



END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER



KS2

Year 5

Our Year 5 pupils have also been very busy. Some classes have successfully completed their *Bikeability* course, developing important cycling skills and road safety awareness. Further sessions will be taking place in the next academic year, and we look forward to more pupils taking part.

Year 5 enjoyed an engaging visit to Jarrow Hall, bringing their history topic to life through hands-on experiences. The Year 5 pupils were inspired by our Space unit, and some of them created fantastic solar system models. These are currently being showcased in our library and have impressed everyone who has seen them!

Year 5 thoroughly enjoyed swimming this year and put a great deal of effort into every lesson, demonstrating enthusiasm and making excellent progress.

Year 6

Firstly, we would like to say a huge congratulations to our Year 6 students who completed their SATs. We are incredibly proud of their positive attitudes, resilience, and the hard work they demonstrated throughout the assessment period.

Year 6 students also enjoyed their much-anticipated residential visit to Ford Castle. The trip provided a wonderful opportunity for pupils to build independence, develop friendships, and take part in a range of outdoor activities. Our pupils who chose not to visit, took part in a jam-packed programme at school, with Mrs Penman-baking, games, sports and quizzes!

KS2

We were delighted to welcome another visiting author into school. This author joined us on 29th June to complete an assembly all about the journey to becoming an author. Each class then followed this up with a small workshop where we planned our own stories and helped us explore our creativity within writing.

In May, a number of our pupils from Years 5 and 6 represented the school brilliantly in the Gosforth Group Maths Challenge, showcasing their problem-solving skills and teamwork. This term, we also launched our new handwriting policy, and we are already seeing fantastic progress. Pupils have been working hard to apply the “4P’s” across all subjects- well done to everyone for becoming handwriting superstars!

We were pleased to host the NSPCC, who delivered an important and informative assembly about staying safe and speaking out. This was a valuable opportunity to reinforce key messages around wellbeing and safeguarding.

Throughout the term, we have had great fun celebrating reading through a number of competitions, including Story in a Jar, David Attenborough’s Birthday Challenge, and Weird and Wonderful Reading Spots. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm and creativity from our pupils.

On the 10th July, KS2 experienced a ‘Careers super learning day’, with the theme: ‘When I grow up, I want to be...’ Students took part in various activities from designing uniforms to researching salaries and money managing. Each class were also welcomed into the mini careers fair where they were able to explore unfamiliar professions. Thank you to all parents/family members for attending and supporting our first ever careers fair!

We are looking forwards to our ‘Yellow week’ activities- Beamish (Y6), Beach trip (Y5) and The Eagles visit (STEM workshops).



KS2 DRAMA CLUB



Pupils in the Key Stage 2 drama club have enjoyed a truly successful and memorable year, filled with three fantastic productions and countless moments of creativity, teamwork, and laughter during rehearsals.

In the Autumn term, they focused on building a strong ensemble, showcasing impressive collaboration and groupwork in their lively performance of *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*.

During the Spring term, pupils explored the world of physical theatre, a skill that was showcased in their vibrant production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, complete with plenty of funny and unforgettable moments.

Finally, in the Summer term, they brought together everything they've learned and have demonstrated growing confidence and independence as they took on more individualised roles in their imaginative staging of *Alice in Wonderland*.

It has been a joy to see their skills flourish across the year, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.

KS2 DANCE CLUB

The KS2 Dance Club have had a fabulous year filled with two big performances. Earlier this year, the club took to the stage for their very first performance, dancing to *Snowman* by Sia. Despite it being their debut show, the children performed beautifully and impressed everyone with their confidence, focus and teamwork. Throughout the year, they have explored a range of dance styles, including jazz, contemporary, hip-hop and lyrical dance, developing new skills and growing in confidence with every routine. It has been wonderful to see their progress.

