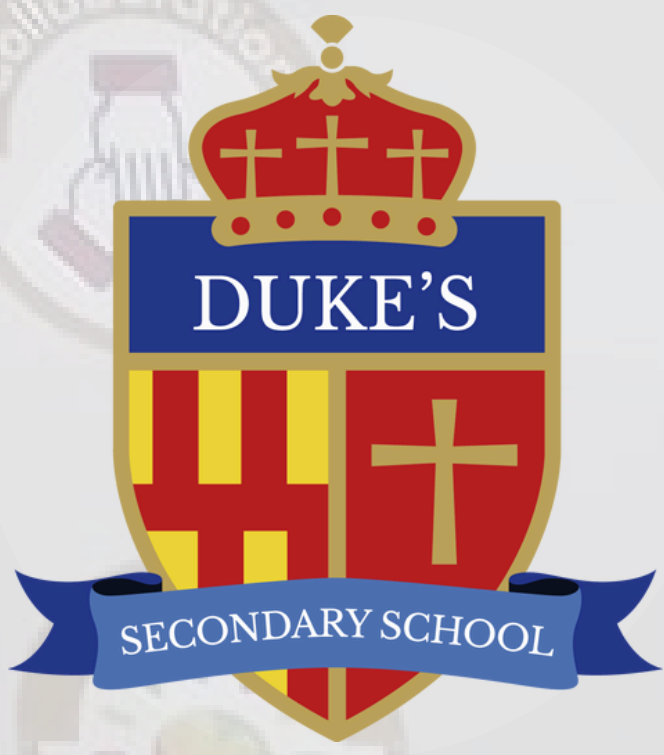


**ACTIVITIES
WEEK**

DUKE'S JOURNAL

#LetYourLightShine



NCEA Duke's Secondary School

ACTIVITIES WEEK

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Spotlight on Lilly – Our Talented Student Photographer

We're delighted to shine a spotlight on Lilly, one of our dedicated Creative Media BTEC Level 2 students, who has taken on the role of student photographer this newsletter. Lilly has been busy capturing key moments across school activities and events, showcasing both her technical skills and creative eye. Her enthusiasm and commitment have made a real difference, providing us with vibrant and professional images that reflect life at our school Activities Week. We are incredibly grateful for her hard work and talent! Please enjoy this special edition of the Duke's Journal for Activities Week.



During Activity Week, our cadets took part in a dynamic and engaging CCF experience that combined teamwork, physical challenge, and tactical skills.

The day began with a full safety briefing for staff and pupils, followed by sessions on camouflage and concealment. Cadets explored the theory behind how and why things are seen before testing their skills in a practical concealment exercise on the main field. Staff supervision ensured a safe and structured session where students were encouraged to think critically and creatively.

After a short break and staff briefing, cadets moved on to the physical training (PT) element held on the 3G pitch. This high-energy session tested their resilience, stamina, and teamwork. Staff participation was welcomed, creating a positive and motivating environment for all. In the afternoon, the much-anticipated battle exercise brought all elements together. Students applied their camouflage and fitness training in a final activity that was both fun and physically demanding. Staff supported pupils who preferred not to participate, ensuring everyone remained included and safe.

A huge thank you to all pupils and staff who took part and to AUO Goodfellow for leading the day. A fantastic showcase of teamwork, leadership, and CCF spirit! As well as great water fight!





NCEA DUKE'S
SIXTH FORM

AMSTERDAM

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

YEAR 12 END OF YEAR TRIP

To round off a fantastic year, our Year 12 students had the opportunity to broaden their horizons with an unforgettable cultural awareness trip to Amsterdam. The trip not only offered a taste of Dutch culture and history, but also introduced students to the excitement and responsibility of independent travel, a valuable experience as they prepare for life beyond Sixth Form.

The adventure began with students boarding the DFDS ferry for a mini cruise from Newcastle to the Netherlands—complete with sea views, shared cabins, and that unique sense of excitement that comes from setting off on an international journey with friends.

Once in Amsterdam, students explored the city's iconic sights and soaked up its vibrant atmosphere. A highlight for many was the visit to Ripley's Believe It or Not! museum, where the weird and wonderful world of oddities sparked curiosity and plenty of laughter.

This was followed by a relaxing river cruise through Amsterdam's picturesque canals, offering a scenic and informative view of the city from the water.

Throughout the trip, students had the chance to practice navigating a new environment, manage their time and belongings, and represent the school as respectful and engaged young travellers. It was a brilliant way to build confidence, independence, and a deeper appreciation for different cultures.



NCEA DUKE'S SIXTH FORM

02

CCF – TEAMWORK, CHALLENGE, &
CAMOUFLAGE



NCEA DUKE'S
SIXTH FORM

AMSTERDAM

CULTURAL DISCOVERY

YEAR 12 END OF YEAR TRIP

We're incredibly proud of how our students conducted themselves during the trip and grateful to the staff who made the experience possible. It was a fitting end to a busy and successful year in Sixth Form and we're already looking forward to what next year's adventures will bring!



02

CCF – TEAMWORK, CHALLENGE, &
CAMOUFLAGE



03

NINJA WARRIORS



As part of Activities Week, our students took on the ultimate challenge at Ninja Warrior UK Adventure Park—a supervised activity and fitness venue inspired by the hit ITV show.

