

# MONKSEATON HIGH SCHOOL



Dear students, parents and carers,

Welcome to the final newsletter of the academic year 2014-2015. Once again you will see that there have been many events and activities taking place this last term, and I am delighted that every member of our school community has had the opportunity to take part in one way or another. We have had the pleasure of hosting our new students in school for their transfer event and given them the opportunity to experience life here at MHS before they join us in September. This is a daunting time for them but as always our current students were welcoming and supportive. As we approach the last week of term, we are preparing once again for an action-packed schedule of events for all students. Whilst they have all worked incredibly hard on their academic studies this last year and achieved great success, it is also important that young people engage in enrichment opportunities and different experiences. Next week will give them the opportunity to do just that. Our Activities' Week is a fabulous opportunity for all our students to get involved and try something new, a bit different or just to enjoy doing something they already love. We will keep the website updated throughout the week, so look out for the pictures! The activities include Diversity Day, Sports' Day, Culture Day and Activities' Day. Friday will be a celebration of the week and we can share some of the experiences students and staff have enjoyed.

This academic year has gone so quickly and we have seen our students across all year groups achieve great things. In particular, the students who have undertaken formal examinations have shown unprecedented levels of commitment and I would therefore like to congratulate them all on their achievements. I cannot wait to see their success come to fruition in August when they receive their results. We have seen so many different success stories and celebrated achievements along the way. I would also like to thank all parents, carers and supporters of the school for working so positively with us and ensuring we continue to work together to provide the best possible environment for our young people to thrive.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the staff at Monkseaton because without their continued hard work, dedication and commitment none of the above would be possible. I am incredibly privileged to work with such a dedicated team of people who genuinely make a difference each and every day.

I hope you all have a restful and safe summer break.

**Mrs Tracy Crowder**  
Headteacher



13th August - Results (A2 8-10am) (AS 10am-3pm)

14th August - Sixth Form Re-enrolment (9am-12)

20th August - GCSE Results (9am)

20th & 21st August - Sixth Form Enrolment (9am)

1st & 2nd September - Staff Training

3rd September - Students back to school

9th September - School Photographer

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**Bliss**  
for babies born too soon,  
too small, too sick

The  
Breast  
Cancer

Research  
Foundation.



## 'Intestgenes' - Year Nine Leading Edge

Six of our Year Nine students, James Leslie, Nathan Reay, Helena Wheatley, Zara Matthewson, Amy Davison and Amonik Melaco, contributed to cutting edge science as part of the Leading Edge project. The aim of their project was to understand what happens to certain genes in human intestinal cells when placed under stress. This is thought to be a major contributor to inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Alongside the academics from Newcastle University, the students extracted RNA from cells under different stresses. The highlight of their practical work was the dissection of the pig intestine!

## Aerospace Challenge

Teams from fourteen regional school Sixth Forms and colleges congregated at Hartlepool College of Further Education on 1st July to take part in a large-scale aviation challenge day. Sponsored by The Further Mathematics Support Programme, the event was jointly organised and run by Teesside University and Hartlepool College of Further Education.



## University Support for our EPQ Students

On Tuesday 31st March and Thursday 2nd April 2015 academics from the Universities of Loughborough and Northumbria worked with Year Twelve students on good scholarly practice in order to help them acquire the skills needed to tackle the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Between forty and fifty students attended sessions that took place in the Lower Gym and the first floor ILAs. A tremendous amount of material was covered over the two days but the principal foci lay in evaluating information, avoiding plagiarism and referencing source material correctly. The skills that the students learnt will stand them in good stead for both their studies at Monkseaton and any future university courses that they may undertake.

The sessions were led by Loughborough reader Mark Hepworth, who has attracted international fame in his particular discipline, Northumbria lecturer Geoff Walton and Northumbria research student Lara Dodd. For many years, Dr. Shenton has run the EPQ sessions himself but he was delighted this year to be able to enlist the help of Higher Education academics in order to provide our students with what he has called "a great chance" to sample the kind of teaching that is typically offered in high calibre universities.

In June, the students spent four days in Newcastle, using the resources within the libraries of the two universities to support their EPQ work. All of the students were shown how to research, reference and access the library catalogues. The students were absolutely fantastic throughout and loved the experience of being a university student for a while!



## Annual Student Arts Exhibition

GCSE and A Level students in Art, Photography, Music, Design Technology and Textiles were represented by the exciting work on display. The expanding Arts Department had its biggest cohort to date this year, and the students had produced a diverse range of work from classical drawings, compositions and performances, to contemporary sculpture, dresses and costume. The school welcomed everyone who had an interest in viewing the work of such talented students to come along to the exciting exhibition. The night was a great success and we look forward to see everyone again next year.



## Work Experience

Massive congratulations to all Year Ten students who took part in work experience last week. It was a pleasure for staff to visit students at their placements and to hear not only fantastic feedback from the employers but also to see our students fully engaged in their work and enjoying themselves.



