

# PARKLIFE

Summer Edition 2025 — Issue 11

[www.jesmondparkacademy.org.uk](http://www.jesmondparkacademy.org.uk)



## JPA RAINBOW DAY

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# Jesmond Park Academy

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Dave Merrifield

# HEAD OF SCHOOL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our summer issue of Parklife, the Jesmond Park Academy magazine that celebrates our student's achievements and some of the wonderful opportunities that are open to them at our school.

This has been an incredibly busy and enjoyable term, on the academic front the students in Y11 and Y13 have completed their formal final examinations and are now enjoying a well-earned rest. A few whole school events this term have included Day of Culture, Sports Day, JPA Rainbow day and Activities Day.

Some other outstanding achievements that have not made this edition include a trip to Newcastle University for our budding Y8 mathematicians, cricket teams, basketball teams, football teams and athletics teams all representing the school fantastically well.

In a previous issue you will have seen reference to our "School of Sanctuary" award, this work has continued this term and you can read more about some of the activities our children got involved in during Refugee week. This term another award came our way recognising the excellent support that our young carers receive in school.

It is always a dangerous game mentioning certain activities and events as I will doubtless miss something and I know I will have done here.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and you can pick up a flavour of what has been going on at JPA.

Ward Regards

Dave Merrifield



# JPA RAINBOW DAY 2025

Friday 27th June  
marked Jesmond Park  
Academy's  
inaugural Rainbow  
Day!



Friday was a day of celebration and awareness raising of the beautifully diverse school community we are so fortunate to have here at Jesmond Park Academy, promoting inclusivity and encouraging all staff and students to express their lived experiences, advocacy and allyship - from more Pride and less Prejudice in the English dept, to brightly coloured socks aplenty in Ks3 and 4, from rainbow drip at Ks5, to inclusive signing BSL sessions in HIARP and even the brightly festooned canteen, Jesmond Park Academy was in its Rainbow era!



Rainbow Day stickers for all students were distributed by Year Teams and items that celebrate and promote diversity were available at stalls during Ks3 and 4 lunchtime. Items on the Rainbow Day tables were a collaboration of crafts made by students (and staff!) who



frequent Pride Club, as well as materials from the charity Just Like Us, stickers donated by the superman of the School of Sanctuary Project Jon Lovatt and examples of diverse and inclusive fiction from our school library, kindly displayed by brilliant bibliognost Jonathan Brown!



This year's Rainbow Day was a fantastic inaugural launch of an addition to the existing framework of celebration events, which will return in 2026, steadfast in the promotion of a key principle of Jesmond Park Academy - a place where all students and staff alike can feel safe, valued, that we belong and that we truly champion diversity and inclusion, not just on Rainbow Day, but all year round!

Thank you for your support,

**Lizzie Tarcy**

*(on behalf of the staff advocates, allies  
and the Pride Group)*



# LEWIS MILEY AND SEAN LONGSTAFF ARE STUDENTS FOR THE DAY WITH NEWCASTLE UNITED FOUNDATION



Newcastle United homegrown talents Sean Longstaff and Lewis Miley made it a school day to remember for students learning to unlock their potential with Newcastle United Foundation.

Pupils at Jesmond Park Academy were told two new students would be joining their group and were delighted when Miley and Longstaff – an ambassador for the Foundation – arrived to take part in their lesson led Foundation staff.

The pair got to work in helping students with problem-solving and communication tasks, encouraging the group to work as a team before sharing their personal journeys in football and answering questions on topics ranging from discipline and resilience to ambition and mental wellbeing.

As one of Newcastle United Foundation's Partner Schools, the Newcastle academy benefits from a

Foundation staff member embedded within the school during term-time, providing tailored support for students who may be at risk of disengaging from education or who face barriers to achieving their goals.

Andy Foster, Director of Programmes and Impact at Newcastle United Foundation, said: "Visits from role models like Sean Longstaff and Lewis Miley who have also grown up in the same area allows students to see that with commitment and hard work, they can achieve their full potential.