They recently delivered a fantastic performance in our production of *Matilda*. Dancing in front of the largest audience they have ever performed for, the children showed tremendous confidence, enthusiasm and talent. Their success is a testament to the hard work, commitment and dedication they have shown throughout the year, attending rehearsals with a positive attitude and always striving to improve. They represented the school brilliantly and should be very proud of their achievement.

LANGUAGES

We've had such a 'fenomenal' year in Languages and we have been particularly pleased at how our students have shown incredible positivity and enthusiasm to learning the new main language here at Great Park, Spanish.

A particular highlight of the year was when we hosted the German rock band 'Munich SupercREW'. Around eighty of our students along with one hundred and seventy students from schools across the North East got to learn the lyrics and join in with a real live German rock concert!

We have also had many exciting Languages events going on outside of Languages lessons. In Duolingo club, we have had students learning over 15 different languages and in Languages Club, we have had students learning many different languages such as Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Portuguese, German and French and we have also made origami for Refugee week, built lego buildings of famous places around the world, learnt about the Day of the Dead in Mexico and so much more! We also had a group of students go to the Multilingual Poetry Slam as part of the North East festival of Languages. Students worked with professional poets to produce poems in a variety of languages and they then performed them in front of a whole conference room.

Finally, this year we have made a link with a school in Zaragoza, IES Coruna. Our students have been sending letters to their penpals and have recently produced videos in Spanish giving a tour of our school to their penpals in Spain. We are looking to extend this link further in the upcoming years!

MUSIC

This term in music all our KS3 pupils have enjoyed our exciting partnership with Music Futures, which has given each pupil the chance to learn an instrument and perform in a band. This year they have all had the chance to learn the guitar and the drums and have enjoyed performing songs including I'm A Believer, Livin' on A Prayer and Jonny B Goode. The pupils have shown fantastic teamwork and dedication, as they have worked hard to practise their instruments, and to rehearse and perform as part of an ensemble.

GPA CHOIR

The GPA choir have taken part in some fantastic performances, both in and out of school, over the past year. The children first performed in the Autumn Term at the official opening of the new building, for several guests including MP Catherine McKinnell. Later that term they performed for friends and family at the Performing Arts Christmas showcase in the auditorium.

During the Spring Term the choir did an excellent job of representing the school at the Newcastle Middle and Secondary showcase at Northern Stage, where they performed on Northern Stage's Stage 1 to an audience of over 400 people.

This term the choir have yet again done a brilliant job of representing the school, by taking part in Newcastle Sings. This was a wonderful event where the children walked around Newcastle City Centre, beautifully performing A cappella music in 2- and 3-part harmony, in different cultural venues, including the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle City Library, the Grainger Market and the Hancock Museum.

KS3 DANCE

Our KS3 Dance students have had a fantastic year, showcasing creativity, teamwork and real performance flair. This term, they worked incredibly hard to develop original routines inspired by Matilda the Musical, exploring characterisation, storytelling through movement, and ensemble choreography. Their dedication paid off when they performed their finished pieces to an audience of parents and carers, who were thoroughly impressed by the confidence and energy displayed on stage. It was a wonderful celebration of their progress and a proud moment for everyone involved.

KS3 DRAMA

KS3 Drama students have brought the world of Matilda to life with energy, imagination and real theatrical flair. Over the summer term, they worked collaboratively to rehearse and refine a full Matilda performance, taking on roles both on stage and behind the scenes. From character development and expressive acting to props, staging and creative direction, students demonstrated growing confidence and strong ensemble skills. Their final performance was shared with families, who were delighted by the humour, commitment and professionalism shown throughout. It was a brilliant celebration of their hard work and developing talent.

