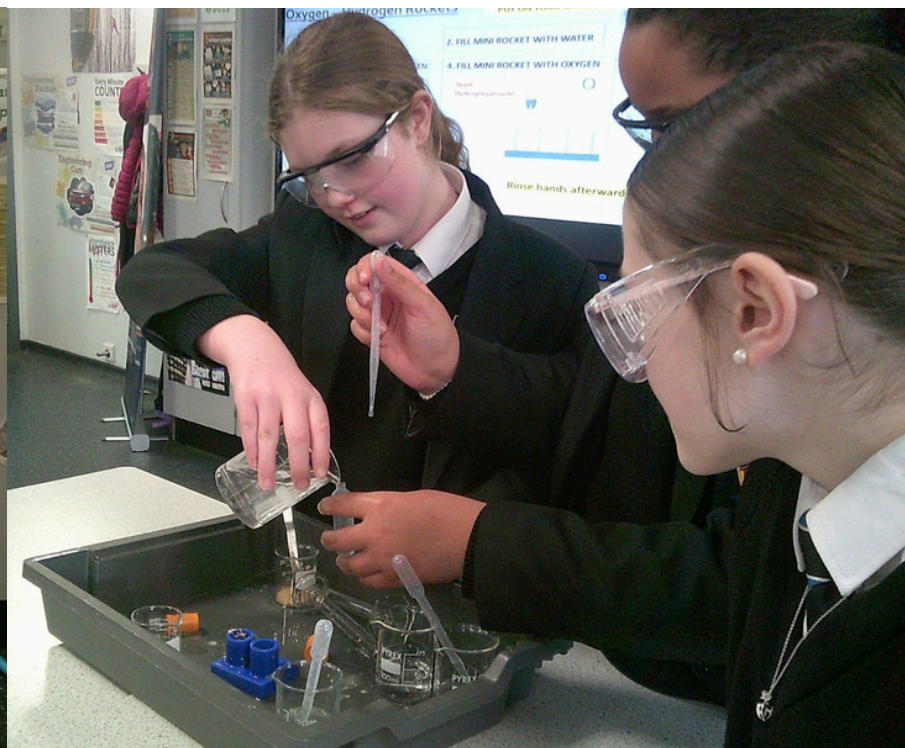
10

NATIONAL SPACE ACADEMY



13/03/2025

The National Space Academy (part of the National Space Centre, Leicester) visited us on Thursday 13th March, to enthuse year 7 and 10 students about the space industry, which is a growing sector in the UK, with plenty of local opportunities. They learnt how space exploration has improved life on Earth, from leak-proof nappies to cordless power tools; from freeze-dried foods to memory foam mattresses! They created and fired their own mini rockets, using a mixture of hydrogen and oxygen gas, and learnt how asteroids could be a threat to Earth, and how life on Earth and other planets evolves. Each year had a really exciting, hands-on 2-hour workshop, and even got to try on a real space suit!



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11 WORLD BOOK DAY



NCEA Duke's
Secondary School

Date: 06/03/2025

Here at Duke's Secondary, we are passionate about reading and we are so lucky to have a fabulous English Department who make World Book Day a day to remember for our students every year. All students had access to a bespoke Duke's World Book Day activity sheet through their English Google Classroom.


On the day, students heard staff reading a 'squashed' version of Dracula by Bram Stoker and engaged in tutor-time activities such as quizzes and games such as guess the staff shelfie and desert island reading pile. Staff have also shared what they are currently reading. All of these activities can be revisited in English Google Classrooms.

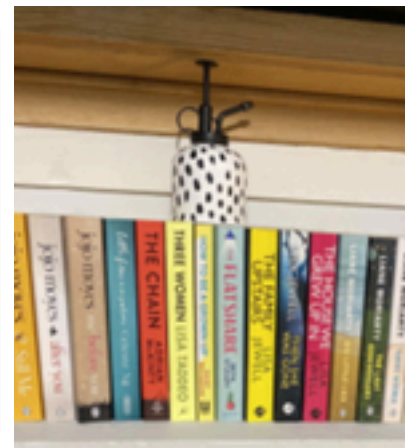
The activity sheet has links to two in-house competitions: write a book review and design a book cover. These competitions are open until Friday 11th April so there's still time to enter and be in with the chance to win a £10 Amazon voucher! We have also included links to some amazing external competitions including a chance to win a signed set of Sue Wallman's thriller books and a home library.

Finally, we are very excited about some upcoming belated celebrations including an author visit, virtual workshops with published authors and a celebration tea party.



