

PARKLIFE

Winter Edition 2025 — Issue 10

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SCHOOL OF ROCK!

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Jesmond Park Academy

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In Other News



Steve Campbell PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the mid-year edition of Parklife, the Jesmond Park Academy magazine that celebrates our students' achievements and offers a fuller view of school life. With the wintry weather ensuring that it has been a cold and wet couple of months, it is good to 'warm ourselves' with the good news stories from our student body. We have all been inspired by how outstanding our student body have been. Remember, we are now updating our parents regularly via our social media channels on student success stories throughout the year, so please follow these if you can.

As you all know by now, one of my priorities is to increase the amount of enrichment and leadership opportunities at our school and hopefully you will see this in these pages. As the whole country seems to drift toward the STEM agenda, we have always tried to boost the Creative Arts at our school. Last year, I was particularly proud that we managed to have students on stage at 5 separate times throughout the year! In particular, the ambitious Drama production of 'School of Rock' which combined our performers and musicians was a real highlight of the last 6 months

You will also see reference to our 'School of Sanctuary' award and this is also something that we are particularly proud of, highlighting our ambitions to be a successful, inclusive school that is welcoming to all. In many ways, this award encapsulates what we are about as a school.

Anyway, I will leave you now to read through the pages and find out about what has been happening in the last 6 months.

Warm regards,

Steve Campbell



SCHOOL OF ROCK

THE MUSICAL



Just before the Christmas holidays, Jesmond Park Academy's Performing Arts Department wowed audiences with its first musical in over a decade!

The production of *School of Rock* by Andrew Lloyd Webber featured a cast of over 100 talented actors and dancers, along with more than 30 musicians in the orchestra. Every single participant brought their A-game, and we couldn't be more proud of the hard work, dedication, and talent on display.

We knew we'd face a delightful dilemma when so many students signed up to audition, and we were spoilt for choice as every single auditionee impressed us with their passion and skill. The only solution? We decided to double cast the show and put on two performances, giving even more students the chance to shine. It's not every day you face the challenge of having too many talented performers!

The performances were a fantastic success and the perfect way to round

off the term. Looking ahead, we've got more exciting projects in the works.

Our next big event is the Heaton Shakespeare Festival at The People's Theatre. We'll also be putting on two more Shakespeare productions at school to showcase the amazing talent our students have to offer. Plus, we have an immersive upper school production in the pipeline and the Dance Department is gearing up for their end-of-year showcase. To top it all off, the Music Department will also be taking the stage for their own end-of-year performance.

It's a thrilling time for the Performing Arts Department at Jesmond Park Academy, and we can't wait to show you what's next!

MRS MCGRATH





THE BIG PLAY DAY

On 22 November, our students took part in The Big Play Day. This was an event organised at the Royal Grammar School where our budding musicians joined together with other young instrumentalists from schools around the Northeast region. The aim was for the students to experience playing in a large orchestra of over 200 musicians.

How often do you get to do that!

They worked with orchestral sectional professionals in the morning learning pieces within their sections then came together to perform as a whole orchestra in the afternoon, putting on a concert later that day of what they'd been working on during the day.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and got so much out of it. It was amazing opportunity and experience for the students to meet each other, play within their instrumental sections and a very much sizable orchestra.





6TH FORM PHYSICS TRIP TO GENEVA

On the 9th January, the Year 12 and 13 A-level Physics students enjoyed a chilly trip to Geneva.

As part of the trip we visited the Swiss Plasma Laboratories where students were given a tour of the Tokamak Fusion Reactor and were introduced to the basic principles of plasma and fusion by on-site scientists working with the reactor. We also visited the CERN Science Gateway where we travelled a short distance into France to see the Command and Control Centre for the Large Hadron Collider, the largest particle accelerator in the world.

“Visiting the Saint Pierre Cathedral and climbing to the top of the towers for an amazing view was a highlight of the day”

The students were given a lecture by one of the scientists working on the ALICE project which explored the processes involved in particle acceleration and the history of CERN and accelerator development. As part of our trip we also completed an 18km trek around the city. We visited the Palace of Nations and the Broken Chair Statue, the Botanical Gardens (with some very friendly blue tits!) and the

History of Science museum, a beautiful mansion on the shores of Lake Geneva filled with scientific equipment and interactive exhibitions. The students then completed a scavenger hunt in the Geneva Old Town, where visiting the Saint Pierre Cathedral and climbing to the top of the towers for an amazing view was a highlight of the day. They also visited the Park de Bastions to see the Reformation Wall, Maison Tavel, the old Arsenal and Cannons, Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein’s Monster statue and the Jet d’Eau on Lake Geneva.

