

LATEST NEWS | STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

INSIDE: Principal Update; EY Event inspires students; Progression Fayre; Editor visit as part of first term enrichment; Our new school liaison coordinator; and much more...



DECEMBER
2024

POSITIVE PROGRESSION ACROSS THE WHOLE COLLEGE

By Simon Ross – *Principal*

This has been an excellent first term with too many highlights to mention in a single message, so hopefully this bumper edition of our college newsletter is evidence of how much enthusiasm and positivity has been on show across the college since we started in September.

We start each year with our celebration of students who are moving onto the next stage of their education/career at our results day. Our progression rates and A Level results this year illustrated the real impact of our efforts, with students being 15% more likely to progress to university if they studied at Newcastle Sixth Form College. This highlights how valuable the experience of a sixth form college experience can be for students.

The approach taken to build confidence, independence and resilience in all of our students is also paying dividends. The mature way so many of our students have approached their studies and participated in wider college activities, careers events and enrichment has been on show every day around our campus.

We started this term with over 25 universities visiting for our progression fayre and continued this focus on progression right up until the final week of term when we welcomed Governors from the Newcastle Upon Tyne NHS Foundation who met students pursuing a career in medicine. We are extremely grateful to our growing network of partners, employers and careers professionals who ensure our students have the best opportunities available to help them develop.

Thanks to all those who supported the college during our recent Ofsted inspection and we know that the many focus groups with students and the responses from parents to questionnaires helped underpin the message that the college is a diverse, inclusive and supportive environment for all our students.

The term ahead will be another busy, exciting and enjoyable term as we run events for new applicants, parents evenings for existing students and gear up for our summer exam programme.

As we all take a well earned break, I would like to wish all students, parents and carers the very best for Christmas and look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

Exceptional Results in 2024

Newcastle Sixth Form College Students Celebrate Outstanding Success and Progression in 2024.

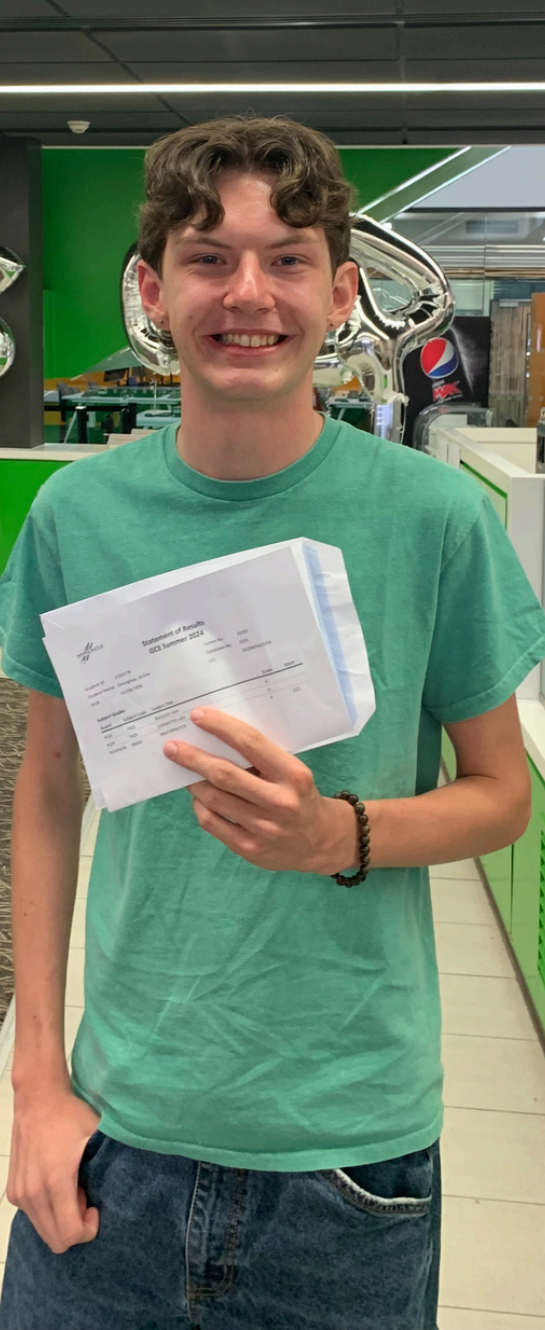
More than 550 young people in Newcastle celebrated a year of fantastic achievement.

Newcastle Sixth Form College has once again cemented its reputation for delivering great opportunities for students from all backgrounds to progress into higher education and employment. This year's results further reinforce this well-earned standing with its track record for excellent progression rates continuing.

Simon Ross, Principal of Newcastle Sixth Form College commented:

"We are very proud of our students this year, and the results are a great outcome based on the hard work of students, staff and the support of parents and families. We have an inclusive intake at Newcastle Sixth Form College and so our students' achievements across such a wide range of subjects is an exceptional outcome."