"As a Foundation we are proud to support each young person on their journey to finding and realising their goals by starting with targeted interventions for more than 750 pupils every year in our Partner Schools.

"Whether this is achieved through mentoring, careers guidance or resilience-building sessions delivered by our team, our ambition is to improve outcomes in education



and boost long-term prospects for young people across the North East.”

The Foundation’s Partner Schools programme is delivered within a network of secondary schools in the region, supporting the next generation to potential through education, mentorship, and employability training.

The initiative is supported by the Harrison Foundation with the two charities working together to create positive change and provide meaningful opportunities through more than 1,600 sessions delivered in Partner Schools every year.

Harrison Foundation trustee Daniel Harrison said: “It was a great experience to visit Jesmond Park Academy and see the enthusiasm students have for their sessions with Newcastle United Foundation first-hand.

“Sean and Lewis made a huge impression – it’s not every day young people get to hear directly from Premier League players about overcoming challenges and setting goals.

“At the Harrison Foundation, we’re committed to giving young people the tools and opportunities to build brighter futures, and we’re proud to support a programme that is achieving just that.”

For more information about the Newcastle United Foundation and programmes near you, follow Newcastle United Foundation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#) for regular news and updates.



**NEWCASTLE  
UNITED  
FOUNDATION**



**Jesmond Park  
Academy**

# **ART OPEN EVENING**

A celebration of A Level and GCSE work

**THURSDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

**3PM - 6PM**

# Art Exhibition 2025

The work at this year's Sixth Form art exhibition was truly amazing. Staged in the school's art department, a visit felt like entering a real art gallery, and the quality of the students' work was sensational.





# CONGRATULATIONS

## CARER FRIENDLY COMMUNITY AWARD FROM NEWCASTLE CARERS

Jesmond Park Academy has been chosen as one of the winners of the Carer Friendly Community Awards for 2025. Dave was presented by Holly and Izzy from Newcastle Carers with the award. Megan comes in once a month from Newcastle Carers to support our students and offer help with the demands that are placed on them. It is nice to have someone to talk to about their needs.

We do many things as a school to give our students extra support and to value them in a caring way.

# ORBITS

Thirteen of our Year 12 physicists have been working on a 15 week solar flares project with two PhD students from Northumbria University.

They visited the University last Tuesday to present their findings to the faculty of Solar and Space Physics. They were brilliant.

Below are the posters they produced and presented.

This was both a fascinating and informative project!

2019-20 MANCHESTER CITY  
2020-21 MANCHESTER CITY  
2021-22 LIVERPOOL  
2022-23 MANCHESTER UNITED  
2023-24 LIVERPOOL  
2024-25 NEWCASTLE UNITED

# CARABAO CUP VISIT

Jesmond Park Academy students who participated in Newcastle United Foundation sessions had the opportunity to have their picture taken next to the Carabao Cup trophy. This was a reward for all their hard work in sessions and effort shown throughout the year.



# YEAR 7 GIRLS' FOOTBALL



The girls were excellent during a football tournament at GSHS, not only great in terms of effort and ability, but leadership, communication, support and sportsmanship, too!

A really great bunch who went above and beyond to make sure everyone was included!



# National Literacy Trust Refugee Week

# 2025

## Sita Brahmachari & Lina Fadel

During a live session, Jesmond Park Academy students, together with pupils from across the UK, had the chance to hear from Sita Brahmachari about her new book *Phoenix Brothers*. The event was part of the National Literacy Trust's work with a number of authors for Refugee Week. Sita shared why she felt compelled to develop the story of Amir and Mo, whilst also discussing why she writes about the experiences of refugees.

