

16 FEBRUARY 2024

NSFC4ME

February Half Term Edition



WELCOME FROM PRINCIPAL SIMON ROSS

The promise we saw at the beginning of the year has materialized into noteworthy achievements, and there is still much to anticipate and look forward to in the upcoming months.

A SPRINT TO SPRING

This is one of our shorter half terms, and it sometimes feels more like a sprint, when compared with the winter term long run.

For our students this term will have passed very quickly, but we have had some vital activities taking place including the full college Mock Exam Week, a Parents Evening and so many careers and extra curricular activities, which support our students in making preparations for their careers and higher education choices.

Our programme of Futures Friday talks and workshops from industry experts have been well attended and showcase how the studies our students complete are highly applicable to the world of work, and skills development.

We were delighted to see seven of our students receive offers of university places at Oxford and Cambridge University Colleges following the closure of the UCAS Higher Education application deadline. This is a testament to their commitment and determination, and an illustration of how our higher expectations and drive for greater social mobility among our students is paying dividends.

The next term will see us celebrate the 10th anniversary of the opening of the college. This is a time for reflection on all that has been achieved in the last decade, but also a chance to renew our commitments to delivering an exceptional educational environment, with great teaching and learning, excellent facilities and the personal support all our students need.

We have a final Parents Evening when we return from the half term break on 29th February 2024, and I hope that you and your families have a good break this week, and will be refreshed as we approach the final half term before Easter.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Ross

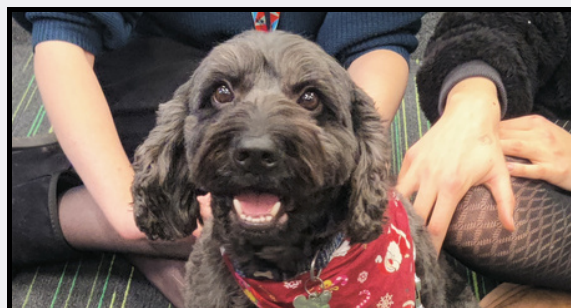
HARRY THE THERAPY DOG CAPTIVATES STUDENTS



In a heartwarming event that brought smiles to all, Newcastle Sixth Form College recently played host to a furry sensation: Harry, the therapy dog from Therapaws North East!

This delightful visit, made possible by our fantastic Librarian, Lisa Allan, was met with sheer excitement from both students and staff alike. Harry's presence brought a sense of calm and joy, as his soothing demeanor and adorable personality left everyone wanting more.

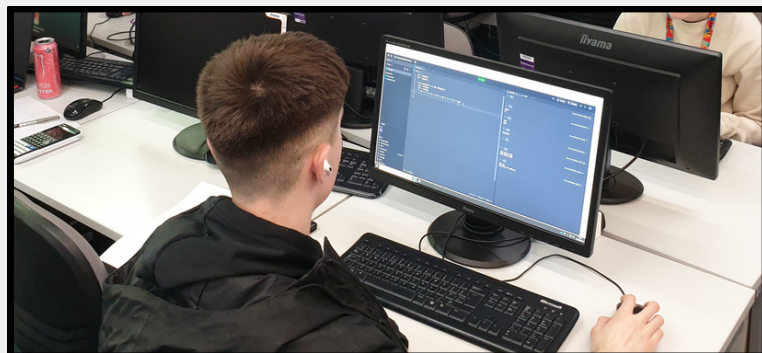
Amidst the hustle and bustle of college life, Harry's visit served as a much-needed respite, reminding us all to take a moment to appreciate the simple joys in life. It was truly a paws-itively wonderful treat for our students, one that will be cherished for a long time to come.



ELITE OXFORD UNIVERSITY COMPUTER CHALLENGE

In the last term, four outstanding Computer Science students from Newcastle Sixth Form College showcased their talents in the prestigious Elite Oxford University Computer Challenge.

These students secured their spots by achieving a national top 10% score in the UK Bebras Challenge, which is an outstanding accomplishment in itself!

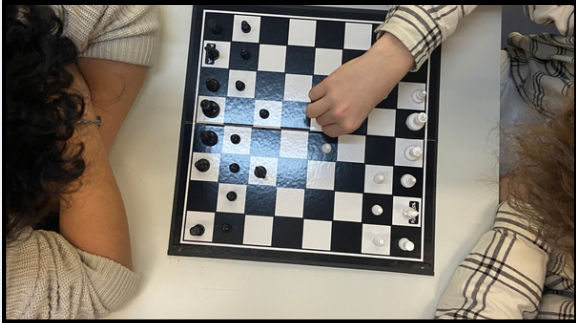


ENRICHMENT ROUND-UP



Enrichment sessions at NSFC add significant value to the student experience. With almost 40 activities from joining NSFC Sports Club and attending Newcastle United Foundation, to a range of creative and community activities, to our extracurricular activities that help students drive their subject passions, our diverse enrichment programme has something for everyone.