This year's results underline the hard work and commitment of the students who are now able to progress to a wide range of exciting opportunities.



NSFC Welcomes the Editor-in-Chief of The Chronicle

NSFC Journalism Enrichment Students Gain Exclusive Industry Insights from Reach plc Editor-in-Chief Helen Dalby.



As part of our Enrichment programme, it was our pleasure to welcome Helen Dalby, Audience and Content Director and Editor-in-Chief of Reach plc, to NSFC yesterday.

Helen leads newsrooms in Newcastle and Teesside, overseeing a diverse portfolio of news brands across the North East, including Chronicle Live and Teesside Live online, as well as the Chronicle, Journal, Gazette, and Sunday Sun in print.

Leading a session with our Journalism Enrichment class, she shared exclusive insights into a variety of aspects of the journalism industry. Helen discussed what it's like to work at Reach, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the fast-paced environment of a digital newsroom. She also explored how the nature of news and media has evolved dramatically over the last 20 years, particularly with the rise of digital platforms and social media. Lastly, Helen provided practical advice on how to kickstart a career in journalism, including tips on building a portfolio, the importance of networking, and navigating the ever-changing media landscape.

Expert-led sessions like this are a great way to prepare students for their future and are just one of the many exciting aspects of our Enrichment Programme here at NSFC.

Entrepreneurs Enrichment hosted by Newcastle University

We have had a fantastic group of students working with the Head of Company Creation at Newcastle University, Rick McCordall, as they explored what makes a great new business idea, how to make an idea into a reality, and how to prepare a business for launch.

This enrichment group will now expand to incorporate regional schools Dragons Den Competition which launches in January 2025.



Former NSFC student starts at the BBC

Jaz Waddington left NSFC in the Autumn of 2024, and shares an update on her sound engineering apprenticeship with the BBC.



Jaz started with BBC Audio North in Salford in September, and has never looked back. Having been one of the colleges best student ambassadors and having relentlessly pursued an interest in sound engineering through studies and extra curricular enrichment activities, the dream apprenticeship role was the prize, and Jaz has grabbed it with both hands.

In the first couple of days with the organisation with induction tours and seminars Jaz was introduced to Tim Davie (BBC CEO) and made an instant impression. Learning about the programme being undertaken had plenty of practical experience alongside talks and tours, with a notable experience which resulted in almost dropping a £3500 state of the art VR headset!! (using the very latest technology which tracks your eye and hand movement instead of using controllers is just part of the real experience Jaz will undertake).

A highlight of Jaz's early experience included a visit to New Broadcasting House in London, including the opportunity to see the 1930's theatre which sits inside the office building. Lunch with the director of all the music performances at the BBC, including Glastonbury and the Proms and Live Lounges was a final highlight of the initial experience and shows how a passion for A Levels and a commitment to working hard and pursuing your dream role, can lead to great success..



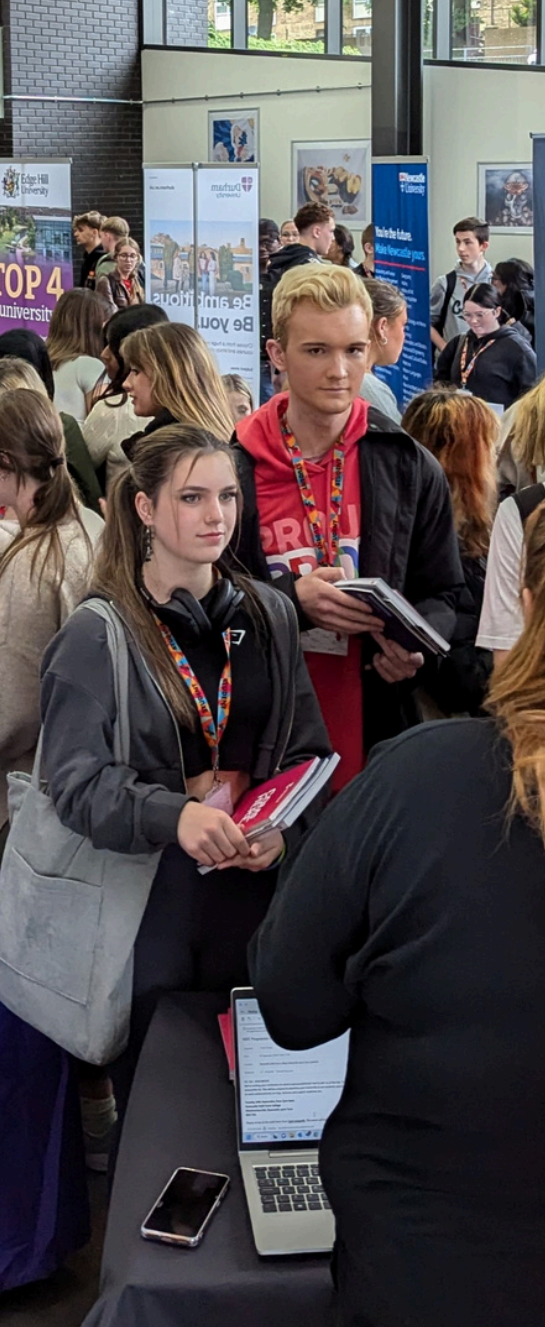
September Progression Fayre

Universities give students a glimpse of their future at NSFC's Progression Fayre.

