

APRIL - MAY 2025



SIXTH FORM NEWSLETTER

WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

SPRING EVENTS 2025

T-LEVELS & CAREERS

LEADERSHIP

APPLICATION

#YouDontNeedToTravelFarToGetAhead



Welcome to the Spring Edition of 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.

Danielle Towers

HEAD OF SIXTH FORM

WELL-BEING INITIATIVE

Supporting Students' Mental Health

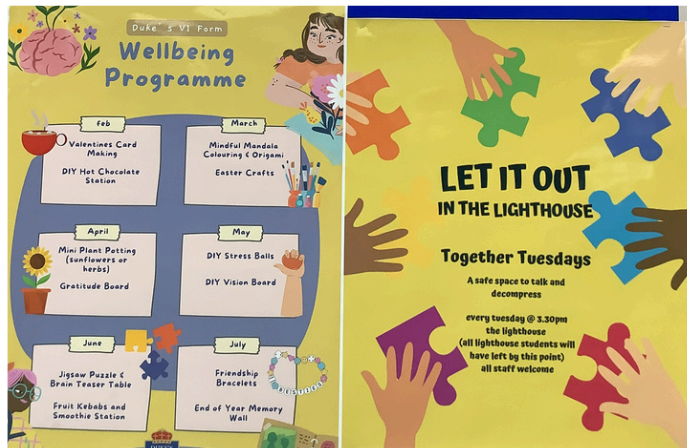
We are excited to announce the launch of a new wellbeing initiative designed specifically for our Sixth Form students.

Recognising the pressures and challenges that come with this pivotal stage in their academic journey, our sixth form is committed to providing comprehensive support for both the academic and mental health needs of our students.

The new initiative aims to promote a healthy balance between studies, personal growth, and emotional wellbeing. As part of this program, we are introducing a series of wellbeing activities, mindfulness sessions, and support groups that focus on building resilience, stress management, and fostering a positive mindset. These resources will be available to all Sixth Form students, offering them the tools they need to manage stress, anxiety, and the pressures of school life.

The initiative encourages a sense of community through group activities and events that focus on relaxation. These will allow students to connect, share experiences, and build a strong network of support among their peers.

We are excited to see the positive impact this initiative will have on our students and are grateful to all staff members and students who are working together to create a supportive environment for everyone. By prioritising mental health and wellbeing, we hope to ensure our Sixth Form students are equipped to succeed in all aspects of their lives.



SIXTH FORM MEET & GREET



In January we welcomed Year 11 students into our sixth form with a meet and greet event which brought together staff, current sixth form students and Year 11 students in a welcoming and relaxed environment.

This was a fantastic opportunity for our current sixth form students to provide their insight into studying at Duke's Sixth Form and answer any questions Y11 students may have all over some fun activities and delicious cakes.



**You don't have to
travel far to get
ahead...**

**APPLY
NOW**

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN

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NCEA Duke's
Sixth Form

YEAR 12

WORK EXPERIENCE

This term, our Year 12 students had the incredible opportunity to take part in a week of work experience, gaining hands-on exposure to the professional world.

This initiative is a vital part of our students' personal and career development, offering them a chance to explore potential future careers and develop essential transferable skills.

The Sixth Form work experience programme saw students placed in a wide variety of fields, ranging from business and healthcare to engineering, media, and education. Each student was matched with a placement that aligned with their interests and career aspirations. These real-world experiences allowed them to apply the knowledge and skills they have developed in the classroom to actual work environments, providing invaluable insights into the day-to-day operations of different industries.

Students had the opportunity to observe professionals in action, contribute to projects, and participate in tasks that helped them develop important skills such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. Many students were able to network with professionals in their fields of interest, making connections that could be beneficial for future career opportunities.

The feedback from both students and employers has been overwhelmingly positive. Many employers praised our students for their enthusiasm, commitment, and professionalism, while students reported that the experience gave them a clearer sense of direction for their future careers.

One of the key benefits of this program is that it helps students make more informed decisions about their career paths, whether it's confirming an interest in a particular field or discovering a new area of interest they hadn't previously considered. It also boosts their confidence and prepares them for the demands of the professional world.