ENRICHMENT SPOTLIGHT



Chess Club

In the realm of critical thinking and strategic prowess, our NSFC Chess Club has been fostering the growth of budding grandmasters while engaging those who might initially view it as just a game of checkers. Within a vibrant enrichment community, students have been honing their cognitive abilities and enjoying the intellectual challenges chess presents.



Quiz League

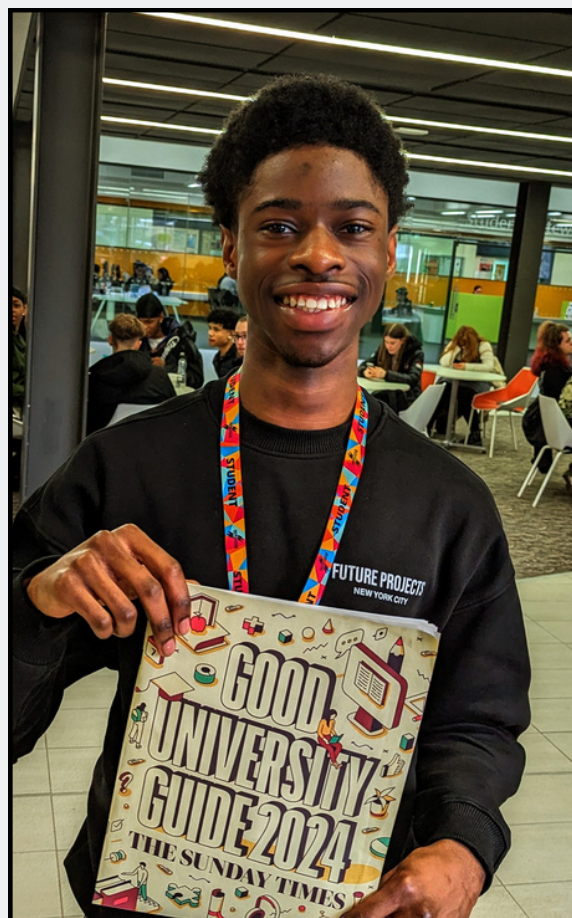
This term, our Quiz League witnessed an exhilarating clash between the Term 1 champions, "Cargo Pants," and the Term 2 victors, "TLDR," in a battle for the prestigious Quiz League trophy.

We extend our congratulations to "TLDR" for emerging victorious in this ultimate showdown, securing the championship title.

ENRICHMENT SURVEY

- 4 out of 5 for overall quality score
- 89% of students would recommend their enrichment to other students
- Two thirds said they would reference their enrichment in a CV or Personal Statement
- 89% said they enjoyed enrichment

RECORD YEAR FOR OXBRIDGE OFFERS AT NSFC



Following the closure of university applications on UCAS deadline day, Newcastle Sixth Form College is celebrating a record year, with 7 students receiving offers from Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

The Oxbridge application process is rigorous and competition for places is always a significant test, so the success of our 7 students to achieve offers this year, is a testament to their hard work.

Oxbridge offers for this group of dedicated students cover a range of subjects from History and Politics, to Geography, Economics, French and Law. The diverse range of subjects shows the strength in depth and quality of learning which has been available to students over the last 2 years of their A Level programme. For these ambitious students the hard work is not over, as they now start to prepare for final A Level exams in May and June, but they have the confidence to know that their ambition will be rewarded with continued success.

This year there have been thousands of offers received by the current Year 13 students, and with offers coming in from over 90 Universities and Higher Education centres across the UK, this is a real demonstration of how Newcastle Sixth Form College is encouraging both social mobility, and the benefits of setting aspirational higher expectations for all of our students.



‘We are extremely proud of the 2024 year group and the way they have worked with teachers, and each other, to develop such an exciting range of progression plans for September. It has been fantastic to see so many amazing offers coming through for such a diverse range of courses, universities and apprenticeships. The young people who come here from across the region are clearly using A Levels as a stepping stone to ambitious careers.’

‘The range of offers we have received this year is down to the quality approach we take with careers advice and guidance, the wide range of HE opportunities they have engaged with, and the drive and determination they have shown throughout the UCAS process and in subject lessons. We are delighted to see so many of our students achieve an Oxbridge offer, but they are just part of the wider picture which shows that our students are using their sixth form experience to improve their knowledge but also stretch themselves and take positive steps to secure their own future.’