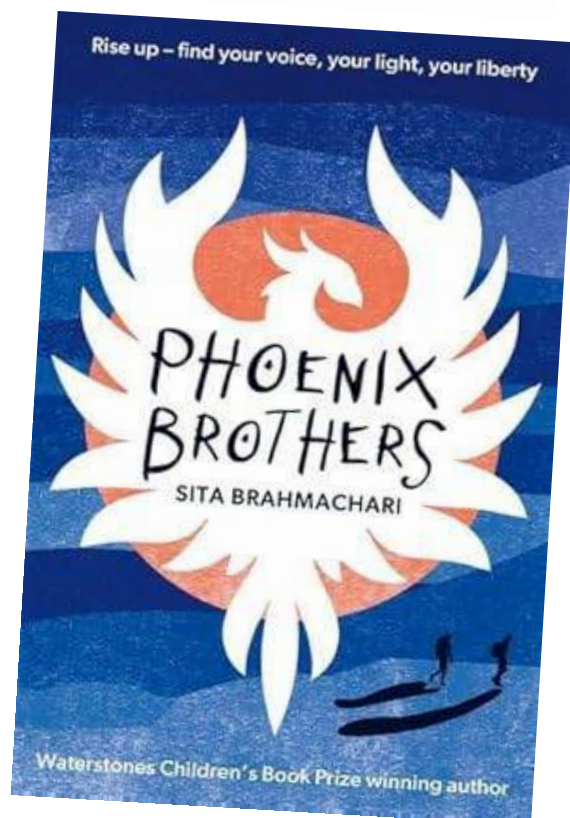
Lina Fadel, editor at *The Other Side of Hope*, also contributed to the live session. The publication showcases poetry and fiction written by refugees. Lina raised some key points:

- Why is it important to talk about the experiences of people seeking refuge?
- How are refugees represented in fiction, in the media, and in everyday conversations?

A range of books about refugees and displaced people are available in the school library. The titles, recommended by the National Literacy Trust, include *The Crossing* by Manjeet Mann, *No Ballet Shoes in Syria* by Catherine Bruton and *Refugee Boy* by Benjamin Zephaniah.

## Community as a Superpower

The theme of Refugee Week this year is 'Community as a Superpower' – artwork for this year has been designed by illustrator 8bitfaz. We are holding a competition for students to design their own 'Superhero Refugee' – entries can be handed in to Mr Lovatt in Student Support up until the last week of term.





# Refugee Week

## Stories of Sanctuary at Newcastle Civic Centre

Jesmond Park Academy celebrated Refugee Week with a visit to Newcastle Civic Centre on Wednesday. Jesmond Park Academy represented the Schools of Sanctuary, in an event titled Stories of Sanctuary - hearing from people who have come to live and be part of life in Newcastle and the journey they have undertaken to be here.

There was Persian guitar from Aslan Mehraban, live painting by Hesam Moshfegh and textiles with Somayeh Oji. The close of the event saw a Tai-Haku Tree of Sanctuary being planted outside the Civic Centre, whilst Jesmond Park Academy's very own Kaijani read a poem titled *A Refugee* written by Roua Horanieh.

Mr Lovatt, EAL Practitioner, said,

"This is our first Refugee Week as a School of Sanctuary. As a school we are a key part of the community, and from the outset we've made it clear at Jesmond Park Academy that everyone is welcome here. We love being able to share our values at events like this."

More information about Refugee Week can be found online at

[www.refugeeweek.org.uk](http://www.refugeeweek.org.uk)





# DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



## YEAR 12 STUDENTS VISIT NISSAN PLANT A VALUABLE INSIGHT INTO INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION

Earlier this term, Year 12 students studying A Level Product Design in Design and Technology had the exciting opportunity to visit the Nissan manufacturing plant in Sunderland. The trip offered an invaluable glimpse into one of the most advanced automotive production facilities in the UK, providing students with real-world insight into how design, engineering, and manufacturing come together on a large scale.

During the visit, students were taken on a guided tour of the production line, where they observed the various stages of car manufacturing – from the initial body panel pressing and robotic welding, to final assembly and quality control. It was a fascinating experience to see how automation, precision, and teamwork are all essential to ensuring high standards of production.