HAPPY WORLD BOOK DAY

<p>Competition 1 £10 Amazon voucher for the winner! Submit a detailed book review (at least 250 words) on either your favourite book or a book you have recently read. Hand entries into the English department by Friday 11th April 2025.</p>	<p>Competition 2 £10 Amazon voucher for the winner! 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 title. Hand entries into the English department by Friday 11th April 2025.</p>	<p>Desert Island Books: 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 member of staff from their desert island book list? 📖 WBD 2025 Desert Island Reads.pdf</p>
<p>Squashed Story: Dracula is an 1870 Gothic horror novel by Irish author Bram Stoker. Famous for introducing the character of the vampire Count Dracula, the novel tells the story of Dracula's attempt to move from Transylvania to England so he may find new blood and spread undead rule, and the battle between Dracula and a small group of men and women led by Professor Abraham Van Helsing. Here we have a 'squashed' version read by the staff. You can access the original on the Duke's ePlatform. 📖 Squashed story Dracula by Bram Stoker 2025 Audio: 📖 Squashed story Dracula audio</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">World Book Day 2025</p> <p>Here are a selection of Duke's World Book Day events and competitions for you to enjoy at home. 📖 WBD info & tutor quiz</p> <p style="text-align: center;"></p> <p>Click on the hyperlinks to access resources</p>	<p>Shelfies: 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'? 📖 WBD 2025 Duke's shelfies.pdf</p> <p>Also have a look at what Duke's staff are currently reading: 📖 WBD 2025 Staff currently reading.pdf</p>
<p>Duke's eBook / audiobook platform: 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! https://dukes.education.com/ Your username and password is the same as you use to log into the Duke's website!</p>	<p>External competitions and challenges: There are several competitions you can enter via the World Book Day website. These include the chance to win a home library bundle for your family with a signed collection of all of Sue Wallman's thriller books. Book Trust has compiled its favourite books for teens - see how many you have read and challenge yourself to read new ones.</p>	<p>Author interviews: Michael Morpurgo is the author of many books for children, five of which have been made into films e.g. War Horse and Private Peaceful. Here discusses how he became a writer. Jacqueline Wilson, the creator of Tracy Beaker and former children's laureate, reads from her book Lily Alone and answers questions from young readers. JessieJays Wilson discusses her inspirations and writing essentials, plus activities with Nick Sharratt, illustrator of many children's books, including Jacqueline Wilson's books.</p>



12

SPORTS NEWS

JANUARY - MARCH 2025



Here's all things **ATHLETIC** that have happened so far this year...

Students of Duke's Secondary School have been excelling in sports this year. We're here to provide an update on all things sports and athletics... From Netball, Basketball, Football and Rugby - to Table Tennis, Handball, Cross Country and Trampolining.

There is a wide variety of sports available within Duke's Secondary School and we're so proud of all of our students for putting in 110% effort over the last few months. Our teams have really pushed themselves and seeing their hard work pay off has been incredible.

January Highlights...

We saw Year 7 smash it at Rugby with Ashington Rugby Club on the 15th January. On the 21st January, 6 Duke's students from Years 7-10 joined the Northumberland Cross Country Championships in South Shields Temple Park and ran incredibly well. A special mention to Louie who finished 9th in the minor boys race and qualified to represent Northumberland in February. Meanwhile, just one day later on the 22nd January, Duke's Netball Teams won their fixtures. Year 7 and 8 won all three matches and the results were:

1st game: 2-1 2nd game: 1-0 3rd game: 2-0. Year 9 also won their big match too!

To wrap January up, Year 7 and 8 Sports Hall Athletics also won their School Games qualifying competition!



SEE MORE SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS



12

SPORTS NEWS



February Highlights...

A massive congratulations to Duke's Secondary student Louie, who had a super run on 8th February representing our county Northumberland at the Inter Counties Cross-Country Championships in Middlesbrough.

Well done to our Sixth Form Football Team who defeated St Benet Biscop's 2-1 with Harry and Tyler scoring the goals!

March Highlights...

This month's news starts with our Netball Team winning 6-1 on March 12th, along with our Year 11 GCSE PE Handball Team(s) with their super application.

Duke's Year 8 Basketball team were shining in the Northumberland league on 13th March. Whilst the Duke's Girls Football Team won a game in Northumberland Central Venue League.

On the 18th March, our Trampolining Team competed in the School Games, and finally our KS4 referees supported the Primary Football Festival.

Well done everyone!