“The students were an absolute credit to the school”

The students were an absolute credit to the school, and the hotel staff were very impressed with their excellent behaviour. Their interactions with the scientists, their thoughtful questions, their patience, their humour, their conversations and their genuine happiness in just spending time together made this trip a fantastic experience for all of us!

**Jesmond Park Academy
Science Department**





CELEBRATING SUCCESS

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES WRITING COMPETITION 2024

We are thrilled to congratulate all students who participated in the European Day of Languages Writing Competition 2024. Now in its 20th year, this prestigious competition, organized by ALLNE, received submissions from across the UK in a diverse range of languages.

From Key Stage 1 pupils to A-level students, participants embraced the theme *Together* with incredible creativity. They showcased their talents through posters, poems, narratives, reports, and fact sheets—crafted by hand or on keyboards, with and without illustrations. Each entry reflected personality, positivity, and passion for languages.

This competition, driven by dedicated volunteers, aims to celebrate young people's linguistic abilities—whether developed at school or nurtured through family and community connections. It encourages students to go beyond the curriculum, using their skills to write with imagination, humour, and thoughtfulness.

Many schools were commended for submitting exceptional work, and we are proud to share that our school earned a collective certificate for the high quality and number of entries submitted.

Additionally, individual students were recognized for their outstanding contributions. Congratulations to the following pupils who received personal certificates for their exceptional work in Spanish:

Key Stage 3

Sophia Sams (8.9)

Key Stage 4

Omaima Zemit (10.1)

Key Stage 5

Larissa Goncalves (12.8)

Bea Pain (12.8)

Sophie Evans (13.3)

Special congratulations go to the winners of the competition's prizes, awarded for outstanding language skills, unique approaches, and creative flair:

Key Stage 3 FRENCH

Lola McEvoy (9.3)

Mishal Jabbar (9.8)

Key Stage 5 Spanish

Anya Heir (12.8)

We couldn't be prouder of our students' achievements. Their commitment to languages inspires us all, opening doors to other cultures and enriching our connection to the wider world.

Well done, everyone!

Mrs. González Otero

2nd in Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

Steve Campbell

Principal





ESMOND PARK ACADEMY

DESIGN AND

BUILD YOUR VISION: STUDENTS SHINE IN CREATIVE DESIGN TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

In a world where creativity meets innovation, a recent competition in the Design Technology Department challenged students to unleash their imagination using building kits like LEGO, K'NEX and Meccano to design and model anything they could think up. From futuristic cities to functional gadgets and whimsical sculptures, the possibilities were endless. The competition, which aimed to encourage young minds to think outside the box, attracted a diverse range of entries that

showcased incredible talent, problem-solving skills, and artistic flair.

The goal was simple: design and model an original creation that could be creative, innovative, functional, or just plain fun. The results were anything but simple, as students poured hours of thought and effort into their projects, combining engineering principles with artistic expression. Whether it was intricate details, clever use of materials, or completely new concepts, the participants demonstrated an

impressive array of skills.

Now, after much deliberation, we are proud to announce the outstanding winners of this exciting competition. Each of these young designers displayed not only creativity but also a strong understanding of design principles and technical execution.

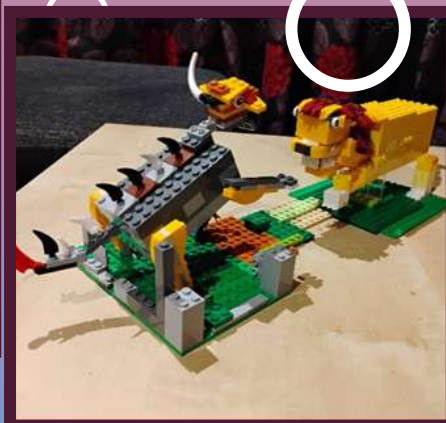
Here's a look at the Design Technology teachers' favourite top three entries and their remarkable creations:



Leo Bastie-Gullick

9.7

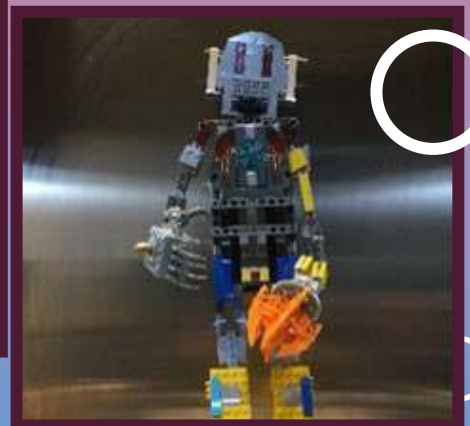
Leo has created a fully operational penny pusher.