The trip not only helped students understand how the concepts they study in the classroom are applied in a real-world setting, but also highlighted the wide range of careers available in the design and manufacturing industries. From industrial design and CAD modelling to materials engineering and quality assurance, the visit opened students' eyes to potential future career paths and the dynamic nature of the design and technology sector.

Educational visits like this are a vital part of learning. They bridge the gap between theory and practice, inspire future ambitions, and demonstrate the relevance of classroom knowledge in real-world contexts. For our Year 12 students, the Nissan plant visit was a truly memorable and valuable experience.



## YEAR 12 STUDENTS DIVE INTO INNOVATIVE DESIGN WITH DYSON ENGINEERING BOX EXPERIENCE

This term, our Year 12 A Level Product Design students took part in an exciting and highly educational hands-on activity using the Dyson Engineering Box – an initiative designed to inspire the next generation of designers and engineers through real-world product analysis.

The session focused on the disassembly and detailed analysis of a genuine Dyson vacuum cleaner. Students explored the internal components, materials, and mechanisms that make Dyson products both innovative and highly functional. From motor housings and filters to airflow systems and precision-moulded parts, students had the chance to investigate how advanced engineering and design principles are applied to everyday items.

This kind of hands-on experience is invaluable in helping students make the connection between theory and practice. By physically interacting with a product designed to the highest industry standards, students gained a deeper understanding of manufacturing techniques, user-centred design, and the importance of sustainability in modern product development.

Beyond the technical learning, the activity also highlighted the level of creativity and problem-solving required in engineering careers. Seeing the complexity behind a common household item helped students appreciate how high-end design is integrated into everyday life – and how their own design skills could be used to shape the future.

Experiences like the Dyson Engineering Box bring the subject to life, offering an inspiring and practical link between classroom learning and real-world innovation.





# PEOPLE'S THEATRE



# PERFORMANCE



On Thursday 19th June, thirty of our incredibly talented Year 8–Year 10 students took to the stage at The People’s Theatre to perform our adaptation of Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*, set in a pub!

The cast gave a fantastic performance and were an absolute credit to the school throughout the workshop and rehearsal day. I was so impressed by their energy, dedication, and talent. Special mention to Year 10 who were learning lines and revising for their mocks.

We’ve received wonderful feedback from the audience and organisers, and I couldn’t be prouder of the entire cast.

Congratulations to all involved!

(Photos from Stephen Beecroft)

Mrs McGrath



# YOUR CLASS WILL BEGIN SHORTLY

## GET READY TO BREAK A RECORD!

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> of July, we had 2 of our Year 8 Food Technology classes taking part in the world's largest cooking lesson led by Jamie Oliver.

Together with thousands of other schools, we smashed the Guinness World Records™ title for the largest cookery lesson in multiple venues – and we are officially record breakers!

Drumroll, please. The final numbers are in...

Contributing to this record there were 10,515 cooks, across 6 continents and 42 countries helped smash the record!

This was done with students demonstrating their passion, energy, and love for food. Together they were chopping, stirring, and tasting a homemade

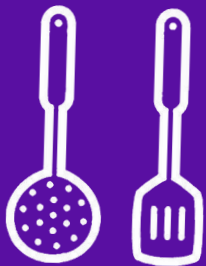
pasta with basil and tomato sauce and we have helped make history!

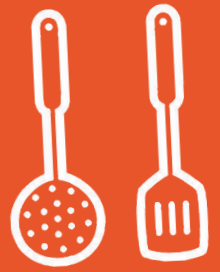
Why we did this:

At the heart of this record attempt is a simple belief: every child, everywhere, should leave school able to cook confidently and take care of themselves – no matter what life throws at them. That's why Jamie Oliver has developed 'Jamie's 10 Skills Programme', to give young people the essential skills in nutrition, knife safety, budgeting, and so much more.