We would like to thank all the local businesses and organisations that supported this initiative by offering placements, as well as our students for their dedication and hard work throughout the week. The work experience program is just one of the many ways we aim to provide our students with a well-rounded education and equip them for success in their future endeavours.



see more



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

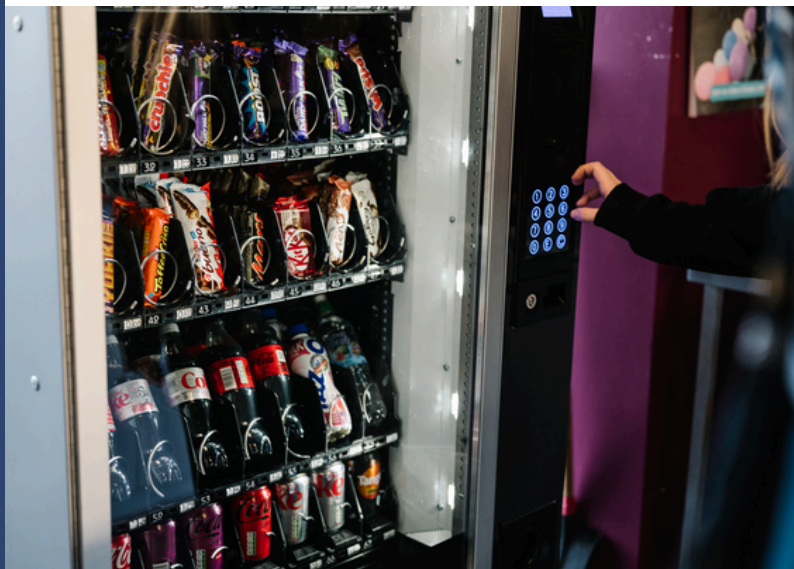
Continued story by Lily Wilson...

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



NCEA Duke's
Sixth Form

HEALTHCARE SCIENCES MASTERCLASS

On Friday 4th April, 4 of our Applied Science and Engineering students visited Northumbria Healthcare Trust's head office at Cobalt Business Park...

To take part in a healthcare sciences masterclass. The North East region has a growing health and life sciences sector so the event was a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about careers within science and opportunities available at Northumbria Healthcare Trust.

Students gained hands-on practical experience covering a range of areas, from Microbiology and Chemistry to Cardio Physiology and Medical Engineering.





NCEA Duke's
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BARCLAY'S

LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

EMPOWERING STUDENTS WITH MONEY MANAGEMENT SKILLS

To end the term, our Year 12 students began a series of Barclays Life Skills workshops focused on money management. These interactive workshops, led by experts from Barclays, are designed to equip students with the essential financial knowledge and skills they will need as they prepare for adulthood and financial independence.

During the sessions, students explore a wide range of topics, including budgeting, saving, managing debt, and understanding credit scores. The workshops provide practical advice on how to make informed financial decisions, both in the short term and long term. Students also learn how to set financial goals, plan for future expenses, and build a solid foundation for financial wellbeing.

One of the key highlights of the workshops was the use of real-life scenarios, which helped students understand the importance of financial planning and the impact of their choices.

By using interactive tools and case studies, students are able to engage with the material in a way that feels relevant to their everyday lives.

We are grateful to Barclays for offering this valuable resource to our students and for helping to prepare them for the financial challenges they will encounter in the future. These workshops are just one part of our ongoing commitment to providing students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in all aspects of their lives.





NCEA Duke's
Sixth Form

PETER HYMAN

DEMOCRACY AND POPULISM

This term, our students had the exciting opportunity to hear from Peter Hyman, a distinguished author, educator, and former advisor to the UK Prime Minister, who visited our school to lead an engaging discussion on the pressing topics of democracy and populism.

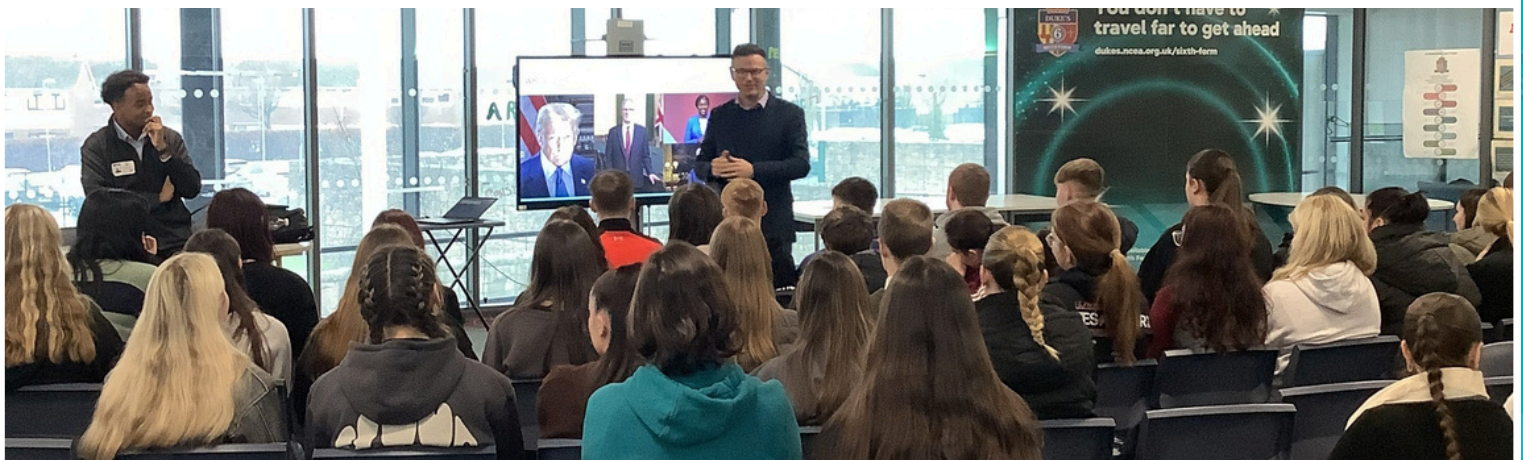
Peter's visit was part of our initiative to encourage students to think critically about the political landscape, both locally and globally. During his talk, he explored the core principles of democracy—how it functions, its importance in preserving freedoms, and how citizens can actively participate in shaping their society. He also shed light on the rising influence of populism, explaining how it challenges traditional democratic structures and often plays on emotions to create divisions within society.

