
LIGHThouse

FEBRUARY 2023

ISSUE 27



“ENABLING EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITIES TO LET THEIR LIGHT SHINE.”

LIGHTHOUSE

WELCOME TO FEBRUARY'S EDITION OF LIGHTHOUSE

Success follows if you learn from defeat

"You may encounter many defeats, but you must not be defeated. In fact, it may be necessary to encounter the defeats so you can know who you are, what you can rise from, how you can still come out of it." **Maya Angelou.**

Sunday 26th February 2023 was another painful for day for those of us in black and white.

Newcastle's defeat in the Caribao Cup final means at least another year will be added to the 50 years plus since a major trophy returned to Tyneside. There was no lack of effort from the team and if the trophy had been awarded on the basis of support then Newcastle would have won before the game had even kicked off.

It might seem strange for a school leader to be writing about football but there are lessons from Sunday and the last year in the history of Newcastle United that we can all learn from and I think that it is strongly linked to the 'H' in our LIGHT values: Hope.

In our LIGHT values, we talk about 'Hope' in the sense of aspiring to the best we can be and also learning from our mistakes to try again with determination. This means having the resilience to get back up after failure and try again.

Eddie Howe has demonstrated superb leadership since he was appointed as manager of Newcastle United, taking over a team that looked destined for relegation.

Success wasn't instant and it took much hard work on the training ground before results started to improve and the team began to climb the league and reach safety. Much has been made of the new signings and there is no doubt that having world class players such as Kieran Trippier and Bruno Guimaraes have made a real difference to the team.

However, what is often overlooked is the difference that Eddie Howe and his coaching team have made in improving the players who were already at the club, many of whom had been written off as not being good enough.

Joelinton, who looked completely out of his depth as centre forward has become one of the best midfielders in the Premier League. Local lad Sean Longstaff, whose career had gone backwards under the previous manager is now reaching his potential, to name but two.

So how does this apply to schools? Firstly it demonstrates the incredible impact that effective leadership and coaching/teaching can have on the performance of individuals and teams, especially where there is buy in' and everyone wants to improve. Secondly, it shows that bouncing from mistakes and defeat builds resilience and makes future success more likely for teams and us as individuals.

As a long suffering Newcastle United supporter, I feel more confident than I have for many years that we are at the start of a journey to success. I've no doubt that there will be more defeats along the way but we will never be defeated. Reflecting on yesterday's defeat, I am reminded that each of us should not dwell negatively on our 'defeats' (or mistakes) but instead we need to learn from them and move on with hope. If we can do this then ultimately we will triumph through determination and resilience. Howay the Lads!

Alan Hardie, CEO



FEASTING AND FASTING

By Sally Milner, Chaplain



Were you feasting on pancakes on Shrove Tuesday last week? Have new toppings like chocolate spread taken over from the old favourite of lemon and sugar?

Shrove Tuesday is the day before the start of the forty days of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Lent was traditionally a time for fasting from meat, eggs, butter and other "luxury" foods.

In the twentieth century this largely changed to people giving up a food they enjoy but don't really need, such as chocolate, biscuits, alcohol or sweets.

What if, instead of looking at the foods we eat we look at our habits? The things we do and say without thinking that harm others and ultimately us. Habits that harden our hearts and lead us to treat others harshly and without love.

This prayer includes many suggestions to reshape our habits, to try to be open and generous, away from concentrating on ourselves to looking for God's loving purposes in creation.

Fast from judging others; feast on seeing Christ in them.
Fast from emphasis on difference; feast on our bonds.

Fast from fear of illness; feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from apparent darkness; feast on God's light.

Fast from words that cut down; feast on speech that uplifts.
Fast from gossip; feast on affirmations.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.
Fast from pessimism; Feast on hope.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.
Fast from negatives; feast on encouragement.

Fast from resentment; feast on forgiveness.
Fast from suspicion; feast on truth.

Fast from self-centeredness; feast on compassion.
Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.

Fast from giving up; feast on enthusiasm.
Fast from the shadows of sorrow; feast on trust in God.

PE ACHIEVEMENTS AT DUKES



FOOTBALL

The Year 7 team have had numerous fixtures this year away to Alnwick, Tweedmouth and Blyth. They have performed admirably all over Northumberland. A Freddie Bewlay hat-trick in a demolition of Blyth Academy and a Stuart Allen 40 yard free kick in the Ashington derby were the highlights from the last round of Central Venue fixtures hosted at Blyth Academy.