SIMON ROSS, PRINCIPAL AT NEWCASTLE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

FUTURES FRIDAY HAS A SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH



As we bid farewell to another successful term, we're excited to reflect on the enriching experiences provided by our #FuturesFriday Careers initiative.

Thank you to Northern Gas Networks for inaugurating our #FuturesFriday series! Transforming our Friday afternoons, the event features captivating guest speakers, enlightening presentations, and informative foyer displays showcasing leading employers across diverse sectors.

Week 2 saw Salvia Mirza, Managing Director of Resonant Consulting, grace our campus to delve into the profound impacts of AI. Mirza's insights shed light on AI's influence on future careers, emphasizing the evolving skill set essential for success in tomorrow's job market.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to both Northern Gas Networks and Salvia Mirza for enriching our students' learning journey.



STUDENT-LED BAKE SALE SUCCESS!



A huge shout out to our incredible students for their amazing efforts in organizing and leading a bake sale in support of Muscular Dystrophy UK!

Thanks to our community's overwhelming generosity, over £75 was raised to aid research and support those affected by this condition.

A huge round of applause to Alix Miller-Reed for spearheading this wonderful initiative, and to everyone who contributed their time, baking skills, and donations. Your efforts have made a real difference!



ANIMAL AID FOSTER MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS

We extend our sincere thanks to Animal Aid for their recent visit to NSFC.

Their insightful session with our Philosophy, Ethics, and Religion students not only expanded their understanding of ethical practices but also shed light on the impactful work carried out by Animal Aid.



STUDENTS MEET MELISSA



We were thrilled to host the NHS Melissa Bus this term at NSFC. What's MELISSA, you ask? It stands for Mobile Educational Learning Improving Simulation Safety Activities, and it's no ordinary bus!

Our psychology students had a fantastic opportunity to explore MELISSA's vital resources firsthand, gaining valuable insights into the complexities of the human mind and neurological health.

MELISSA brought healthcare education and training right to our doorstep.





On board Melissa, our students met Daisy, the cutting-edge simulation manikin. Daisy offers training on a wide range of clinical scenarios, from basic treatment to advanced interventions. Her lifelike anatomy and interactive features provide an immersive learning experience, crucial for students thinking about a career in healthcare.

But that's not all! We also had the privilege of welcoming Eriic the Brain, an extraordinary educational resource in the form of an informative inflatable cerebrum. One of only three in the world, Eriic offers an interactive journey into the world of neurological conditions, including delirium, dementia, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and more.

THE NATIONAL YOUTH CHOIR RETURNS FOR SING! 24

Thank you to the National Youth Choir of Great Britain for bringing SING! back to Newcastle Sixth Form College.

In just 48 hours, a full choir was formed, culminating in an amazing live performance for families. A huge congratulations to NYCGB and their excellent team.

SING! 24 is a fantastic weekend event that brings together young singers from across the North East. Hosted by the National Youth Choir, the event offers a unique opportunity for students from Year 6 to Year 9 to learn new songs, forge new friendships, and enhance their musical skills.



CREATIVE ARTS CAREERS WEEK



Thanks to Ezekeil & Rachel from University of the Arts London, Kirsten Scott from Newcastle University, and the amazing representatives from Northern School of Art.

Special thanks to Lawrence Brannon (Associate Head of School) and Jay Sykes (Lecturer in Audio) from the University of Sunderland for sharing your experience and passion with our students, the session truly left a lasting impression, inspiring them to reach new heights in their creative journeys.



ENGLISH LITERATURE & DRAMA CAREERS WEEK

It was fantastic to see such a diverse range of visitors sharing their experiences and insights into the world of literature and drama with our A Level students.

Thank you to:

Sam Bailey, bringing their PHD expertise in English Literature from Newcastle University.