The session was interactive, with students providing their own insights into the balance between political power, media influence, and the role of voters in safeguarding democracy.

Peter's ability to explain complex topics in an accessible way left students reflecting on the challenges democracies face today, including the rise of populist leaders and movements across the globe.

His visit also highlighted the importance of being informed, engaged citizens who can think critically about the forces shaping our world.

We are grateful to Peter Hyman for his time and expertise, which provided our students with valuable insights into the complexities of modern political systems. His talk was not only informative but also thought-provoking, and we hope it continues to inspire our students to stay curious, engaged, and informed about the world around them.



TRIP TO MOROCCO

WORLD CHALLENGE VOLUNTEERING



NCEA Duke's
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We are excited to announce an incredible opportunity for our new Sixth Form students to participate in the World Challenge...

A volunteering trip to Morocco aimed at making a positive impact on local communities while broadening their cultural understanding and global perspective.

In summer 2026, a group of our Sixth Form students will travel to Morocco as part of a World Challenge project, where they will engage in a range of community-based projects.

These projects include working on educational initiatives, supporting sustainable development efforts, and helping with environmental conservation.

By directly contributing to these local causes, our students will have the chance to gain hands-on experience in international volunteering and make a

tangible difference to the lives of those they work with.

In addition to the community work, the trip will provide students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich culture and traditions of Morocco. The students will experience the beauty of Morocco's landscapes and learn about its history, food, and people.

World Challenge is not just about giving back – it's also about personal growth. The experience will push students out of their comfort zones, encouraging them to develop important life skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

We are incredibly excited about this new opportunity!

Applications are now open so visit the World Challenge Duke's trip website for more information on how to book.

<https://weareworldchallenge.com/trips/ekvmj27/>





**NCEA Duke's
Sixth Form**

BRAND NEW POOL & DARTS

SIXTH FORM COMMON ROOM

We're excited to announce a fantastic new addition to the Sixth Form Common Room – a brand new pool table and darts board!

These fun and relaxing activities are now available for our Sixth Form students to enjoy during their free time, offering them the perfect opportunity to unwind, socialise, and take a break from their studies.

The pool table and darts board have been added to enhance the overall Sixth Form experience, giving students a space to relax and bond with their peers in a friendly and informal environment. Whether it's a quick game of pool at breaktime or a bit of healthy competition with darts, these new additions provide a much-needed balance to the academic demands of Sixth Form life.

The Common Room has always been a central hub for our students, and these new features reflect our commitment to providing spaces that support both social interaction and relaxation. Many students have already expressed their excitement over the new additions, and it's clear that the pool table and darts board have quickly become popular hangout spots for students.

We believe that balancing work and relaxation is key to maintaining mental well-being, and these new facilities will provide students with an enjoyable way to de-stress and recharge. We encourage everyone to take full advantage of the facilities, whether it's for a friendly game or just catching up with friends.

Thank you to everyone who helped bring these new additions to life – we can't wait to see our students enjoying them throughout the year!





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NCEA DUKE'S SIXTH FORM FOOTBALL TEAM

WINNERS!

A huge congratulations to the NCEA Duke's Secondary Sixth Form football team who have emerged as champions of the Northumberland Schools' Football Association League 2.

What makes this achievement even more remarkable is their flawless and unbeaten run throughout the entire season!

The team navigated the league with such consistency and resilience, allowing them to secure victory after victory - which speaks volumes about the team's exceptional talent and dedication. Well done team!