The Year 8 boys football team have been to Duchess and Ponteland this half term. They have put in strong performances with plenty of debuts from new players in both teams. Stand out performers go to Jude Priest and Adam Wilson for consistency and showing superb Light Elite attitudes.

The Year 9 team were away to Duchess, achieving a well earned draw. Shout out to TW Armstrong for his first goal of the season.

ATHLETICS

This month, three of our Sportshall Athletics teams competed in the County Finals at Blyth Leisure Centre. Representing Ashington & Coquet, we were up against teams from Blyth & Bedlington, Cramlington & Seaton Valley, Morpeth & Ponteland, North Northumberland and Tynedale. Competing were our Year 7 girls team, and our Year 8 girls and boys teams.

All students represented Dukes brilliantly and gave 100% effort all day. Congratulations to our Year 7 girls who finished 3rd, and our Year 8 boys who finished 2nd.



BASKETBALL

Duke's 'A' vs Bede 'A' - Won 19-16 in a competitive back and forth battle. Serign Touray dominated the game from the Point Guard position, regularly driving to the basket to score a range of impressive and creative layups. Dylan Hall put in an exceptional shift on both ends of the court and was a consistent performer throughout. Ayanfe Gbadebo was fantastic with his rebounds on both ends of the court and was an athletic presence all game. On the same night the 'B' squad lost a close encounter to their Blyth counterparts.

National Careers Week

Did you know it's National Career's Week from the 6 - 11 March? At Dukes, we will be including a careers focus in all lessons this week to show students where their subjects can take them. Look out for additional events such as our annual World of Work Day on Wed 8 March where we will be joined by over 30 employers!

EMPOWER. ENGAGE. INSPIRE.

#NCW2023

IS COMING.

National Careers Week

NCW

Headline Partner:



NatWest Group

WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday 2nd March 2023. We have a range of fun activities planned to celebrate our love of reading.

SQUASHED STORY

Across the day KS3 students will listen to a recording of *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame. We have shortened the story into 5 parts and it has been narrated by Miss Nicol.

TUTOR TIME

Tutor time activities (in tutor time) will be several activities such as the World Book Day Quiz - just for fun.

Guess staff 'shelfies' and 'Desert Island reads' as well as seeing which books Duke's staff are currently reading.

READING REWARDING

Tea Party for students who have demonstrated excellent reading habits this year. Some of these are: reading over a million words on Accelerated Reader, withdrawing the most books in their year group (both from Duke's library and eplatform), reading challenging texts, engaging in extra reading every day in the library or at home and sharing. Parents will be invited to the event. We hope to do this before the Easter holidays.

AND MORE...

We also have two in-house competitions - design a book cover and write a book review, the winner from each category will receive a £10 Amazon voucher. These competitions close Friday 28th April.

All students will have access to a 'pick and mix' style sheet in their English Google classroom where they can revisit any of the activities from the day and also follow links to new ones such as masterclasses from authors and illustrators as well as competitions and challenges from the World Book Day website.

Light Elite



LIGHT Elite aspires to raise student achievement linked directly to our School vision of 'Enabling everyone in our communities to let their light shine.' [Matthew 5:16]. Our initiative aims to provide a platform filled with challenges and opportunities for our students to flourish. Each one highlights one or more of our LIGHT values.

The celebration on the 28th February was for the top 3 students within 'The Three Rs' leaderboard and therefore have been the most Ready, Respectful and Responsible towards their learning, their peers and the staff they work with over last half term.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

The 16th annual National Apprenticeship Week took place from 6th to 12th February 2023.

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) 2023 shone a light on the amazing work being done by apprentices, employers, and their training providers across the country. The theme for National Apprenticeship Week 2023 was 'Skills for Life'.

The annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships, taking place across England, reflected on how apprenticeships can help individuals to develop the skills and knowledge required for a rewarding career, and businesses to develop a talented workforce that is equipped with future-ready skills.

Duke's Secondary School hosted our own events during the week, which included The Big Assembly, apprenticeship registration workshops, apprenticeship fairs, tutor time activities and many more!

You can keep up to date with the latest Apprenticeship news by following social media channels: @Apprenticeships and @AmazingAppsUK on Twitter and Apprenticeships Gov on LinkedIn.

