



LIGHThouse

Issue 25 22/12/22

Merry Christmas!

Welcome to the final 2022 edition of LIGHThouse, the newsletter for Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust. Due to some technical issues, this is the first edition since April but we will now be returning to monthly editions.

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Bishop's are officially 'Good' in all areas after recent OFSTED inspection!

Staff and pupils at NCEA Bishop's Primary School are celebrating after their recent OFSTED inspection judged the school to be 'Good' in every area.

Overall effectiveness:	Good
The quality of education:	Good
Behaviour and attitudes:	Good
Personal development:	Good
Leadership and management:	Good
Early years provision:	Good

The report states that the "pupils enjoy being at school" and "feel safe, happy and well looked after" and how the school's LIGHT values of love, inclusivity, goodness, hope and truth "reflect the expectations staff have for pupils" to "maximise their full potential". The report notes that the high aspirations are also shared by all trust and school leaders, trustees and governors who "want the very best for pupils".

Staff and leaders are praised for designing a curriculum "to engage and inspire pupils" so that they help pupils to become curious, independent learners". Excellent relationships between school and home "create a strong community feel". There is also recognition for how the school meets the needs of individual pupils through bespoke support and an alternative curriculum offer focused on outdoor learning.

Alan Hardie, CEO of the Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust commented "This is a report for the entire Bishop's school community to be proud of, as it recognises the hard work of the staff team, great attitude of the pupils and the importance of strong support from parents and carers. Bishop's has great team, which is very well led by Mrs Marriott as Headteacher. I am delighted that the report also recognises how well the trust and school have worked together and the impact of the primary school improvement team led by Mrs Hinson".

In a very busy term, Bishop's has also featured in nationwide publicity for the Agents of Change programme delivered by Rethink Food and supported by the Greggs Foundation as well as being featured in BBC Look North in November.

 **Rethink Food**
@RethinkFoodUK · Follow

Following our announcement in November about our partnership with @GreggsCharity we're delighted to share a film about the programme. Get involved greggs@rethinkfood.co.uk

 Watch on Twitter

2:48 PM · Dec 6, 2022



Millie shows true Christmas spirit with her amazing generosity!

Millie, aged 9, from Thomas Bewick School, has been fundraising by selling reindeer food. She used the money she raised to buy toys for the Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal. She met Keith, the Treasurer from the Salvation Army and handed over the toys.

Well done Millie, we are incredibly proud of you for this selfless act!



Opposition are bowled over by William Leech!

Twelve children from William Leech School took part in Northumberland Schools 10 pin bowling competition, organised by SMILE Through Sport and Pentathlon. The competition consisted of 16 teams across Northumberland. They got to meet Stephen Miller MBE, the Team GB athlete who competes in the fields of Paralympic club and discus throwing, and who has won three gold, one silver and one bronze medal at the Paralympics.

Like Stephen, one team from William Leech finished in first place, winning gold medals to take home. The children developed leadership skills which they will use to lead sporting activities for other children in school in the spring term.



Music fills the air as NCEAT pupils perform !
Here is just a sample of the many performances by our pupils



Bishop's Choir performing at Wansbeck Hospital



William Leech Choir performing at Lynemouth Day Centre



Thomas Bewick Choir performing at Ashington Grange Care Home



Bishop's Band performing Christmas tunes for parents and carers as they collected their children at the end of the day



James Knott Choir performing at Woodhorn Park Care Home



Duke's Christmas Concert



Grace Darling Choir performing at Bond Care Home, Newbiggin



Warkworth Choir performing for parents and carers

Chaplain's Column: The return of Christmas to our schools



After two years with very little face to face contact it has been a real joy to have Nativity plays, Christmas concerts, Christingles and Carol services back. It is wonderful to see families and friends come to our schools and churches to hear our children tell the Christmas story.