Scarlett Skinner

7.2

Scarlett has created an epic battle between a lion and a dragon.



Caspian Farquharson

7.9

Caspian has created a futuristic robot.



We are excited to announce the launch of our new After-School Design Technology Club, which has already kicked off with Year 7 students! This club is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to extend the practical skills they've been developing in their lessons and apply them to real, hands-on projects. Over the next few weeks, students will be designing and building their very own personalised storage products – a project that combines creativity, problem-solving, and practical design.

As part of the club, students are honing the workshop skills they've been introduced to in class, from measuring and cutting materials to

The aim is to create a functional and personalised storage product, whether it's a stationary organiser, trinket container, or something unique to each student's needs. This project allows them to explore their ideas and create something that's both practical and meaningful.

In the next stages of the project, students will take their designs to the next level by learning cutting-edge CAD (Computer-Aided Design) skills. They'll use these digital tools to personalise their designs. Once their designs are ready, students will be introduced to CAM (Computer-Aided Manufacturing) techniques, including using the laser cutter. This will enable

them to add intricate details, such as names, patterns, or even artwork, to their products – adding a truly bespoke touch.

The Design Technology Club is a great way for students to develop new skills while exploring their creative potential in a supportive and fun environment. At the end of the project, we look forward to showcasing the students' finished pieces, where they will have the chance to present their work and share the process behind it. Stay tuned for a future update where we will highlight their fantastic outcomes!



YEAR 7 DESIGN TECHNOLOGY CLUB

PERSONALISED STORAGE CREATIONS UNVEILED

The Design Technology Club has been buzzing with creativity and energy as Year 7 students continue to develop their practical and design skills. After weeks of hard work, the students are now in the final stages of their personalised storage products, and the results are nothing short of impressive.

The students embarked on a journey that started with learning key workshop skills – from measuring and cutting materials to safely using various tools and machinery. These foundational skills have been essential in ensuring that each student's project was not only functional but also made with precision and care.

The personalised storage products they've been creating – ranging from stationery organisers to bespoke trinket stores – are a true reflection of their creativity and problem-solving abilities. Some students have even gone the extra mile to design products that cater to their own unique needs, incorporating innovative features that set their creations apart.



Students personalised their products by integrating technology, through CAD (Computer-Aided Design) and CAM (Computer-Aided Manufacturing), students added intricate details such as names, custom patterns, and even artwork to their projects using design

software and our laser cutter.

In the final stages, the students have been putting the finishing touches on their storage items. Some have opted for sleek, minimalist designs, while others have embraced bold colours and

patterns, truly making their products one-of-a-kind. It's clear that the combination of hands-on work and digital innovation has empowered students to push their creative boundaries.



ISAAC



AOIFE



NOAH



EILAF

The Design Technology department continues to offer a fantastic opportunity for students to explore their creative potential, develop new skills, and gain hands-on experience. As we near the end of this project, we are already looking forward to the next wave of innovation and creativity from our talented students.

CHESSE AT JESMOND PARK ACADEMY

Wednesday 20 November, 2024

Picture the scene: a school cafeteria packed with more than 80 teenagers. But for nearly 3 hours, you can hear a pin drop. This was the atmosphere recently at St Mary's Catholic School where a total of 12 secondary school teams, including Jesmond Park Academy, were battling it out in the regional qualifier for the Under 19 English Schools Chess Championships.

Jesmond Park Academy entered 2 strong teams and a big congratulations goes out to our team A who qualified for the regional stage, where we will play in a knock-out tournament during the spring term. The winner of the region qualifies for the National Chess Finals which will be held at Nottingham University in June. Our team A will now be practising strategies and skills with their coach. Come on Jesmond Park Academy!



Warming up!