Keep cooking, keep inspiring!

**World's  
largest  
cookery  
lesson!**





# INSIDE MATTERS

# MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

'Inside Matters' is a Premier League campaign aimed at raising awareness of mental health and encouraging fans to check in on the wellbeing of others.

We used our time in class to discuss mental health and come up with posters to encourage people to talk about it. We then carried out some activities outside that help promote good mental health and wellbeing.





# IN OTHER NEWS

# N.E.S.T

## NORTH EAST SOLIDARITY & TEACHING

Newcastle University's North East Solidarity and Teaching (NEST) group held their final reading session with Jesmond Park Academy students this week. The NEST reciprocal reading sessions are run by University student volunteers - with English as an Additional Language as a focus for development.

Mr Lovatt, EAL practitioner, said, "I want to thank the NEST volunteers for their time and effort in working with our EAL students. Coming in each week, they have built a lovely rapport with our New to English cohort and some of our students who have been displaced. As a School of Sanctuary, building these positive connections is really valued. I look forward to working with NEST again in the 2025/26 academic year."

For more information about NEST and their projects outside of school, visit

[www.northeastsolidarityandteaching.com](http://www.northeastsolidarityandteaching.com)

**Jon Lovatt**

# HIARP DISPLAYS

Out and about in the corridors around school are out lovely HIARP displays.

Staff have created some interesting and informative boards.

There is a great one about the careers that our former HIARP students have gone on to do.



# LES COULEURS DU MONDE

Year 7 French are doing a unit called "Les couleurs du monde" (the colours of the world) in which they learn about colours and how to use them to describe landscapes, animals, clothes and people.

We always try to include cultural elements from around the world in our lessons, so the bunting that 7aFr5 created represents all the flags of the Francophonie (the 29 countries over 5 continents where French is spoken as an official language).



# REMEMBERING VE DAY 80 YEARS ON

8 May 1945 – VE Day (Victory in Europe Day) – was one that remained in the memory of all those who witnessed it. It meant an end to nearly six years of a war that had cost the lives of millions; had destroyed homes, families, and cities; and had brought huge suffering and privations to the populations of entire countries.

Millions of people rejoiced in the news that Germany had surrendered, relieved that the intense strain of total war was finally over. In towns and cities across the world, people marked the victory with street parties, dancing and singing.

But it was not the end of the conflict, nor was it an end to the impact the war had on people. The war against Japan did not end until August 1945, and the political, social and economic repercussions of the Second World War were felt long after Germany and Japan surrendered.

**Imperial War Museum**

## ASYLUM SPEAKERS LIVE Q&A EVENT



In a live Q&A session, Jesmond Park Academy's School of Sanctuary Student Voice group heard from Asylum Speakers founder Jaz O'Hara, and Giel, a South Sudanese speaker and advocate for refugee rights. Asylum Speakers is a media platform amplifying the voices of those impacted by forced displacement – alongside regular talks and Q&As, they have produced a bestselling book and a popular podcast.

Giel's work is powered by his own story of crossing land and sea to make it to safety aged just 16. Overcoming huge adversity, Giel's courage and bravery saw him overcome all odds to arrive in the UK, where he is now a student and a model.

Mr Lovatt, EAL Practitioner, said, "I believe this was a valuable and thought-provoking session. Giel's personal story is so similar to many of our own students. Understanding the hardships that displaced people have faced is really important to us as a School of Sanctuary."

The live Q&A event was a precursor to a Day of Welcome and Refugee Week, which take place in mid-June.

A copy of the Asylum Speakers book is now available in the School Library.