Last half-term over 25 universities joined us at Newcastle Sixth Form College for our first Progression Fayre of the year.

For many of our students, this bi-annual event is their first real interaction with a higher education provider, offering them with a first-hand glimpse into what life after sixth form could look like.

Students were able to explore a diverse range of progression opportunities and learn all about the intricacies of university life, all without having to leave our building.





Christmas Jumper Day

The festive feeling flowed around the college throughout Christmas Jumper Day

FESTIVE FUN FRIDAY – NSFC was bursting with the holiday spirit on Friday 13th December for our annual Christmas Jumper Day.

From the mouthwatering Cake Bake Sale where we raised an incredible £234.60 for “Save the Children” to the excellent voices of our year 12 Christmas Choir that entertained us with Christmas Classics.

Our student karaoke was a showstopper and the best Christmas attire catwalk brought all the festive laughter!

All in all, we can now confirm the festive spirit has been well and truly spread. Merry Christmas



On Monday, 16th December, Year 12 students were joined by Sasha and Ross from Explain, a leading market research company. They shared how they use research methods to support clients like the NHS, water companies, and Greggs. This session provided a fantastic opportunity for students to see their classroom learning on research methods in action and explore how these skills are applied in various careers.

On Wednesday, 18th December, a director from Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) visited to discuss their early intervention approach to crime prevention. Students gained valuable insights into the role of Sociology in tackling societal challenges and how multi-agency collaboration helps create safer communities.

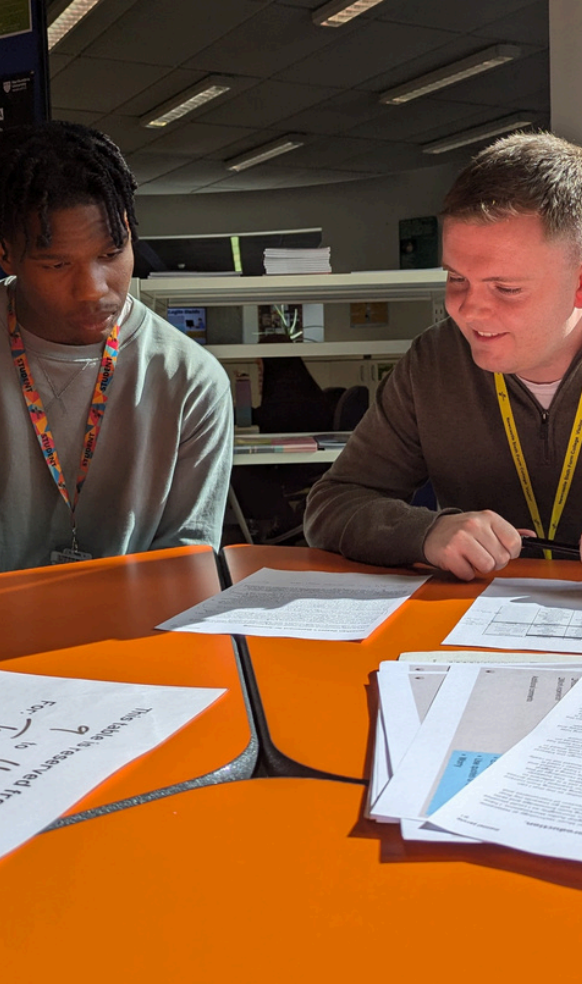
This week of activity follows on from the recent Sociology visit to Newcastle University where 215 students attended a full day of careers related workshops.



Northumbria Police share an insight into becoming a Police Officer

Northumbria Police recently spoke with our Year 12 Sociology students about the realities of life as a Police Officer. They shared insights into the challenges and rewards of the role, discussed community engagement, and highlighted the skills needed for the job. The session offered a valuable perspective on policing and its impact on society.





Leeds Trinity assist Year 13 with Personal Statements

Leeds Trinity's Jack Cooper Provides Personal Statement Support to Year 13 Students.

It was great to welcome back Jack Cooper from Leeds Trinity. Throughout his visit, Jack has been working closely with some of our Year 13 students, where he has assisted them with their personal statements for university applications. His expertise in higher education allowed him to offer tailored advice to our students, helping them refine their statements to better highlight their strengths and aspirations.

