

MONKSEATON

HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

This last term within the world of education has once again seen it all really, the good the bad and the ugly. Thankfully the good and all to be celebrated have continued to be the focus in school, with much to celebrate. As you may know, we made the shortlist for the TES Secondary School of the Year Award and whilst we were not overall winners we were delighted to have reached that far – to be there as one of the top eight schools nationally is an achievement in itself. We have also received the amazing news that we are the sixth highest performing school for Pupil Premium in the North. As always, as we approach the summer break, we have also come to the end of the examination period. Once again, I have been in awe of the commitment from both students and staff in their approach and preparation for the examinations. This year has seen a particularly long and protracted exam period that has tested students, staff and parents in terms of the sheer length of time they have been in the process. This last term has also seen many students get involved in a variety of activities beyond the classroom, some of which you can read about within this newsletter. One event of special note has been the ‘Send My Friend To School’ project run by a group of Year Nine students. This has been led entirely by them and has involved Monkseaton Middle School and Langley First School too. MP Alan Campbell came into school for the presentation of the rucksacks they made and will take them to parliament on the students’ behalf. This is just one example of the amazing work our students do and which extends beyond their typical studies within the classroom, showing once again that they are well rounded and responsible young people who are a credit to themselves, the school and you their families. I am sure you will agree that we have much to celebrate here at MHS, most of all the wonderful sense of community, not just within our school walls but also beyond. So much to celebrate, and also lots to be proud of, too. Of course, without your backing the partnership and all round efforts would not be possible. So thank you too for your ongoing support and we look forward to working with you again next academic year.

Mrs Tracy Crowder
Headteacher



5th September – Teacher Training Day

6th October – Information Evening for all years

21st October – Break up for half term

25th November – Teacher Training Day



MONKSEATON'S SIXTH FORMERS BECOME UNIVERSITY STUDENTS FOR A WEEK!



During the week beginning Monday, 13th June, most of the Year Twelve students began five days of study in the university libraries of Northumbria and Newcastle. Some of the Sixth Formers were tackling subject-based research tasks, whilst others gathered information for their Extended Project Qualifications. Mr. Sherlaw and Dr. Shenton were on hand to help throughout the week and additional members of Monkseaton staff joined them as their timetables permitted. The visit was a fantastic opportunity for the students to gain advance experience of life in Higher Education and to collect for academic purposes information from sources that would normally be inaccessible to them. The students took responsibility for their learning and in the second half of the week made their own decisions about whether they should conduct their research at Northumbria or Newcastle. On the final afternoon, Mr. Sherlaw and Dr. Shenton administered a feedback questionnaire, which revealed that student attitudes to the whole week were overwhelmingly positive. It had been an enjoyable and productive week for virtually everyone.

THE WORKERS OF YEAR TEN



Year Ten students went on a week's work experience from Monday, 4th July. It was a highly successful week, with students visiting an array of businesses such as music companies, dog grooming parlours, digital agencies and cafés. Students learnt a diverse range of skills and experienced life in a workplace.

Feedback on how student performed was exceptional, with students being proactive in their work and working additional hours.

SCIENCE NEWS

From January to July, six of our Year Nine students were working with a research academic from Newcastle University as part of the 'Leading Edge' project. They gained hands-on experience in the researcher's laboratory and developed their communication and presentation skills. The finale took place on Wednesday, 6th July at the University's medical school. The students presented their project, 'Messing Up Mitosis', which was about researching and testing new cancer drugs.



EURO 2016 MATHS MASTERCLASS

In June, Year Seven students from all four local middle schools visited Monkseaton High to take part in a Euro 2016 Maths event. We used real life data and put each team 'head to head' to try and predict which team would win Euro 2016. After many calculations and battles, Poland came out as our eventual winners. A successful day all round, apart from our prediction!

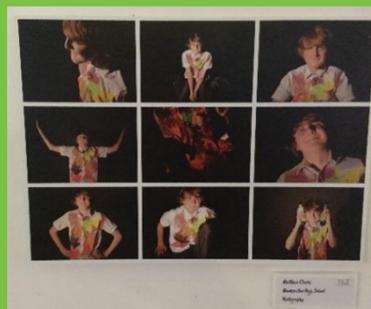


BEACH RUGBY SUCCESS!

Girls in Year Nine have been working with the RFU throughout the year within lessons and in extra-curricular clubs to prepare for the annual 'beach rugby' competition. The girls participated in a touch competition at Longsands Beach, Tynemouth, winning an impressive six matches playing against schools from the north-east.