YEAR 7 DRAMA

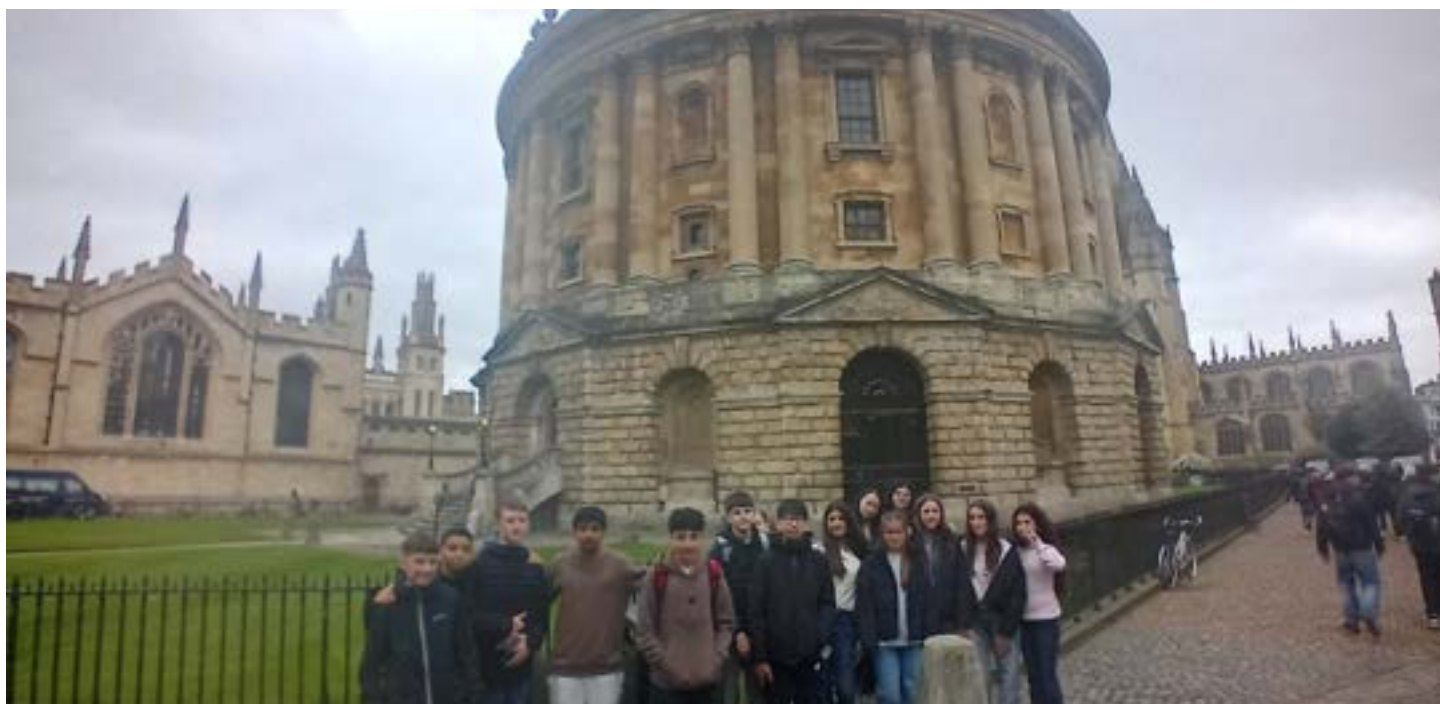
Our Year 7 students have impressed us with their creativity and professionalism while preparing their Summer Showcase Project for parents. They took on a wide range of roles, not only shining as confident performers but also stepping behind the scenes to manage key production responsibilities such as staging, lighting, costume ideas and technical support. Their commitment, teamwork and enthusiasm resulted in a polished and engaging showcase that highlighted their growing independence and collaborative skills. It was a wonderful celebration of their achievements this year.

FUSION BAND

Our Fusion Band have been working hard all year, learning new songs, instruments and playing techniques. They have created fantastic performances of Creep, California Dreaming and Shake It Off, ready to perform in the new academic year, after a successful performance of Christmas songs in the Performing Arts Christmas Showcase 2025. They have shown excellent teamwork and dedication, rehearsing every week as an ensemble and always keenly and warmly welcoming new members.