EY Foundation host speed networking session

EY Foundation Brings Career Insights to Over 40 Students Through Speed Networking Event

We had a fantastic time hosting industry professionals from the EY Foundation.

Over 40 of our students participated in EY's speed networking session, where students had the chance to interact with a diverse group of employers and business professionals. This fast-paced format allowed each student to speak with every guest, providing them with valuable information, advice, and guidance on a wide range of career paths.

The EY Foundation is an independent charity that is dedicated to helping young people realise their career ambitions and successfully transition into work, higher education, or self-employment. If you would like to find out more, visit: https://www.eyfoundation.com/en_uk



Loudspeaker return to NSFC

Loudspeaker Workshop Empowers Over 700 NSFC Students with Public Speaking and Resilience Skills.

It has once again been our privilege and pleasure to host Loudspeaker at Newcastle Sixth Form College this past half-term.

As always, their "For Love or Money" workshop provided a safe yet challenging environment that pushed our students to step outside their comfort zones through the power of public speaking. More than 700 of our Year 12 and Year 12 Access students actively participated in these sessions, reaping benefits that extend far beyond just improved communication skills. Their involvement allowed them to develop their resilience and self-belief, qualities that will prove invaluable as they progress into higher education and the world of work.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to John Beck and Lianne Marston from City & Guilds, who were invited to the event as part of the NCG Guarantee for our students. The NCG Guarantee gives students access to additional activities, resources and initiatives to help them achieve their ambitions and career goals.

Find out more here: <https://www.ncgrp.co.uk/about-ncg/ncg-guarantee/>



NSFC Schools Liaison has been busy all term

NSFC Kicks Off the Academic Year with visits to over 20 schools including a student led careers session at Callerton Parkway.



September marked our very first school visit of the year as we made our way to Oxclose Community Academy for an incredibly busy and engaging Careers Fayre.

The event saw over 30 employers from a whole host of sectors come together to provide key insights to more than 1000 students who were eager to explore their future opportunities.

Not only was this our first school visit of the academic year, but it was also the debut of our brand-new School Liaison and Transition Coordinator, Elizabeth Oxenham. With her wealth of experience and enthusiasm for supporting young people, we are beyond excited to welcome her to the team here at Newcastle Sixth Form College. Sharing her thoughts on the event:

The Careers Fayre was incredibly interactive, and it was an absolute pleasure to speak to so many students about their next steps. I was genuinely surprised by how forward-thinking even the younger students were, which was really encouraging to see. There's clearly a lot of ambition and enthusiasm amongst the student body here."



£350k+ Investment in Student IT

Newcastle Sixth Form College Invests £350,000 in Cutting-Edge IT Facilities to Enhance Student Learning and University-Style Experience.



Newcastle Sixth Form College has invested over £350k in new IT suites across the entire college campus as part of improving college facilities for learners this summer. The new installation has brought new communal desk stations on each floor of the building in the Gateway Hub, Library, second and third floor IT spaces, and within classrooms across the site to ensure students can access the latest, fastest and best equipped hardware and software.

This investment, in the 10th year since the college opened will ensure the campus style facility has the benefit of fast connection speeds and i7 processors in all communal based computers, so that students can work and study within the college throughout the day.

Newcastle Sixth Form College has always been a site which feels much more like a university campus, and students are encouraged to work and study within the college, to maximise the benefits of being part of the college community and ensuring access to the academic and personal development support which is vital to students studying A Level. The facilities mirror a university style experience to provide students in the sixth form the step up and preparation they need to succeed at A Levels and also prepare for higher education. The hundreds of new desk stations will enhance the existing state of the art facilities, with many subjects having dedicated resources to ensure the best learning environment.

Installation was completed over the summer break in preparation for the arrival of our new Year 12 students this Autumn.

“What a flippin’ good time!”

Our French A-Level students met the renowned Julien at Le Petite Crêperie and had a fantastique time...

Our French students had the incredible opportunity to visit Julien from Le Petite Crêperie, widely known across the region for his authentic crêpe-making at his vibrant city-centre food outlet.

This visit provided a unique and practical setting for students to practice their French speaking skills, engaging in dynamic conversations about French culture, cuisine, and everyday life.

Julien was thoroughly impressed by the quality of their conversational French, commending their fluency, enthusiasm, and ability to communicate effectively. The experience was not only a wonderful way to enhance their language skills but also an enjoyable immersion into French culture, leaving a lasting impression on both the students and Julien.





“Life at NSFC”

Our students inspire the next generation

A group of our Year 12 students visited Callerton Academy to give an engaging talk about their experiences at NSFC and why it's a fantastic place to continue their education.

During the visit, our students shared insights about the subjects they are currently studying, highlighting the diverse and challenging subjects available at NSFC. They spoke about the supportive environment, the outstanding teaching staff, and the range of opportunities offered at NSFC.