## A Day at the 'Carn-evil'!

On Thursday, 25th June, nine students from the AS English Literature cohort went to visit the University of Sunderland's English Department for their annual 'Spectral Visions' conference. This year, the theme was 'Carn-evil'. Indeed, as soon as we set foot in the lecture theatre we were faced with fortune tellers, werewolves, balloons and absolutely terrifying clowns! Armed with their trusty notebooks, our MHS students furiously scribbled down notes as lectures about 'Freakshows and the monstrous body', 'Romantic Gothic' and 'The Bloody Chamber' were expertly delivered. Later in the day, we were challenged to come up with gothic-themed creative writing. The event offered students a sense of what it's like to study English courses at university level and gave our students a taster of what lies ahead in their A2 year.



## Go4Set Engineering Project

Huge congratulations to our winning STEM Go4SET Engineering Team who won overall Big Bang Fair North East Intermediate Engineering Award and Best Team Work Award for the Go4Set EDT Project. Furthermore they gained top marks against all the judging criteria, better than any other school in the competition! This is an outstanding achievement which has also earned them a silver crest award for their efforts. Well done!



## Year Ten Spanish Cultural Enrichment Trip

On Thursday, 4th June the Year Ten Spanish class, accompanied by Mrs Graham and Miss Mullan, went on a cultural enrichment visit to The Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle. We went to view the Conscience and Conflict exhibition which told the story of the Spanish Civil War through art and featured works by Burra, Miró and, most excitingly, Picasso's Weeping Woman. This was an excellent opportunity for students and gave them a real insight into the Spanish Civil War. It was also a chance for them to see how their experiences can be broadened by the study of languages and the relevance of languages to various aspects of life. We completed our trip by having lunch at Zapatista, a Mexican restaurant in Newcastle. This was a new experience for many students, with some trying foods they had never had before.



## History Workshop

The History department took 25 students to Newcastle University Library to take part in a workshop to design their own First World War cartoon. As part of the day students were able to handle artefacts including letters from Henry VIII and Queen Victoria. Students were able to research a local soldier and build a picture of what his life was like before the war and then what happened to him during the war. Students worked in small groups and were able to work closely with a local artist and a professional cartoonist. The most exciting part of the day was to find out that the students work will be published giving others the opportunity to see their fantastic work.



## Monkseaton Ace Tennis Event at Westminster

Monkseaton High School represented Newcastle United at Premier League 4 Sport (PL4S) tennis tournament in London. The Year Nine pupils, who attend the PL4S satellite club every week, were only one of six Premier League clubs to be invited to the British Tennis event in the shadow of London's Elizabeth Tower - home to Big Ben. The event showcased the collaboration of British Tennis and the Premier League as the tennis season begins in earnest. Launched in 2009 as an Olympic Legacy programme, PL4S continues to grow and now delivers twelve non-football sports through 34 professional football clubs. The Magpies were playing alongside Chelsea, Tottenham Hotspur, Stoke, Wigan and Aston Villa for the afternoon tournament, battling it out to be the Premier League 4 Sport's top tennis team. Ex-Chelsea and England legend, Graeme Le Saux and Judy Murray, mother of tennis ace, Andy Murray, were in attendance to discuss the importance of supporting the sporting development of young people.





## Football Academy

The Football Academy has completed another hugely successful season and celebrated the year's achievements with their annual presentation evening, which was held at the Seahorse Pub, Whitley Bay Football Club.

Picking up the ESFA U18 National Trophy and the ECFA U19 Premier League Trophy on behalf of the squad was first team captain Elliot Tate. The Northumberland Schools Division 1 League Trophy was presented to second team captain Joe Johnson. The Northumberland Schools seven-a-side Trophy was presented to Femi Williams who was captain on the day of the tournament.

In addition to celebrating team success, individual success was also recognised and the following awards were presented on the night:

Most Improved Player Trophy – Daniel Freedman  
Top Goalscorer Trophy – Paul Blackett  
Young Player of the Year Trophy – Josh Briggs  
Player of the Year Trophy – Paul Blackett  
Players Player of the Year Trophy – Oscar Mitchell  
Steven Taylor Award for Achievement in Football – Kieran Ingram

A special mention must also go to Jordan Summerly, who picked up a trophy for winning the annual Football Academy Go Karting Championship back in December!

Finally, there are six students who graduate from the Football Academy this year who have attained four-year scholarships at universities in the USA:

Liam Doyle – Queens University, North Carolina  
Kieran Ingram – Francis Marion University, South Carolina  
Robert Lee Taylor, Oscar Mitchell, Matthew Jackson, Elliot Tate – Mars Hill University, North Carolina

This is a fantastic achievement and we wish all these boys well in their new adventure across in America, along with the other lads who graduate from the Football Academy and embark on university life here in the UK.



## Year Twelve Taster Days

Some of our Year Eleven students have already made a start to their Year Twelve studies. Students considering studying Science and Maths were invited to taster sessions to give them an idea of what to expect in September.

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