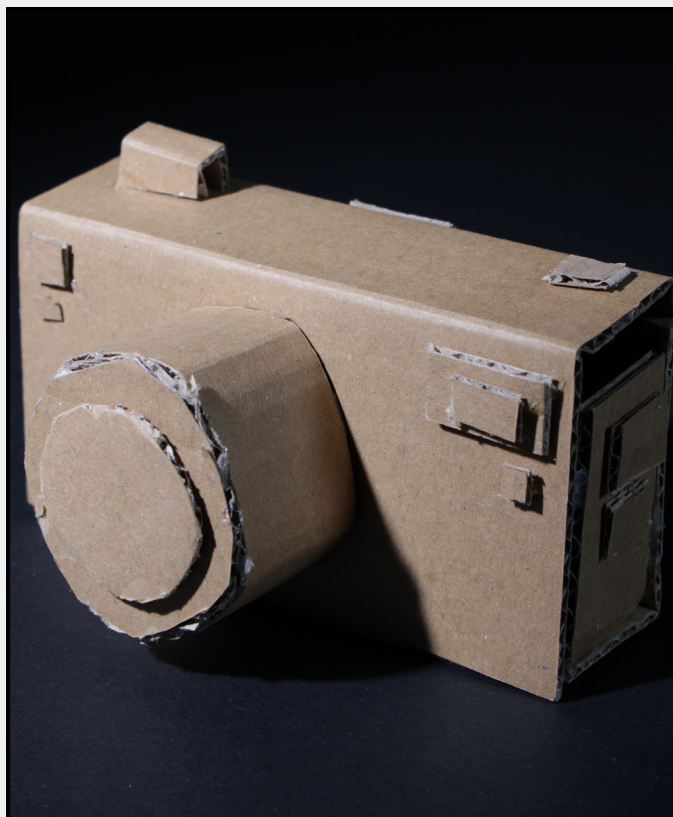
Cormac Power, representing the drama department at Northumbria University.

Lily Johnson, a Literature graduate with a Film MA, currently shining bright at Northern Stage.

Miles Nelson, Amy Langdown, and Meg Pattie, who are paving their careers in the arts and self-employment.



NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY FINE ART WORKSHOPS



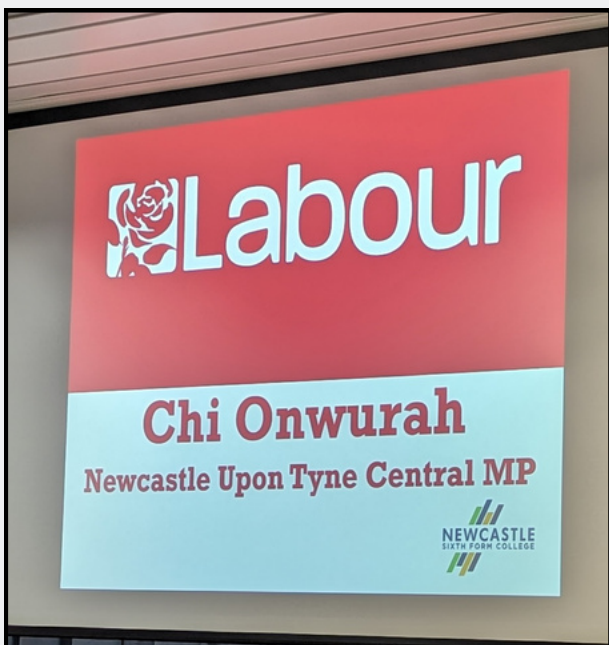
We're thrilled to announce a special collaboration between Newcastle Sixth Form College and Newcastle University's Fine Arts department!

For 5 weeks, students from Newcastle University will be joining us every Monday afternoon to deliver engaging skills-based workshops.

This partnership presents a fantastic opportunity for our students to directly interact with and learn from university-level art education. These workshops, that are also a module of each university students' degree, ensure our students receive top-notch instruction aligned with higher education standards.

Throughout the sessions, students will explore various aspects of art and design, spanning from fundamental techniques to portfolio preparation. The inaugural workshop in the first week will focus on creating sculptures from cardboard. This hands-on experience perfectly complements our Art Craft & Design career and progression plan as our students will gain practical experience, enriching their UCAS applications and preparing them for future academic endeavours.

LAW CAREERS WEEK ENDS WITH VISIT FROM LOCAL MP



As our Law and Politics Careers Week comes to a close, we wanted to highlight the incredible support we've received from a range of organisations and individuals this week.

Representatives from Newcastle University, Crown Prosecution Service, DEFRA, Northumbria Police, Sunderland University, and our local councillor, Alex Hay, have provided our students with some fascinating insights into the diverse range of career opportunities available. These contributions have enriched our students' understanding of the legal and political landscape.

The week has concluded with a visit from Member of Parliament, Chi Onwurah, the representative for Newcastle upon Tyne Central since 2010. This visit was the perfect finale to an excellent week, as Chi provided invaluable perspectives on the intersection of law and politics, inspiring our students to pursue their varied career paths.

Thank you to all our guest speakers and participants for making this week a resounding success.