We're incredibly proud of our students for representing NSFC with such enthusiasm and professionalism. They demonstrated the values and spirit that make our college a wonderful community for learning and growth.



Wear it Pink Day 2024

NSFC Turns Pink to Raise Awareness and Funds for Breast Cancer Research.

We had an incredible show of support this term for Breast Cancer Awareness during our very own Wear It Pink Day.

Students planned and organised collections around campus, and everyone was encouraged to donate £1 if they were wearing something pink.

It was fantastic to see both students and staff alike getting colourful for such an important cause.

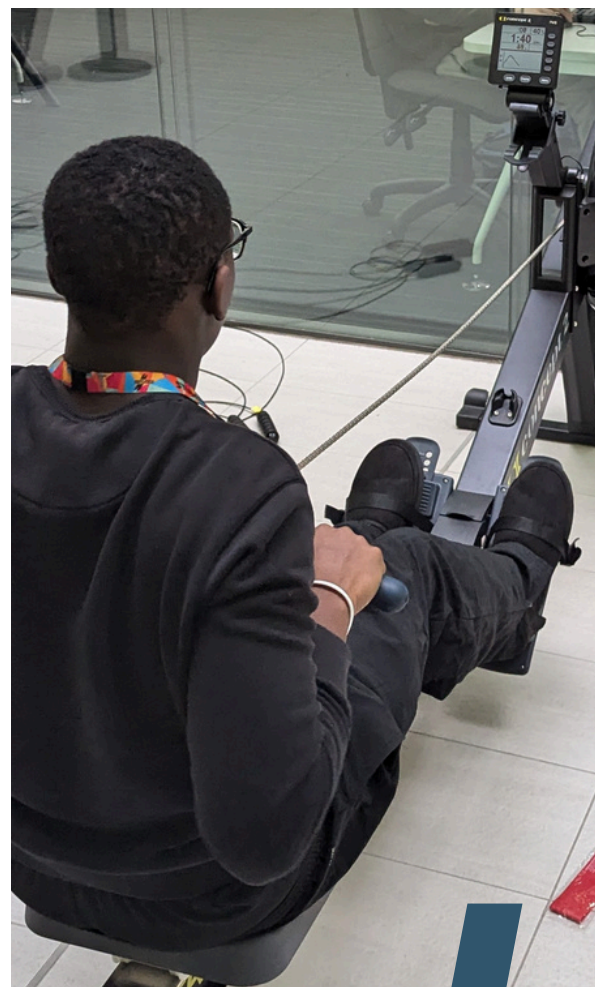


World Mental Health Day 2024

NSFC Unites for World Mental Health Day with Activities to Boost Wellbeing.

At Newcastle Sixth Form College we celebrated World Mental Health Day with a range of activities designed to promote mental health and wellbeing. From seeing the return of our popular skipping and rowing challenge to writing and sharing inspiring post-it notes with peers, both students and staff have been actively getting involved in all aspects of the day.

This year's theme set by the World Federation of Mental Health is 'workplace mental health'. The theme highlights the importance of addressing mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, for the benefit of people, organisations, and communities.



West End Newcastle Food Bank Appeal

NSFC Contributes to the incredible charity "West End Food Bank"

The students and staff at Newcastle Sixth Form College have made a remarkable contribution to the West End Food Bank, showcasing their generosity and community spirit. They have donated a wide range of essential supermarket items, helping to stock the shelves for families in need. Additionally, their fundraising on the day raised £165.04 to support and enable the food bank to continue its vital work. This collective effort reflects the college's commitment to making a positive impact in the local community.



Christmas Lectures

Our Christmas Lectures Gave us Plenty to Think About

Across the final week of term, teachers provided a series of lunchtime Christmas Lectures to entertain and inspire curiosity from our students. Covering a diverse range subjects from female historical figures, to political intrigue and even questioning if the Grinch was correct, we provided students with a programme of offbeat talks.

Feedback from the students attending was excellent and everyone was thoroughly entertained, so thanks to all our staff who gave up time to deliver the talks – Rachel Newton, Laurence Hobbs, Jack Griffith, Phil Divers and David Selby.



Film Studies Cinema Trip

Film Studies Students Explore Deeper Themes with Joker Screening

This past half-term, A Level Film Studies students had the exciting opportunity to watch the new Joker film, building on their previous case study of the original movie.

The screening served as a valuable supplement to their coursework, allowing students to delve deeper into the film's complex themes, character psychology, and the symbolism woven into the narrative.



Honours Programme

Our Honours Programme inspires and helps drive many of our students to look at the progression opportunities available and to be ambitious in their own aspirations.

This term we identified 110 students who are strong candidates for the most competitive universities and courses, and they signed up for our Honours Programme.

Students will be supported throughout their time here to access opportunities and experiences to actively engage with support progression and to ensure they have the widest possible choice of destinations, so they can make great choices for their higher education.