TEAM A	Year	TEAM B	Year
Ewan Palmer	13	Michael Pearson	11
Jake Turner	11	Rahil Hassan	8
Danylo Hrymalyak	8	Kashish Khandelwal	8
Ibrahim Haroon	13	Angelina Huang	11
Kai Harkensee	13	Mustafa Hassanain	8
Michael Kontogiannakis	8	Fraser Fyfe	8
Reserve- Eilaf Ahmed	7		

They all did the school and themselves proud. A big shout out to their coach, Mr Farzanpour.

J Sharpe





**Jesmond Park
Academy**



Chess Club

When:

Monday in M12

Wednesday in M10

Time:

After school until 3:30pm

All year groups welcome!



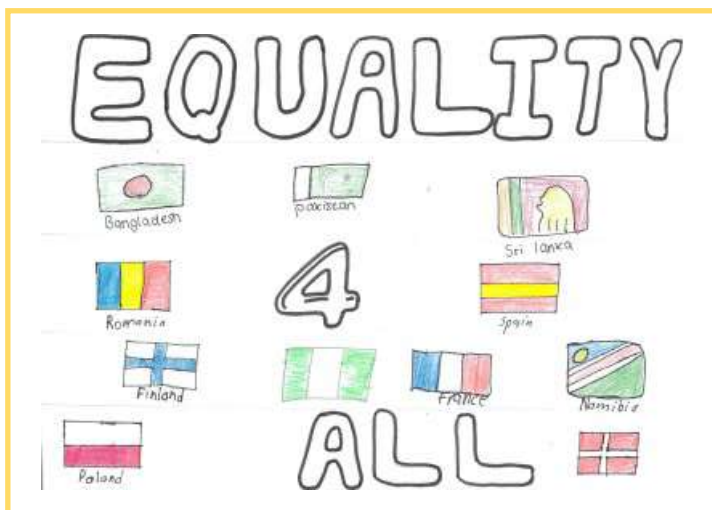
School of Sanctuary

CELEBRATING OUR DIFFERENCES



Students across school have been creating pieces of artwork to celebrate Jesmond Park Academy's School of Sanctuary status. Following the theme 'celebrating our differences' - students from Year 7 through to Sixth Form produced some excellent and thought-provoking pieces in an art competition.

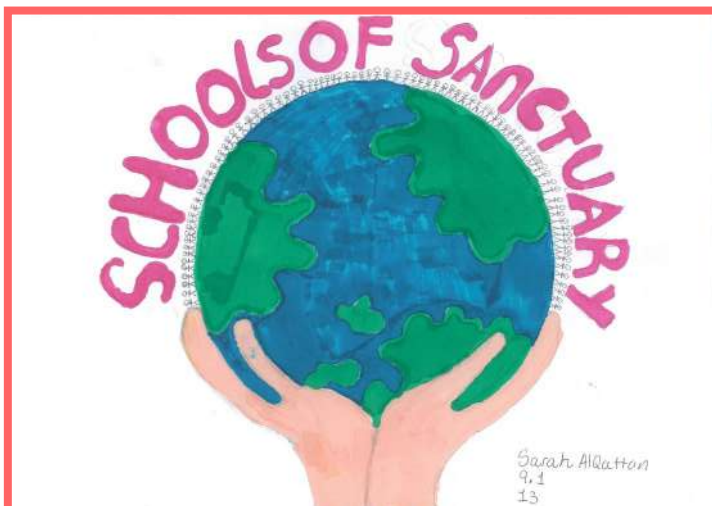
The Schools of Sanctuary is a growing network with more than 1200 primary and secondary schools all committed to supporting thousands of young people seeking sanctuary in the UK, creating a culture of welcome, and raising awareness of the issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers.



The idea for the art competition came from Jesmond Park Academy's Student Voice Project, a student-led initiative that follows the principles of the Schools of Sanctuary. Guided by Newcastle Council's Youth Voice and Influence team, the Student Voice Project were delighted with the quality and variety of art produced, and the important messages being shared by students themselves.

Jon Lovatt, EAL practitioner, said:

We are really proud of our School of Sanctuary status, and raising awareness through art has been a fantastic way of seeing how our students share the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion. I look forward to showcasing the artwork that celebrates our differences here at Jesmond Park Academy.