They had a fantastic time testing their agility and confidence on a range of exciting obstacles, from climbing walls and balancing beams to swinging ropes and the giant inflatable course. One of the highlights was watching students attempt to conquer the iconic Warped Wall—cheered on by their friends and teachers! It was a brilliant day full of energy, laughter, and teamwork, giving everyone the chance to step outside their comfort zone and have fun in a safe, structured environment. A memorable experience for all involved!





04

FLAMINGOLAND

Thrills and Wildlife: A Day at Yorkshire's Premier Theme Park & Zoo

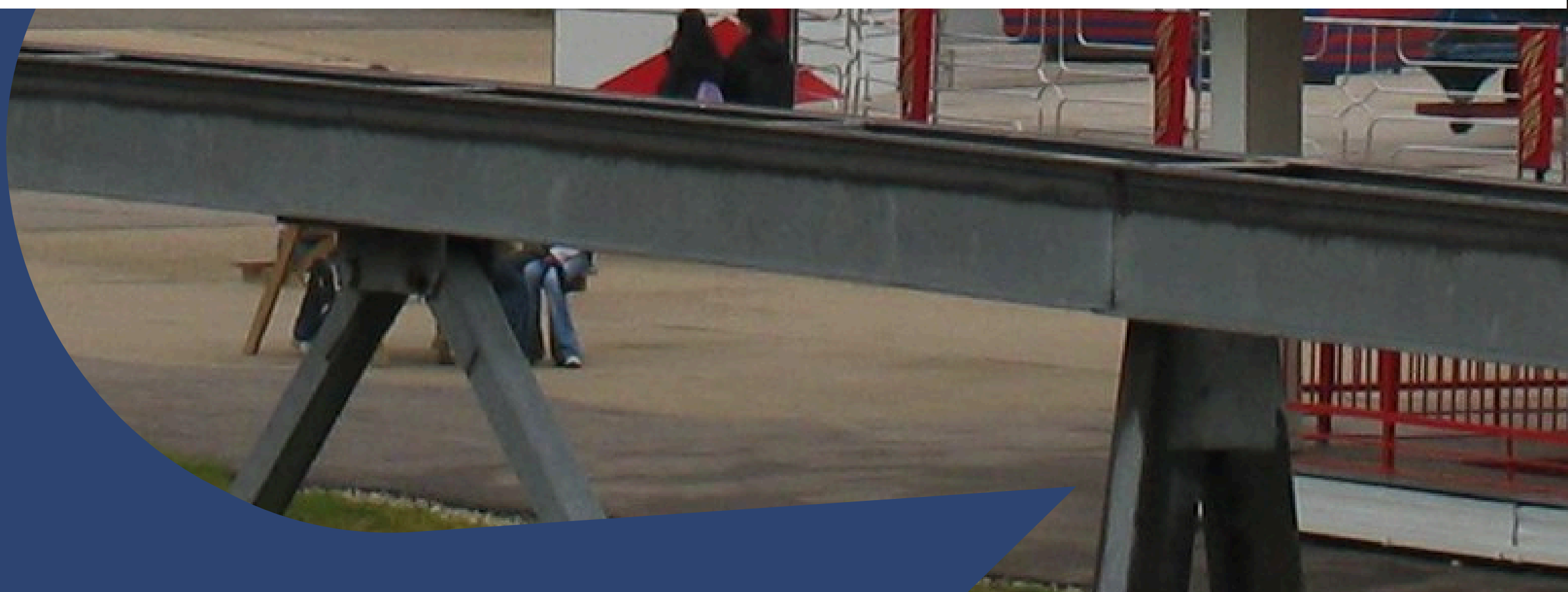
As part of Activities Week, students had the incredible opportunity to visit Yorkshire's ultimate theme park attraction—paired with an award-winning zoo—offering the perfect mix of adrenaline, adventure, and animal encounters.

The day began with the thrill of the rides, as students explored a wide range of attractions, from high-speed roller coasters to water rides and family-friendly favourites. There was something for everyone, and the excitement was contagious as students challenged themselves and supported one another to try new experiences.

After the fun of the rides, students visited the on-site zoo, which is home to a diverse collection of animals from around the world. From lions and tigers to meerkats and monkeys, the zoo offered a fascinating and educational experience. Students enjoyed learning about conservation efforts and seeing these amazing creatures up close in thoughtfully designed habitats.

The day was a perfect blend of fun and learning, providing a memorable experience outside the classroom. Staff were impressed by the students' behaviour, enthusiasm, and the way they embraced the spirit of the day—full of curiosity, laughter, and shared memories.

A huge thank you to all involved for making it such a fantastic trip!





Exploration and Discovery at Alnwick Gardens

As part of Activities Week, students spent a wonderful day exploring the beautiful and unique Alnwick Gardens. From stunning floral displays to interactive features, the trip offered a peaceful yet exciting escape full of learning, laughter, and fresh air.

Students were able to discover the many themed areas of the gardens, including the striking Grand Cascade, the tranquil Rose Garden, and the fascinating Poison Garden—where they learned about some of the world's most dangerous plants in a safe, guided setting. The balance of nature, science, and storytelling kept everyone engaged throughout the day.

A particular highlight was the interactive water features, where students had the chance to enjoy the fountains and explore their playful designs. The visit also included time to reflect, relax, and appreciate the beauty of the natural surroundings.

Staff were incredibly proud of the students' curiosity, respectful behaviour, and enthusiasm for taking part. Whether snapping photos of the stunning landscapes or asking thoughtful questions during guided tours, they represented the school brilliantly. A big thank you to the team at Alnwick Gardens for hosting us, and to all staff and students for making it a day to remember!

Jesus said "Let your **LIGHT** shine b