Y9 TRIP ORACY TRIP TO OXFORD

Earlier this academic year, a group of Year 9 pupils enjoyed an inspiring residential visit to the University of Oxford, where they showcased their speaking and presentation skills through a series of fantastically engaging oracy presentations on topics of their own choice. Pupils impressed staff and university ambassadors alike with their confidence, enthusiasm and thoughtful delivery. Alongside their presentations, students took part in a wide range of activities designed to broaden their understanding of higher education and university life, including tours of St Anne's College and Jesus College, plus workshops around life as a student. One of the highlights of the trip was a hands-on visit to the Oxford University Museum of Natural History.



Newcastle University Science Fair



Earlier in the academic year, Isaac S (8A) worked diligently on his entry to this year's Newcastle University Science Fair for school pupils. In early March, he attended the Science Fair at Newcastle University to present his project.

This year, Isaac's project involved using AI to create an app that supports neurodivergent individuals in understanding the subtle meanings sometimes hidden in language. I'm sure you'll all agree that having the initial idea for such a wonderful, thoughtful, and well-intentioned project, and then putting in the time and hard work to bring it to life, is truly exceptional.



Incredibly, for the second year in a row, Isaac has come away from the Science Fair (attended by many schools in the region) with a prize. This year, Isaac won the "Special recognition" award for a project that really stood out and impressed the judges.

Importantly, Isaac said that he had a lot of fun doing the project.

Further Maths

Our first cohort of Year 10 Further Mathematicians have worked hard all year in pursuit of this challenging qualification, outside of their timetabled Maths lessons. We recently attended a Further Maths Conference at the Royal Grammar School, where the students were able to take part in a range of activities, including a careers fair, a networking event, a talk from the ex CEO of Playstation and some competitive Maths where our team was awarded a prize for their fantastic work.

HUMANITIES

Geography Fieldwork

We were very impressed with how our first Y10 cohort conducted themselves on the GCSE fieldwork trip. Students completed two half days of data collection – one at Seaton Burn River, and one on Great Park housing estate. They engaged well with each other and the public to collect all the data needed for their Paper 3 exam. They are now beginning the process of presenting and analysing this data in lessons, showcasing various skills learnt both on the trip and beyond.

NE Wonder Challenge

A fabulous group of Y8 students have worked tirelessly since October, taking part in the Northeast Wonder Challenge. They designed and built their own sustainable school for the future, and in July had the chance to present their ideas to a panel of judges including construction industry experts at Newcastle College. We are very pleased to announce that Great Park Academy won the competition! Students conducted themselves excellently throughout and should be very proud of their achievements.

YEAR 9 ART

A group of year 9 students have been working on military inspired artwork for the Op COURAGE centre in Sunderland. This is a dedicated NHS mental health and wellbeing service for UK Armed Forces veterans, reservists, and service leavers where one of our parents works. Their original centre was destroyed by fire, and so Mrs Bowers who works for the provision asked if our students could create some work to brighten up the environment of the new place. Students have worked well in teams to create some striking paintings.



ATTENDANCE

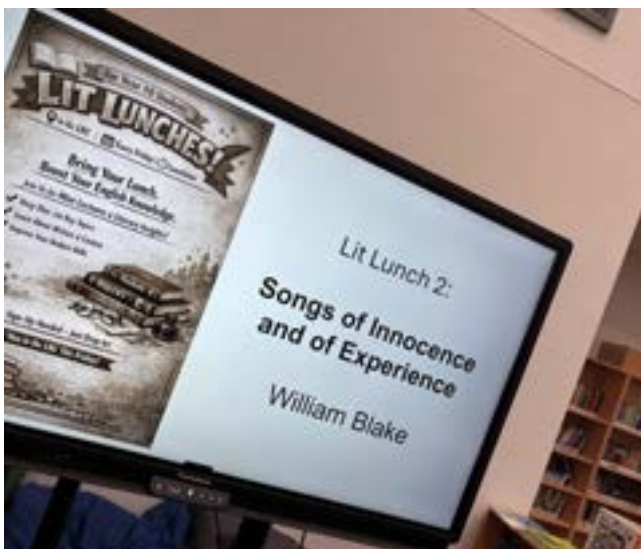
It is fantastic to see that over half of our students at Great Park Academy have exceeded the school's attendance target of 97%. Having more than half of our student body achieve this milestone is a strong indicator of high levels of student engagement, alongside the excellent support provided by families at home.