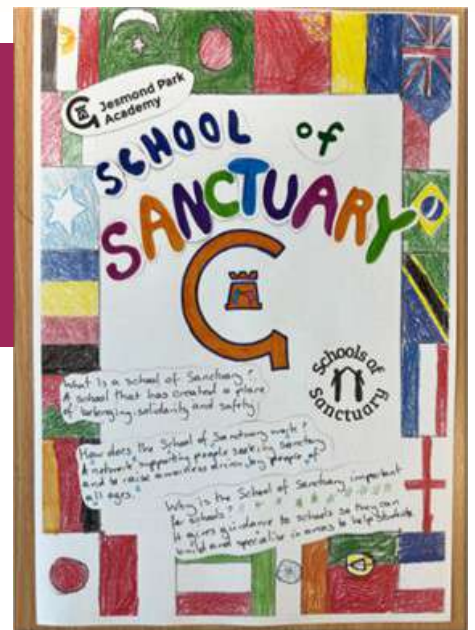






Jesmond Park Academy

SCHOOL OF SANCTUARY AWARD WELCOMING ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES



Students and staff at Jesmond Park Academy were delighted to learn that they have achieved the School of Sanctuary Award.

Jesmond Park Academy is the first secondary school in Newcastle to achieve this prestigious award and demonstrates the significant work that the school has been involved in over numerous years around welcoming refugee and asylum seekers.

Schools of Sanctuary is a growing network with more than 1,200 primary and secondary schools all committed to supporting the thousands of young people seeking sanctuary in the UK, creating a culture of welcome, and raising awareness of the issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers.

Steve Campbell, Principal, said:

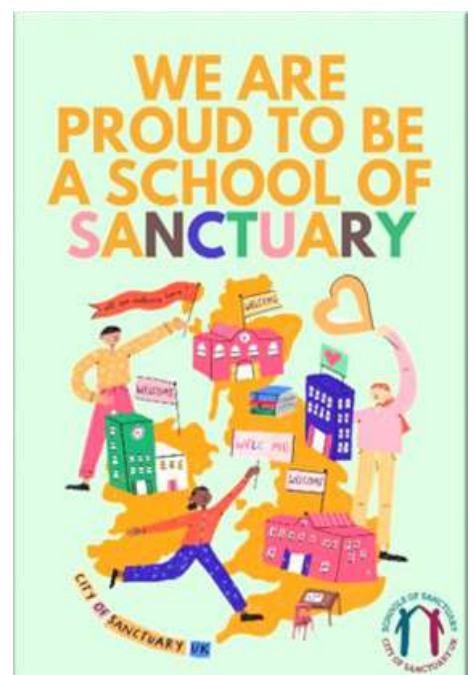
"I just want to say how delighted and proud I am about receiving the school of sanctuary award. It reflects a lot of hard work from

all the staff and students at the school and it reinforces the message that everyone is welcome here."

In a ceremony held at the Great North Museum, the award was presented by Rosie Tapsfield, Director of Operations at City of Sanctuary UK, alongside colleagues from the Schools of Sanctuary team in Newcastle Tom Lynam and Sarah Edgar.

Chris Aitken, Deputy Principal for Inclusion, said:

"The knowledge and understanding gained throughout the application process were invaluable. We used this opportunity to enhance support for our most vulnerable students and feel encouraged by the programme."



(The above leaflet was made by the School of Sanctuary Student Voice Project and handed out at the Y6 Prospective Parent Open Evening)

CRAVENS ADVERTISING TRIP



Our Y13 media class (and Martha Hart from English) spent the day with Cravens advertising agency where the pupils had to come up with a marketing plan for a real life brief.

They then had to present in front of a panel of creative advertising directors. The feedback was outstanding. One of the panel even commented that if the students were a few years older, he would be worried for his job.

The students represented the school fantastically and they deserve to be celebrated for their effort and achievement. They even networked and made some possible contacts for work experience.

I'm planning another trip back next year with a new cohort of students.

Mrs Cox

ANIME



スタジオジブリ
STUDIO GHIBLI



CLUB

Students from Year 7 through to Sixth Form have been enjoying iconic Japanese animation, spellbinding stories and award-winning films, as the new **Anime Club** has got off to a flying start.

Tapping into the popularity of *Studio Ghibli*, *One Piece*, *Pokemon* and more – students can enjoy anime-themed quizzes and film screenings, led by Mr Lovatt and Mr Pounder



WHERE?
WHEN?

PERIOD 7

EVERY FRIDAY
LIBRARY !!

ALL WELCOME !!