DUKE'S SECONDARY

Community Catch-Up

FORMERLY WINTER WARMER

a homely, warm evening with...

FREE FOOD & DRINKS

COATS • RAFFLE • TOILETRIES

Tue 28th March 5pm - 7pm



Bring the Family!

STUDENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

**BOOKING REQUIRED CHECK
OUT OUR WEBSITE OR SCAN
THIS QR CODE! →**





WEAR YOUR SCARF TO SCHOOL DAY

WRAP UP JAMES KNOTT

The children at James Knott took part in Coram Life Education's 'Wear your Scarf to School Day' to support Children's Mental Health Week which was the 6th to the 12th Feb.



During the day we thought about whether our choice of scarf said something special about us and the ways in which different scarves could reflect the SCARF values we use to support our Personal, Social and Health education (PSHE) teaching. For example:

SAFETY - some scarves will be warm and comforting, helping to keep someone snug and safe in very cold weather!

CARING - some scarves might have been a present from a special person; they'll help make someone feel cared for. Wearing a scarf as part of religious faith can also help someone to feel cared for.

ACHIEVEMENT - some scarves might be part of a club, perhaps a sports team. These are waved when a club achieves (e.g. when a football team scores a goal!) They also show when someone belongs to something.

RESILIENCE - a football team's scarf can also help someone to remember that they can still support a team even if it's not doing well; they can show resilience when bouncing back from defeat or disappointment.

FRIENDSHIP - maybe some scarves were a gift from a friend and this makes them extra special.

It was a fantastic day of reflection for all the children. Thank you all.

BISHOP'S PRIMARY

The Romans at Bishop's

Students in Year 4 showed off their fantastic homework projects today by taking part in a Roman army march and recreating Roman army formations. I am so impressed with the effort they have made at home - a big well done to all of the parents/carers who helped!



GRACE DARLING

"All you need is love" day

Children throughout the school took part in 'All you need is love' day on 14th February.

Along with the sound of the Beatles filling the corridor, children shared stories, completed a range of activities and discussed a number of themes

including: valuing diversity, celebrating difference, being unique, gender, different family same love, acceptance and understanding.

Some of the favourite shared stories were Julian is a mermaid, 10,000 dresses and Queer Heroes.



Love is...



Proud



Being unique



Difference

Stay and Play

At William Leech



A great turnout

We welcomed families to our Nursery Stay and Play at William Leech. Parents and carers were able to join in with their child's learning and see what their day looked like after the usual drop off.

It was very popular and both children and grown ups enjoyed it so much it will be a regular feature in our school calendar.



THOMAS BEWICK

STORY TIME WITH RECEPTION

This month, in Reception, we have had great fun learning to tap out a rhythm on the Djembe drums as part of our story book Handa's Surprise. We have been watching African dancing and listening to African music.



EUROPE...

In Year 5, we have been learning all about European countries. As part of our enquiry, we have been identifying traditional foods and dishes from different European countries and we also got to taste some of them! During our tasting session, we were describing the flavour, texture and appearance of the different foods and we were also thinking about how the flavours differ from country to country. We had so much fun and were extremely full afterwards!





NCEAT REMINDERS

Your monthly reminders from around the Trust

Northumberland Community Bank

At Northumberland Community Bank (NCB) our members tell us that having access to a small loan, especially at Christmas or Holiday times, can be extremely useful - that's why we introduced our Family Loan designed to help you save and borrow at the same time!

When you take out a Family Loan with NCB, we will deduct your loan repayment out of your child benefit and pay the remainder in to your savings account; by the time your loan has been repaid, you will have built up over £100 in your savings account!!

Find out more about our Family Loans by visiting www.northumberlandcommunitybank.co.uk

Northumberland
Community Bank



World Book Day

The 2nd March is World Book Day!

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

2 MARCH 2023

We are celebrating across all schools and can't wait to see the fantastic costumes from everybody!



Free School Meals

There's still time!
Don't forget to register for free school meals.

Teacher Strikes

Further strike days have been called by the NEU for 15th March & 16th March. Schools will communicate with parents regarding arrangements as soon as we can.



PLACES AVAILABLE

15 HOURS A WEEK

**FREE
CHILDCARE
AVAILABLE**

CALL RECEPTION

30 HOURS A WEEK

**FREE
NURSERY
PROVISION**

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

CALL US TO FIND OUT MORE



*Subject to eligibility criteria

KEEP UP TO DATE

with the Trust



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