While this is a fantastic achievement, we hope to see this success continue to grow in the new school year. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to excellent attendance, and keep up the great work!

ENGLISH



The English department has enjoyed a fantastic year of extracurricular enrichment, providing students with a wide range of opportunities to develop their creativity, confidence and love of literature. Year 10 students took part in our popular Lit Lunches, while the Creative Writing Club celebrated considerable success, with students earning an impressive number of prizes for their work. Throughout the year, students enthusiastically participated in both the National Poetry Day and Poetry by Heart competitions, showcasing their literary talents on a wider stage. Our young writers also embraced the outdoors through nature poetry workshops, drawing inspiration from the world around them. We are particularly proud of the publication of our Year 8 Sonnets Anthology and our Year 9 Gothic Short Story Collection, which highlight the exceptional imagination, dedication and achievement of our students. These experiences have helped foster a thriving literary culture and a genuine passion for reading and writing across the school.



TAG RUGBY FESTIVAL: YEAR 5S

We had the opportunity to take part in the Tag Rugby Festival at Kingston Park. The event gave pupils the chance to experience a new sport in a supportive and inclusive environment while developing teamwork, communication, resilience and confidence. It also provided an excellent opportunity to strengthen links between schools and promote physical activity beyond the classroom. Seeing pupils challenge themselves, work collaboratively and take pride in their achievements was incredibly rewarding.

Some of the students that were picked to join the event have never touched a rugby ball and they managed to play four games, where they won 2 and drew 2! An outstanding performance!

BODY CONFIDENCE PROGRAMME- NEWCASTLE RUGBY FOUNDATION

We hosted a Body Confidence Programme in partnership with the Newcastle Rugby Foundation for girls in Years 6, 7 and 8. The programme provided a safe and supportive environment for pupils to explore topics surrounding self-esteem, body image and wellbeing. It encouraged participants to develop a positive self-image, build resilience and challenge negative perceptions, whilst promoting confidence both inside and outside the classroom.

It has been incredibly rewarding to see pupils actively engage with the programme and embrace the opportunity to gain an insight into rugby. It has been encouraging to watch many of them step outside their comfort zones and challenge themselves.

YOUNG GREEN BRITONS CHALLENGE REGIONAL FINAL

We are incredibly proud of a team of four Year 7 students who recently represented the school at the regional final of the Young Green Britons Challenge. The students developed an innovative idea to tackle the growing environmental impact of fast fashion by transforming unwanted clothing and fashion waste into practical toiletry bags.

As part of the competition, they presented their business proposal to a lecture theatre filled with local business leaders, councillors and key stakeholders, including the CEO of the Green Party. Although they did not take home the top prize this year, they demonstrated outstanding creativity, confidence and teamwork throughout the event and were a real credit to the school. Well done to all involved!

CREATIVE WRITING CLUB



Dystopian futuristic stories, unreliable narrators, Gothic settings... Pupils who have attended creative writing club have been on a journey through genres, forms and styles to explore their own individual creative voice and find their flair.

They have enjoyed Wednesday lunchtimes full of creativity and inspiration within a calm and thoughtful atmosphere. Writing has been planned, drafted and finessed, with many pupils choosing to enter their pieces into national competitions.