ST MARY'S LIGHTHOUSE TRIP

Y13 Biology students put theory into practice and expertly demonstrated their ecological sampling techniques at Collywell Bay in Seaton Sluice. Rockpooling and fish and chips were particularly memorable highlights.

Mr Bradley



IN OTHER NEWS

at Jesmond Park Academy

The School's
BIRTHDAY

Christmas
CONCERT

And
MORE!



SCHOOL IS 20 YEARS OLD

During the Summer holidays staff were helping to take down a television that was being replaced in Sixth Form when they were doing the latest refurbishment. It was 20 years old as it was purchased in 2004.

There was 20 years of dust on it as it was too high up for staff to reach!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, SCHOOL

PRAISE CERTIFICATES

The end of last term saw great excitement when students received their Praise Certificates and chocolate rewards for achieving high standards in academic potential as well as attitude and conduct.

Year 7 students celebrated on the last day when we had a Day of Culture/non-uniform day.

Well done to all the year groups.



VINNIES AND STREETWORX

Nearly 30 students from Year 12 visited Vinnie's on Newbridge Street to learn about volunteering opportunities and how the centre works.

Jan, one of our staff links at Vinnie's, gave the students a guided tour of the premises and explained the various roles that need to be filled: stocking the food bank, creating food packages, sorting clothes and working in the markets and shops the centre operates.

Students arrived at the centre already with many donations that had been kindly provided by staff and students; thank you again for your generosity.

In the run up to Christmas it is an even busier time for Vinnie's and they were absolutely bowled over by the number of students who came along to find out more information and offer to volunteer.

On a very cold and early Christmas Eve morning, volunteers from Jesmond Park Academy Sixth Form joined other Streetworx volunteers to hand out gifts, cards, drinks and essentials to those on the streets in Newcastle. There was a tremendous student turn out and students were able to see first-hand how their kind Christmas donations help those people currently homeless in Newcastle. The Streetworx volunteers were very impressed with the work students have done, both as a school collecting items and also with the conduct of the students who volunteered that morning with one volunteer commenting that the students were 'a credit to the school'.





SOCIAL MOBILITY BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

Well done to Tyla Harvey and Sam Chirside in Year 13 for their completion of the SMBP (Social Mobility Business Partnership) programme in the summer.

Sam and Tyla were selected to attend the programme where students benefit from visiting four different businesses in a week and learning through interactive business games. On the fifth day they went to a professional sports club where they learned about the psychology of resilience.

Sam and Tyla both enjoyed this experience and improved their team work and presentation skills, so much so that they have agreed to co-present at this year's Year 12 assembly with SMBP representative

NEST (NORTH EAST SOLIDARITY AND TEACHING)

A group of our EAL students have started working with the North East Solidarity and Teaching (NEST) programme from Newcastle University. Made up of student-volunteers, the project is running a reciprocal reading group every Wednesday after school in the library.

NEST is a student-led initiative based at Newcastle University that focuses on providing education and support to refugees and asylum seekers who have been forcibly displaced in the region. NEST seeks to empower individuals through education, skills development, and community engagement, equipping them with the tools necessary to rebuild their lives and integrate into their new communities. Annually, NEST offers support to more than 500 refugee and asylum-seeking children, teenagers and adults in Newcastle.

NEST was established in summer 2016 to support refugee and asylum seeker families through language lessons and homework help, NEST now works with hundreds of people from the forced migration community making new lives for themselves in the region, supported by a team of three hundred student volunteers.



SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our Schools Music Christmas Concert! The performances were nothing short of magical, showcasing the incredible talent and hard work of our students. We are very proud of each one of you!

From beautiful carols to stunning instrumental pieces, the night was filled with festive joy!

A special shout-out to all the staff and volunteers who made the event possible—and to our amazing audience for your support to our wonderfully talented students!



SPORTS HALL **ATHELTICS FINALS**

Congratulations to the y7 an y8 girls who represented our school and Newcastle at the Tyne and Wear Sports hall Athletics Finals.

Y7 finished 8th in the county. They are:

Verna Lam, Carlie Lam, Angel Conlin, Rebecca Antill, Mabyn Goffe, Peri Khalil and India McClean

Y8 finished 10th in the county, competing with one team player missing. They are:

Connie Thompson, Elsa Ord, Aisha Adedigda, Ellie Armstrong, Lily Edwards, and Anvi Inamdar.

Very well done to you all.







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

hdonnelly@jesmondparkacademy.org.uk