The costumes of shepherds, kings and Mary and Joseph have been re-assembled, stars and crowns have been made and caretakers have put up stages and moved umpteen chairs on numerous occasions. It takes a lot of people playing their individual part to make those magic, tear jerking moments that often mark Christmas in a school.

I have been reminded recently of the largely unseen army of workers who bring the electricity back on, repair the burst pipes and sort out problems with sewage when needed. All these things happen at short notice, at all hours of the day and night and we all want to know to the minute when things are going to get back to normal. If you are one of those people working day and night to fix things, thank you for all you do. I hope that you too will get a well-earned break at some point over the next few weeks.

Sally Milner, NCEAT Chaplain

A prayer for Christmas Day

Eternal God
in the stillness of this night
you sent your almighty Word
to pierce the world's darkness with the light of salvation:
give to the earth the peace that we long for
and fill our hearts with the joy of heaven
through Jesus Christ. Amen.



Traditional Christmas celebrations return to our schools

As Sally says in her column, it has been great to get back to the way that our schools have always celebrated Christmas, free of restrictions!



James Knott Reception nativity



James Knott Christingle Service at Seaton Hirst Church



William Leech Nursery children singing and telling the Christmas story



Ready for Christmas dinner at Thomas Bewick



Grace Darling carol service at St Bartholomew



Christingle service St Lawrence's Church, Warkworth

Thanks to all of our school catering teams for the excellent Christmas dinners, enjoyed by both pupils and staff !

The return of Christmas performances



Christmas creativity: pop-up story books at Bishop's



Castle School enjoyed two Christmas shows from Bigfoot Arts Education, the 'Clumsiest Elf' and 'Dip and Dap'. The school also raised an amazing total of £1488 at their Christmas Fair

Thanks and best wishes to Mrs Vardy

The staff and pupils of Castle School have said "thank you" and given their best wishes to Mrs Vardy, Acting Headteacher, who retires at the end of term. Mrs Vardy was due to retire in the summer but delayed this to step into the role of Acting Headteacher for this term.



Mrs Vardy has been part of the team at Castle since NCEA was set up in 2009 and also worked in its predecessor schools. In her long and successful career she has taught generations of children with profound special needs and has also held a number of leadership roles.

Under her leadership, Castle has engaged in a successful partnership with Cleaswell Hill School, with Mr Ford- Hutchinson from Cleaswell Hill taking on the role of Acting Headteacher in January.

Mrs Vardy also led Castle School through its first OFSTED inspection as a standalone school and we are looking forward to sharing the report when it is published in January.

Everyone wishes Mrs Vardy a well deserved long and happy retirement - we will miss you!

Duke's generosity supports Wansbeck Foodbank

Staff and students from Duke's School donated over 1000 items throughout the months of November and December, for Wansbeck Foodbank and families in the community.

This reflects the great team work and community spirit from all Duke's students, families and staff and shows great compassion for others, especially in the current economic climate.

Staff from Wansbeck Foodbank were genuinely overwhelmed by how much was donated. Students from the Arc were a great help in organising and setting up the collection on the day. A huge thank you from Beacon staff to everyone who donated.



Winter Warmer Part 2

Following the successful Winter Warmer event in November, Duke's will holding Winter Warmer Part 2 in January.

There will be a warm space to socialise with family and friends. All in our community are welcome.

The Winter Warmer will take place on January 25th, from 5-7pm; there will be a hot meal, tea & coffee, entertainment, a raffle and also donations for anyone who may need a winter coat, children's clothes or sanitary products.

Save the Date!



Inspector praises Warkworth's "inclusive and transformative community"

In addition to regular OFSTED inspections, all Church of England Schools also experience Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS). SIAMS inspection focuses on the impact of the Church school's Christian vision on pupils and adults. This involves looking at the school's Christian vision, the provision the school makes because of this vision and how effective this provision is in enabling all pupils to flourish.