Activities planned for the Honours students will include advanced subject workshops, university visits, critical skills development and mentorship programmes with universities and employers.



Northern Print Workshop

Students Gain Valuable Career Insights at EY Foundation Speed Networking Event.



Having artists and workshops in our sixth form brings a wonderful energy to our art students and creates exciting learning opportunities. This half-term has been particularly special as our students have been working with Helen from Northern Print, a talented artist who has shared her expertise in screen printing.

Throughout the workshop, students have had the chance to dive into the world of screen printing, allowing them to create vibrant, unique pieces for their portfolios.

This hands-on experience not only aids in developing their artistic skills but also gives them the freedom to explore new materials and techniques that they may not have tried before. Each student is working on something different, making the atmosphere diverse and inspiring. I cannot wait to see how they'll progress with these pieces and what new ideas they'll bring into their art. It's always encouraging to watch our students grow and evolve, and this experience is sure to have a lasting impact on their artistic journeys. Overall, workshops like these play a vital role in nurturing creativity and talent in our sixth form community.



Women of Wyman Coding Challenge

Maths students inspired by Oliver Wyman event

A group of highly motivated female students from NSFC took part in a coding session at Oliver Wyman, one of our most valuable employer partners. The students covered the basics of Python coding and how major organisations and international companies utilise Python in their work.

This type of valuable work based experience supports students on a Maths and STEM pathway, and for our students provided a highly enjoyable and inspiring activity.



Othello and Warhorse Trips for English Literature Students

English Literature students go to the Shakespeare Festival and Drama students attended Warhorse

30 of our A Level English Literature students had the exciting opportunity to travel to Durham for the 2024 Shakespeare Festival.

The highlight of the trip was watching Elysium Theatre Company's powerful performance of Othello, which left a lasting impression on our students. For our Year 13 students, who are studying Othello for their A Level exams next summer, the experience was particularly enriching.

Year 12 A Level Drama students were deeply moved by the acclaimed National Theatre production of War Horse at Sunderland Empire.

Following the performance, the lead actor from the production, Tom Sturgess, graciously came into college to work with our students in lessons as part of an inspiring Q&A and Drama Workshop.

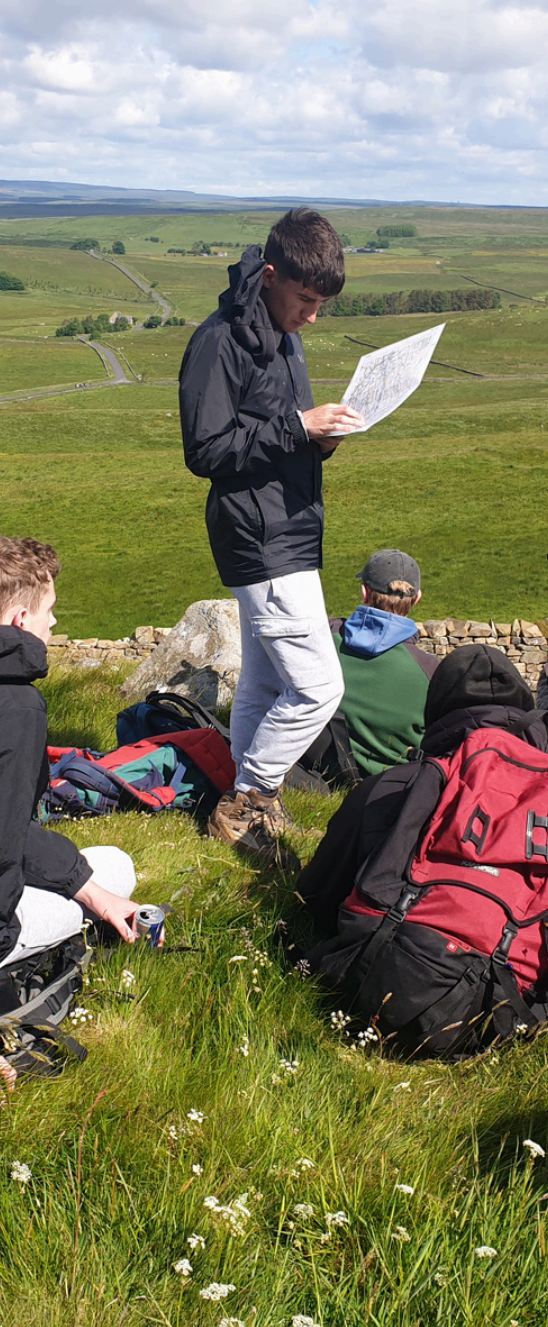


Duke of Edinburgh Silver Awards

Our DofE Silver Award programme is in full swing with our biggest ever group of students developing their skills.

This year 36 of our Year 12 students have started their DofE Silver programme and are already completing the Physical, Skills and Volunteering programmes they need to complete to gain the award. This year is a particularly focussed group and with a summer expedition to cap of the activity with a practice and then 3 day trip along Hadrian's Wall, we are expecting great achievements from this years programme.

The Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award, like the Bronze Award is a fun programme, where young people can make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. DofE Silver is ideal for students who are applying for prestigious university places as it shows the dedication, determination and willingness to develop new skills.



New College Oxford – Inspiring NSFC students

NSFC4ME
New College Oxford

As part of our commitment to providing excellent progression opportunities, we were delighted to welcome Shelby Holmes, Senior Outreach Officer at New College, Oxford, to our sixth form to introduce New College's Step-Up programme to over 60 of our Year 12 students.

The Step-Up programme is designed to inspire and support students in making a competitive application to top universities, including but not limited to Oxford. As a sustained-contact scheme, it provides students with regular interaction with New College's Outreach team over two years. This ongoing support guides students through each stage of the university application process, making the prospect of attending Oxford both approachable and attainable.

We have identified over 100 students from our Year 12 cohort who have the ability to progress to Oxford, most of whom have already taken advantage of this five-step programme.

Step 1 is an introductory session about universities and challenges students' existing perceptions of the University of Oxford.

Step 2 is hosted at New College. Students have the chance to tour the facilities, meet current students and academics, and have a session on their current and future options.

Step 3 is all about understanding the application process, students will get a real sense of what is expected from successful candidates.

Step 4 helps students make a start on their personal statements, analysing existing statements to see what works well, what doesn't, and the kind of activities they could be doing to further their own subject interests.

Step 5 introduces students to Oxford interviews, informing them about the process and helping them prepare.

We're proud to be the only Sixth Form College in the North East participating in this impactful programme, and we look forward to working closely with New College Oxford to support our students over the next two years.





Student Showcase:

During our Journalism Enrichment, we asked a student the following:

"Chloe, how has your first term been?"

"We have reached the end of our first term here at NSFC and what a term it's been. Whether you think it has flown by or the weeks have dragged and you're counting down the days until the holidays, we can all agree that it has been a wonderfully intense 4 months."

"In September we arrived with various expectations. Some of us were overjoyed to finally get out of secondary school and others were terrified to start A-Levels. For me, I started the term with a sense of relief. I knew that this new start was exactly what I needed and I was happy to start the next chapter of my life."

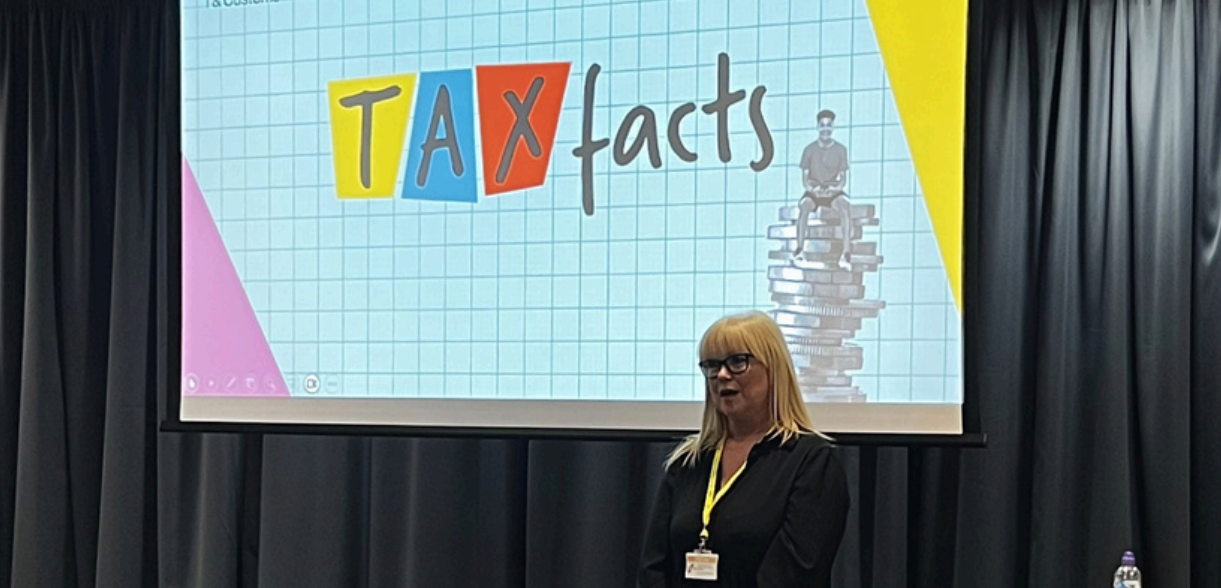
"I started NSFC without any friends from Secondary school, travelling 40 minutes every day by public transport and ready to explore this new life as an NSFC student, and it went great!"