Excitingly, one pupil's entry was chosen as the winner of the Northern Young Writers' Award in the 11-14 category, and another pupil was also shortlisted. Two further pupils have had their work selected to be published in poetry anthologies. Congratulations to all pupils involved in Creative Writing Club for your fantastic creations and explorations in writing this year!



YEAR 10 FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 students for the mature and professional way they organised and conducted themselves during their Food Preparation and Nutrition mock practical examination.

As part of the assessment, students were tasked with researching Italian recipes before planning, preparing, cooking and presenting two chosen dishes across two lessons. They demonstrated excellent levels of independence, organisation and resilience throughout the process, producing a range of dishes to a very good standard.

The outcomes showcased the progress students have made this year, and we are feeling extremely positive as they move towards Year 11. Their commitment and enthusiasm place them on a strong trajectory for continued improvement and future success. Well done to all involved!

PE NETBALL

We have had an excellent Netball season this year at Great Park Academy – teams were entered into the school league from Y5 to Y9. The students attended training each week to deepen their skill and ability and put this into successful match play against other schools in our region in weekly games. Some particular highlights were the Y5&6 team qualifying for the Y5/6 Netball School Games County Final and the Y9 A team being undefeated throughout their season – outstanding team work and I am extremely proud of their commitment, hard work pays off! Special shoutout to Edie-Mae K whose Netball team made it through to the finals of the Sisters in Sport National Netball Cup in Loughborough. Following on from this Edie has also been selected to train with the Under 16 Regional Squad (playing up a year). An incredible accomplishment and we wish her the best of luck.

Coaches player of the season are as follows:

Year 5/6: Jessica B

Year 7: Emily H

Year 8: Amy H

Year 9: A team – Rachel D and B team – Amelie J

Most voted 'player of the match': Naomi K

Most improved player throughout the season: Danielle A

As the school continues to grow and thrive I'm excited to see what next year's season will have in store for us. Remember, in the meantime there are lots of local clubs that students are strongly encouraged to join – some clubs train in our school sports hall so it's right on our doorstep (e.g. Riverside Netball Club and Great Park Academy Netball Club).

PE BASKETBALL

We have continued to make strong links with community sports clubs this year to increase the offer of clubs to our students. Earlier this year we had coach Charlotte from The Eagles Basketball Club deliver Basketball sessions to our students in their PE lessons. This was a great success and Great Park Breakers Club now trains at our school on a Thursday evening, again students are strongly encouraged to engage in these extra-curricular opportunities to develop their technique and ability and help to contribute to 60 minutes of exercise per day.

PE CLIMBING

As part of the AQA GCSE PE course we took over 30 students to Simonside Climbing wall to support and develop their practical ability in Climbing. Students refined their skills and techniques over the three days and were assessed practically to contribute to their overall GCSE PE qualification, with many scoring in the top level for grading. Climbing is an excellent activity to participate in and we hope we have ignited a passion amongst our students to continue this activity as part of their healthy lifestyle.

PE SPORTS DAY

Students took part in an Athletics themed Sports Day this year with events based on sprinting, jumping, throwing and relay running. There was some excellent sportsmanship displayed throughout the events and many of the results were point-for-point which lead to an exciting overall result.

Current record holders are:

Y7 Running – Louis C 11:47 seconds and Maddie G 11:91 seconds

Y7 Throwing – Louis C 47m and Poppy L 29m

Y8 Running – Mamadou S 11:34 seconds and Malaika M 12:00 seconds

Y8 Throwing – Tommy A 49m and Paige R 28m

Y9 Running – Jack H 11:06 seconds and Mia R-S 11:59 seconds

Y9 Throwing – Zac L 61m and Amelia G 29m

Y10 Running – Arlo M 10:66 seconds

The overall 2026 Sports Day winners were:

5C

6A

7A

8B

9X1

9Z2

10Y

Congratulations to all students who took part.