Warkworth was inspected earlier this term and the inspection judgements were:

Overall grade	Good
The impact of collective worship	Excellent
The effectiveness of religious education (RE)	Good

The inspector was very impressed with her visit to Warkworth and commented that "the school's policies and practices ensure that it is a place where all can flourish. Everyone is treated with dignity and respect".

The report describes how "every pupil is cherished as unique and has individualised support to reach their full potential" with pupils being developed as young leaders. Pupils views are valued and they feel empowered to "love our world" by directly effecting change.

There is "a flourishing staff body" who are "happy to tirelessly '#strive together as one' for the benefit of the pupils and families in their care".

It is a report for the entire Warkworth community to be proud of.

Thanks and best wishes to Mrs Ritson

Mrs Ritson was appointed as Headteacher at Warkworth in 2017. Under her leadership the school has not only achieved 'Good' judgements in OFSTED and SIAMS inspections but a range of external awards, such as being one of just five schools in the UK to be awarded the Gold standard from the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools.

Mrs Ritson has led the school through a period of significant growth, as it expanded from a first school and added a full nursery provision, now housed in a new Early Years building.



Under Mrs Ritson's leadership the school has added Forest School to its curriculum, one of many new ideas and innovations she has brought to the school.

Mrs Ritson leaves us at the end of term to take up a challenging new role as Headteacher of a large primary school. Everyone in the Warkworth and NCEAT community would like to say thank you to Mrs Ritson and send her very best wishes for her new role in January.

Mrs Hinson, NCEAT's Director of Primary School Improvement will take on the role of Acting Headteacher at Warkworth during the spring term.

A Christmas message from the CEO

As (hopefully) we've shown in this edition of LightHOUSE, for the first time since 2019 it has felt like a 'normal' Christmas in our schools this year. It has been a joy to have our children sing and perform, and to have parents and carers back in our schools to watch them.

Although we now longer have the restrictions and challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, there are new challenges from the impact of inflation, such as the huge rises in energy bills and food prices. These challenges will make Christmas a difficult period for many people and I am particularly proud of the work that our pupils have done in charity fundraising this term, which we hope will make a difference to some of the most vulnerable in our community.

For some people, Christmas is not always the happy time the adverts like to show and we've included some details of organisations that can help those who may feel alone: you are not. There are some amazing organisations who can help those in need.

When I was a Headteacher and we had our final Christmas assembly, I always used to set the same challenge to the pupils over Christmas. That challenge was to take some time over Christmas to do something kind for their family, loved ones or neighbours, whether that was washing up after Christmas lunch, tidying away wrapping paper or spending time talking to a relative or neighbour who is often on their own. Over time the memories of what presents we received fades but acts of kindness are far more likely to endure.

I hope that everyone in our community, pupils, staff, parents, carers, governors and trustees has the Christmas that they hope for, and that we all return safe and well for the start of the new term in January.

 You're not alone this
CHRISTMAS

 AnxietyUK 03444 775 774 www.anxietyuk.org.uk	 SAMARITANS 16 24 www.samaritans.org	 mind 0300 55 3999 www.mind.org.uk
 PAPYRUS 0800 068 41 41 www.papyrus-uk.org	 ChildLine 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk	 Refuge 0800 200 247 www.refuge.org.uk
 YOUNG MINDS TEXT YM to 85258 www.youngminds.org.uk	 Switchboard LGBT+ helpline 0800 330 0630 www.switchboardlight.org	 shout 85258 here for you 24/7 www.giveshout.org
 CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY CALM 0800 58 58 58 www.thecalmspace.net	 Beat 0800 401 0677 www.beat.org.uk	 AA 0800 977 650 www.aa.org.uk

 Warm
Welcome

For you, your family and friends

Find your nearest warm space at
nland.cc/warmspaces

 Northumberland
County Council

Need to talk to someone about support?
Call or email Northumberland Communities
Together, 9am-6pm, 7 days a week
☎ 01670 620 015
✉ nct@northumberland.gov.uk



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LIGHT
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