"The atmosphere of life here at NSFC has truly made an impact on me and my first term here. We have an extremely diverse student population with every type of person with every type of interest, creating a wonderfully exciting atmosphere within the building and the wider student community. Furthermore, life here is made up by the staff and the joy they bring to the building: personally, the difference between the way staff interact with me as a student here, compared to secondary school has been one of the best changes.

Ultimately, it's the end of our first term as an NSFC student and it's been a great one."



(Chloe at her Art Exhibition at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art)



Business & Economics Week

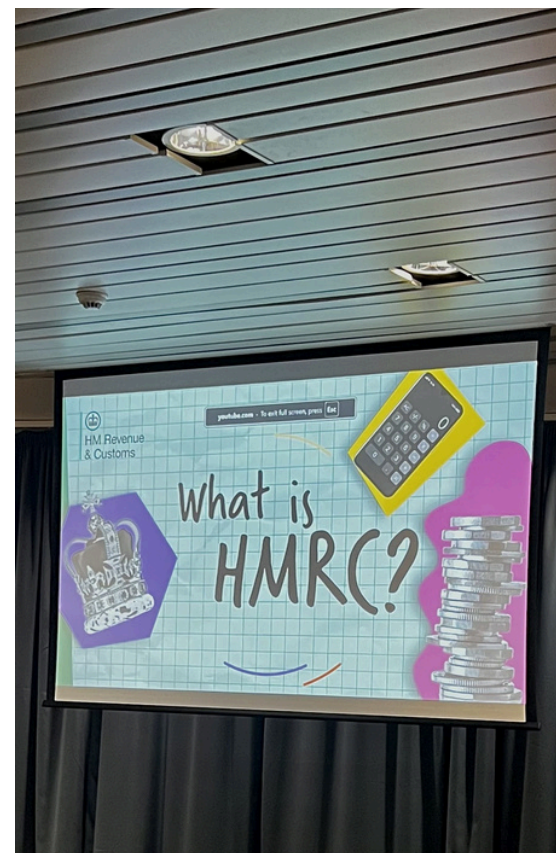
Our students had an exciting line-up of events to expand their knowledge about future opportunities during a week packed with opportunities. Year 12 students attended an engaging HMRC talk on tax, National Insurance, VAT and exploring career opportunities within the civil service and at HMRC.

Later in the same week a dynamic workshop with Leeds Trinity University, where guest speakers from the Economics and Finance department led a live trading activity, and showcased the wide array of courses available to our students.

We were joined by an alumni student from Newcastle University who shared tips for undergraduate success during an inspiring Q&A session.

The week completed with insights from Professor Ron Beadle of Northumbria University and a lecture from Teesside University, where topics discussed included business studies as a degree option, career prospects, and the importance of academic skills paired with passion.

Newcastle College University Centre also delivered an insightful talk on degree options in business, law, and criminology, emphasising the integration of academic knowledge with practical skills. These career weeks really underpin the learning of our students and show the wide array of career paths available.





Student Showcase:

NSFC4ME

Student Voice
Katy Robinson

"As a student who has been studying here at Newcastle Sixth Form College for 3 months now, I can confidently say that I would recommend this sixth form to younger students in years 10 and 11.

Enrolling at NSFC has given me much more freedom in terms of my subjects and schedule in comparison to secondary school. For my A-Levels, I have chosen Graphic Communication, Psychology and Film Studies. These are just three of the many subjects you may not have had access to during GCSEs."



*During our Journalism Enrichment, we asked a student the following:
"Katy, how has your first term been?"*



"In my opinion, life gets better after secondary school. NSFC provides students with much more freedom through independent study periods, more diverse after-school clubs, student presidents, and personal development coaches. This definitely benefits me since I would often feel overwhelmed in secondary school as we didn't have this much freedom and time to actually study.

My peers at NSFC are very respectful and affable unlike secondary school, which is one of the main reasons I feel comfortable to be myself here in this sixth form. Considering I moved to the North East in June 2024 from West Yorkshire, I was less worried than I imagined I would be moving to a completely new area and that was thanks to my experience here at NSFC."

Important Dates

During the next term we will have a number of key events and dates, which are worth noting:

Start of Term **Tuesday 7th January 2025**

Consultation Evening	Wednesday 15th January 2025 (4.30pm – 7.00pm)
IAG Open Event	Wednesday 5th February 2025 (4.30pm – 7.00pm)
Parents Evening	Thursday 20th February 2025 (4.00pm – 7.30pm)

Half Term Break **Monday 24th – Friday 28th February 2025**

IAG Open Event	Wednesday 5th March 2025 (4.30pm – 7.00pm)
Mock Exams Week	10th – 14th March 2025
Parents Evening	Thursday 20th March 2025 (4.00pm – 7.30pm)
Consultation Evening	Wednesday 2nd April 2025 (4.30pm – 7.00pm)

Easter Break **Monday 14th – Friday 26th April 2025**



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