TICE GOLD AWARDS



A massive well done to the seven students who made it to the final TICE Gold Award and had a fantastic exhibition at the Hancock Museum! The students involved were James Murray, Elle Bostock, Layla Faetz, Matthew Clark, Jacob Greenwood, Zara Matthewson and Helena Wheatley.

The opening show was on Tuesday, 5th July and students were invited to collect their certificates and show off their final photographs to the hundreds of others who attended. These included mentors of TICE, university lecturers, fellow TICE participants and family members.

This was a fantastic event which really showcased how the creative arts are integral to helping young people achieve their potential. We would also like to thank the TICE crew for this amazing opportunity and to Mrs. Malkin who coordinated the trips with students. We would love to do it all again next year so creative Year Nine and Ten students you could have the opportunity to be involved in this in 2017!

GREAT INTERVIEW EXPERIENCE!

This term sixty students in Year Ten were interviewed by leading organisations in the north-east, including the NHS, Accenture and the RAF. Students had to prepare and were formally interviewed for different positions. They performed exceptionally well, with some being asked to apply for different jobs and apprenticeships.

SEND MY FRIEND TO SCHOOL



Our MP, Alan Campbell, came and listened to students from Monkseaton High, Monkseaton Middle and Langley First School present to him on the 'Send My Friend To School' campaign.

A group of Year Nine students have been researching why some children do not get the opportunity to go to school. They were shocked by what they found – thirty-seven million children do not get the chance of an education, and the students felt compelled to spread the message. The whole of Year Nine have been making paper rucksacks with messages on to world leaders to tell them that we think all children should have the right to an education. A group of ten Year Nines went to Monkseaton Middle School to tell Years Five and Six what they had learnt and to Langley First School to speak to Year One. Our students helped the Year Ones to make their own rucksacks. We presented a box of our rucksacks and messages to Alan Campbell, and he has agreed to take them to David Cameron for us.



We have been so proud of the reaction of the year group to the 'Send My Friend To School' campaign. They have shown great compassion and empathy for children missing out on the right to an education, and wanted to spread what they had learnt from the campaign to other local students. They have done so with great passion and maturity.

BARCELONA 2016

The weekend of 1st–4th July saw twenty-two students, together with four members of staff, enjoy a fabulous visit to the captivating city of Barcelona. The group, which included students from Years Nine, Ten and Eleven, spent an action-packed three days visiting some of the city's main tourist attractions: Parc Guell, La Sagrada Familia, the Nou Camp stadium and museum and Port Aventura theme park. The sun shone, many miles were walked, T-shirts were bought, euros were spent and a marvelous time was had by all.

Watch this space for news of our next trip abroad...

OUR "ENTERPRISING" YOUNG PEOPLE

On 29th April, we ran an Enterprise Day for all students in Years Nine and Ten, in conjunction with The National Enterprise Challenge. The National Enterprise Challenge runs across the country and is sponsored by Ryman Stationery and 'Dragon's Den' entrepreneur, Theo Paphitis. The prize is a trip to Disneyland Paris and funding from Theo Paphitis. Students had to work in teams to create a business that would operate in school. We saw some brilliant ideas, from solar powered tables to vanity vending machines, school planning apps to stationery stalls. Students presented to their peers and a panel of judges, with the winning group being Soleil in Year Nine.

On the 29th June, the winning group travelled to Doncaster Race Course to compete with other schools from across the UK. Soleil performed brilliantly in their pitch. We also saw motivational speeches and question and answer sessions from Eddie the Eagle and Theo Paphitis.

SKILLS TO SHINE



As part of a curriculum enrichment programme which has been running since September 2015, a number of students took part in a weekend residential visit to Kingswood, an outdoor education centre in Northumberland. In May this year, led by Mr. Thompson and Miss McCallum, our group of intrepid adventurers tackled such tasks as 'The Leap of Faith' and the zip wire, along with orienteering (whilst blindfolded), abseiling, archery and problem-solving. Our group included students from Years Ten, Eleven and Twelve, who challenged themselves to complete some quite daring feats, got very muddy in the process, but had a great time.

KEY STAGE THREE HISTORY DAY

On 24th June 2016, some Year Seven and Eight students from Monkseaton Middle, Valley Gardens and Marden Bridge Middle schools came to Monkseaton, alongside Year Ten students on work experience from Whitley Bay High School, for a day of collaborative and enquiry-based learning. These twenty-four students all worked on the same theme – the challenges facing the world in 1945 when attempting to rebuild after World War Two. The students worked in small groups to investigate issues such as refugees, nuclear power, the Cold War, denazification and Israel. Each group completed a separate area of investigation using a selection of primary and secondary sources, before compiling a white board summary and delivering presentations to each other. It was an excellent day, a valuable learning experience and the students were a real credit to their schools.

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