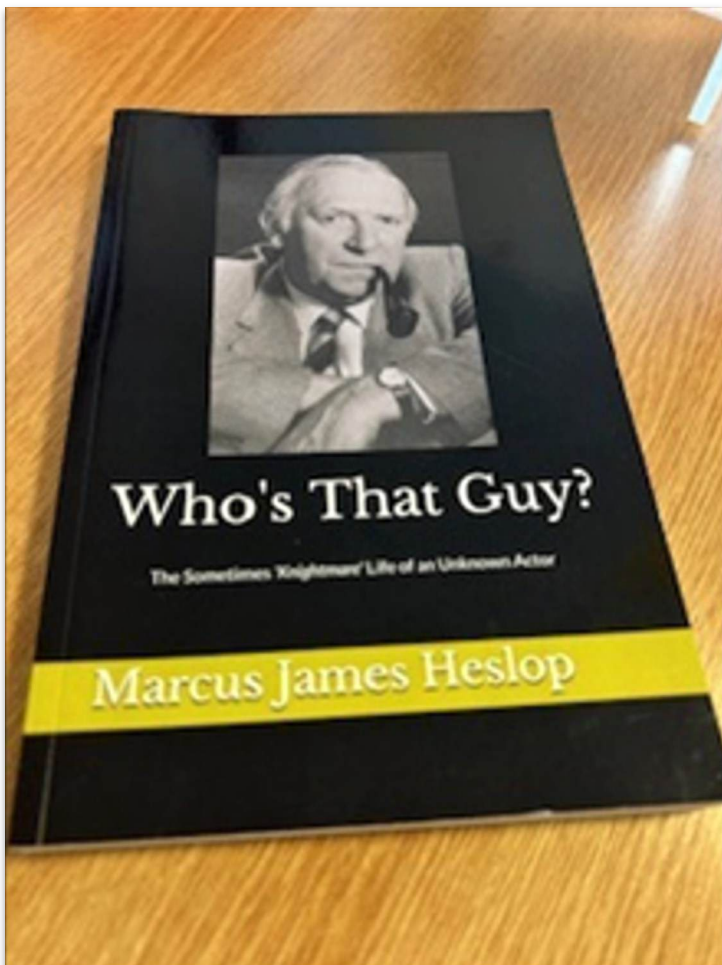


Jesmond Park Academy recently celebrated their annual **Culture Day**.

Students were invited to attend in their cultural dress - to showcase and celebrate the diversity across our school. Home-languages and home-cooked foods were also shared and enjoyed by students and staff, from Year 7 through to Sixth Form.

Mr Lovatt, EAL practitioner, said, "Culture Day is one of the most popular events on the calendar for our students - everybody looks forward to sharing their cultural identities with each other. This is our first Culture Day as a School of Sanctuary, and it is really wonderful to see the multicultural nature of Jesmond Park Academy on display in the diverse, bright and colourful attire of our students. It is a powerful way to spread the message - everybody is welcome here."

Jon Lovatt



# Who's That Guy?

Great news!

We have managed to get a copy of *Who's That Guy* which was written by Marcus Heslop. Marcus worked at Jesmond park Academy for many years as a Cover Supervisor before moving on to Kenton School as a Drama Teacher. We understand he is working on a second novel now. He was a popular member of staff known for his good sense of humour.

If you would like to borrow the book it is available from the school library.



Four of our Year 10 students took part in the Northumbria Police Newcastle School Debating competition this year.

They beat Newcastle School for Boys in the semi final but were narrowly pipped to the post in the final by fellow Gosforth Group MAT school Callerton Academy.

Well done everyone involved!

## NORTHUMBRIA POLICE NEWCASTLE SCHOOLS DEBATING COMPETITION



## CITY CUP CHAMPIONS

The U13/Y8 boys beat St Cuthberts in the final of the league cup 5-2, with goals from Zac Davidson (hat-trick), Adam Cutts & Aron Diallo . The boys played in hot conditions on a balmy night & were impressive in their sporting endeavour.

The boys are now double champions after securing the league a few weeks ago.

**Mr Bolam**







If you have any articles you would like to share you can send them to:

[hdonnelly@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk](mailto:hdonnelly@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk)