

17th December 2021

NSFC4ME

An update on College life



WELCOME FROM NSFC PRINCIPAL GERARD GARVEY

*Time for a well earned break after an
incredible term packed with positives*

WE ARE WELL PREPARED AND LOOKING FORWARD TO A SUCCESSFUL 2022

Dear Students and Parents,

It has been an incredibly busy and successful half term, with dozens of external events and visits from employers and universities, assisting our students as they make their applications for university and consider their career options. We have also had our own series of Christmas lectures in the final week of term which have entertained and engaged hundreds of students and shown our students how their academic studies can relate to the real world.

As we prepare for next term, we encourage all students to continue testing throughout the Christmas break and please take a test and report results on the final day before returning to college on 5th January. We will be running our series of Year 13 mocks in the second week of term which is an important opportunity for our students to prepare for their final examinations later in the year. January will also see us hold a virtual open event for prospective new students, and we will also reach the deadline for external UCAS applications, so it will be an exceptionally busy start to the year but we are looking forward to building on the progress we have made in the first full term of the academic year.

I want to thank you for your continued support for all aspects of college life, and wish you and your families a well earned and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Gerard Garvey

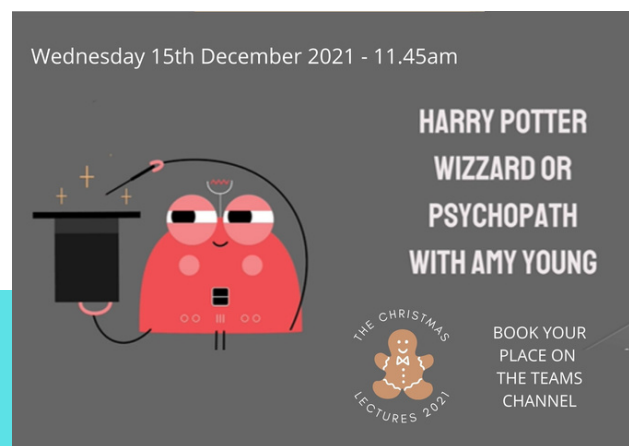
THE CHRISTMAS LECTURES



The final week of term provided students with an opportunity to attend 10 different lectures held at every lunch break covering a wide range of topics.

Over 200 students in total attended the daily lectures which covered an eclectic mix of topics ranging from 'Enter the Metaverse' which looked at the future of social media, to 'Is Santa Real' which examined the existence of our favourite festive character using quantum physics.

The series of live lectures were recorded and shared with all students on the dedicated Christmas Lectures channel and provided great insight into a range of academic topics using popular culture and the passions and enthusiasms of teachers and staff. Thanks to Sam Bailey who organised and hosted this series and for the ten staff who provided such a rich vein of Christmas culture in these early Christmas presents.



Graham Davison proved if Santa was real



David Shaw investigated the design of drugs in the 21st Century



Amy Young considered if Harry Potter was a psychopath

Alex Proudlock took us on a journey to re-imagine music



AROUND COLLEGE - SUBJECT CAREERS EVENTS TAKE CENTRE STAGE

We recently had a visit from Dr Rebecca Woods, an Associate Professor in Language and Cognition from Newcastle University. Rebecca was here to speak with our English Language A Level students about careers within Language & Linguistics. The event was a great opportunity for our students to explore their future HE Career pathways, and consider longer term opportunities.



EXPERT LEGAL ADVICE

A group of our A Level Law students were delighted to have the chance to meet Josh Holmes QC, who is recognised in The Lawyer's Hot 100 2021 list.

Josh's practice covers all aspects of competition law and regulation, including communications, energy, financial services and data. He spent the afternoon with our students and talked about his career and experience with cases involving corporations ranging from Apple and Peugeot to Cathay Pacific and Ofcom.

Many thanks to Josh for his support and sharing with our students his wealth of expertise



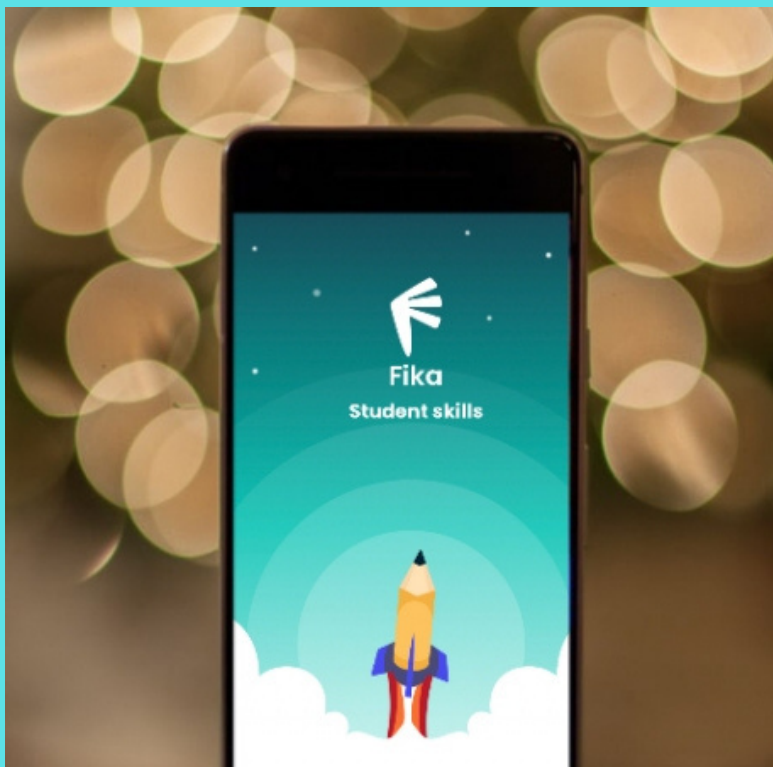
GREEN DAY FOR WEST END FOOD BANK



It was great to see the generosity of students such as El Studholme, Ben Crow & Grace Goldsworthy who are part of the GCSE Citizenship class who organised this year's West End Food Bank Appeal and 'Wear Green Day'.

Each year the college runs a dedicated food drive and this year we added the 'Wear Green Day' to increase the overall contribution, which is highly needed at Christmas.

MANAGING STRESS: FIKA SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS



The positive mental health of our students is of paramount importance, and every student at NSFC can download the Fika wellbeing and mental health app for free, which allows them to follow a range of activities designed by experts to help combat the issues relating to good mental health. Fika has been developed specifically to address the issues of stress management, focus and motivation.

Many students already have the easy to use application on personal devices, and if you would like to download the app just visit www.fika.community/ The site will guide you through the process to download the app and access the hundreds of useful resources.



MAKE SURE YOU TEST BEFORE YOU RETURN TO COLLEGE

All students are asked to continue to take Lateral Flow Device tests twice weekly while at home over the holiday period. You must also take one test at home either in the evening or morning before returning in January to ensure you receive a negative result before returning to campus. Next term, self-testing at home should then continue twice-weekly in line with government guidelines. Test kits can be collected from the reception office.

Reporting your results to the College

It is really important that you let us know you have taken your test and the result. You can do this by simply completing this [form](#).

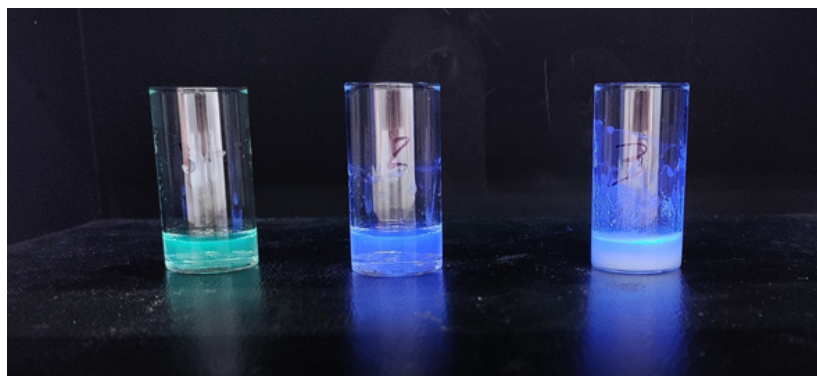
Reporting your results to the NHS

You must also report your test to the NHS - this can be done [here](#).

CHEMISTRY IN ACTION

Over a two week period our Y13 Chemistry students visited Northumbria University.

Students toured the campus as well as getting some dedicated laboratory experience.



During one of their many practical on site sessions students synthesised chemicals, with Daniel Finlay winning a prize for the purity of his chemicals.



SPANISH FILM DAY AT TYNESIDE

Spanish A Level students recently enjoyed a visit to Tyneside Cinema to watch the film *Volver* which they study as part of the curriculum. They had opportunities to extend their vocabulary and strengthen their listening, speaking, writing and translation skills in activities linked to the film, with the support of Language Ambassadors from Durham University.



BASKETBALL IN THE EAGLES NEST

A group of students were given the chance to practice their basketball skills on the Newcastle Eagles match court, this term. The students played in a mini tournament and received expert guidance on the game, tactics and techniques.

The success of this trial activity has meant that we are now adding basketball to our line up for Enrichment in January 2022, with weekly matches planned.



FRENCH NEWSLETTER

One of our many Enrichment activities at the Sixth Form has been a huge success with the collaboration between students at the college, with a college in France, producing a fantastic newsletter in just five weeks.

The cross-channel newsletter enrichment in collaboration with our partner school in France 'Le Lycée Jeanne d'Arc,' has produced two newsletters and the enthusiasm of both groups of students created a whole magazine, which we have now shared as a magazine flipbook.

To see the first edition just click [HERE](#)

The second edition was completed just in time for Christmas and is a credit to the hard work of all the students involved.

Festive Essentials

Although snow isn't always guaranteed in the UK, one way that us Brits can be sure to experience a white Christmas is by watching "The Snowman" on TV. The snowman is a cartoon film about a boy and his adventures with his snowman that comes to life, watching this film has become part of many families Christmas traditions.




The Queen's Speech is a Christmas staple for many in the UK and other commonwealth countries. The tradition began in 1932 with a Radio Broadcast from King George V. Nowadays, it is given by Queen Elizabeth II and is broadcast on various tv channels and radios at 3PM GMT.



Christmas Crackers!

An essential to countless families at Christmas, the Christmas cracker is one of the UK's most popular traditions. Some typical treats you might expect to find inside a Christmas cracker:

- A paper crown (to wear while eating our dinners!!!)
- A small toy or trinket like some mini playing cards
- A Christmas themed joke, here are a few of our favorites:
--Why does Santa have three gardens?
(So, he can ho ho ho!)
- What kind of motorbike does Santa ride?
(A Holly Davidson)



Mistletoe!


Although the tradition of hanging up mistletoe is said to have come from the Ancient Druids (there is little evidence to support this); it is Britain that is responsible for the custom of Kissing Underneath the Mistletoe. Weirdly, the meaning of the word mistletoe is Anglo-Saxon in Origin with "Mistel" meaning Dung and "tan" which means stick!





Exploring the North East: Berwick upon Tweed

Even though Newcastle Sixth Form College is in Newcastle, many students travel from other towns in the North East to study here. In the last issue of the newsletter, we talked about culture and history in Newcastle so I decided to talk about other historically rich places in the North East. Berwick upon Tweed is a small English town on the Scottish Border and is about 60 miles from Newcastle. I have decided to talk about Berwick specifically because it has a rich historically relevant past but also mirrors Nancy as a border town between Scotland and England as Nancy is close to the border of Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg.

Berwick upon Tweed has a beautiful landscape sitting on the North East English coast on the edge of the border between England and Scotland but originally it was located on the Scottish side of the border. Overall, Berwick has switched hands with Scotland about 14 times over the course of its history. This was because of multiple wars between England and Scotland, because of this threat from Scotland, Elizabeth I issued walls be built for defence. These walls never ended up being used as her successor was James VI of Scotland and therefore the threat from Scotland was no longer there.





A fun fact about Berwick was that it was technically at war with Russia until the 1980s as Queen Victoria forgot to include Berwick in the peace treaty.



Boxing Day


Boxing day is a public holiday celebrated on the 26th of December. The celebration dates back to the middle ages when boxing day was a time to open the collection boxes in church so that contents could be distributed to poorer people. Traditionally it is a time for charity.



Boxing Day Traditions in the UK:

In the UK, football is a popular boxing day tradition. It is a British tradition to watch a football match after Christmas. This year however, Newcastle's team won't play until the 27th of December when we will play against the Manchester United team.

Another tradition that is popular in the UK is the "Boxing Day Dip". For this event people will dress up in costumes and swim in the sea to raise money for charities.



OPEN EVENT – JANUARY 6TH 2022

Our January Open Event will be virtual this year to ensure we run a safe and positive event for all those interested in joining the college in Autumn 2022. The series of events in October, November and December attracted large audiences and so the move to a virtual event will allow everyone to take part and still get the benefits of consultations and the chance to meet subject specialists in our 27 A Level subjects.

#GOFURTHER Open Event 2022

RESERVE YOUR PLACE
THURSDAY 6TH JANUARY



NEWCASTLE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



SPRING TERM CALENDAR

The following are just a few of the important dates and milestones in the college calendar we wanted to share with you. For further information on any of our events and specific enquiries please email:

NSFCOffice@newcastlesfc.ac.uk

JANUARY 2021

5th January - Students return to college

6th January - Virtual Open Event (5.00pm - 7.00pm)

10th - 14th January - Mock Week - (Year 13 only attending for exams. Year 12 and Access students will be attending morning lessons. Details will be supplied at start of term in January 2022)

14th January - UCAS External Deadline

19th January - Enrichment Three - Start of new enrichments

24th January - Careers Week - Art, Media and Film

31st January - Praise Week

FEBRUARY 2022

1st February - LGBT History Month

9th February - Year 12 New College Oxford Visit

9th February - Open Event (5.00pm – 7.00pm)

14th February - Careers Week - Law and Politics

18th February - Half Term Break

