

SPRING 2026

Spring-2026

A busy term
of learning and
discovery!

Westfield
to join RGS
School NEWS

Page 2

Cover image:
Margot tests her
climbing skills at
Hall Hill Farm.



Bright Start

Page 3



Round Square

Pages 6 - 7



National Careers

Back Page

ALSO INSIDE:

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES • JUNIOR HOUSE • SPORT • SENIOR HOUSE • FOOD & NUTRITION • MUSIC



Westfield to join RGS to form RGS Newcastle Group of Schools

...

Both schools share a long-standing commitment to excellent teaching, pastoral care, and the holistic development of every pupil. These shared values and the complementary offerings have led us to this natural and confident step forward.

We believe that combining our expertise, facilities, and resources to form a group of schools, as is occurring across the independent schools' sector, will provide an even richer educational experience for all students at RGS and at Westfield.

RGS will continue as an academically selective school, aiming to stretch and challenge its students. Westfield will remain proudly academically inclusive, offering a broad education that focuses on the development of the whole person.

We look forward to both schools continuing to operate within these respective strengths, which will provide Newcastle families with a breadth of different independent school options that suit the unique needs of children in our region.

...



Two Schools: One vision, one shared future



Geoffrey Stanford, RGS



Neil Walker, Westfield

This spring marks an important milestone for education in the North East as Westfield School is to join the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle RGS to form the RGS Newcastle Group of Schools.



THE RGS NEWCASTLE GROUP



School activities



Origami Butterflies

Students in Junior and Senior House have been getting creative by folding beautiful origami butterflies with a unique twist.

Each butterfly has been carefully decorated and includes a special 'friendship' note written in a different language. These meaningful creations will be proudly displayed at the Newcastle Civic Centre.



Sing and Sign at Eothen Homes

Mrs May's class delivered some wonderful Sing and Sign sessions at Eothen Homes, sharing beautiful songs and signs with the residents.

Their confidence, kindness, and enthusiasm shone through, creating a truly heartwarming moment for everyone.



Westfield Family Quiz

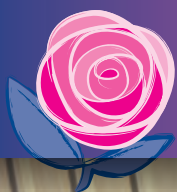
This year's family quiz was a lovely event.

It went right down to the wire, with The Blackman and Applewhite narrowly defeating the staff team in the final round.

Thanks to Emma I for being quizmaster once again.

During the quiz, Maeve T defeated Mr Quinn to win the 'carrot in a box' cash prize!





Bright Start

(Pre-School to year 2)



During our second half term we have been busy exploring life on a farm!



Our visit to Hall Hill Farm

We really enjoyed our visit to Hall Hill Farm in County Durham.

The children were able to hold rabbits, guinea pigs and baby chicks... but the highlight was definitely bottle feeding the adorable baby lambs!

The children have made great progress

with their learning this term and we have seen such a big change in them all!

We are all looking forward to lots more fun activities during our Summer term, especially as we start rehearsals for our Summer show!

'Bright Start'

People who Help us

Early Years children have had a fantastic start to 2026!

During our first half term we learned all about 'People who Help us' and got to interview lots of exciting visitors! We loved going on the Fire Engine and meeting the firefighters who work at Gosforth Fire Station! We also had a fabulous trip to Alpha Dental on Gosforth High Street, where we were all given our very own animal themed toothbrushes to take home!

In addition, we were delighted to welcome Mr Blake who talked to us about being safe in the sea. We got to try on all his RNLI gear and learn about how to avoid hazardous situations in water.

Mrs Pocock



Junior House



World Book Day

It started with a whole school book swap and dressing up as characters from our favourite stories.

Storytelling Concert

This was a real highlight. We performed songs inspired by much loved classics including 'The Jungle Book' and 'The Wizard of Oz'.

Some of our talented Year 6 pupils shared their wonderful creative writing with the audience.

In the classroom

Pupils have been diving into a range of exciting humanities topics, exploring themes such as Brazil, UK cities, and Queen Victoria.

Our English lessons have been equally inspiring, with classes thoroughly enjoying *The Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen and *The House with Chicken Legs* by Sophie Anderson.

Transition Day

Year 6 also enjoyed a transition day in Senior House, helping them feel excited and prepared for their move in September.

As we approach the end of term, there is still lots to look forward to. We are eagerly anticipating our residential trip and to welcoming the special people in our lives into school for a morning of Easter crafts.




Westfield

Senior House students - Books for Tokens

To coincide with World Book Day, Senior House students were involved in an exciting 'Books for Tokens' event in the CDR and held a TEAMS 'Shelfie' competition.





Round Square International Fundraising Activities



Round Square PYJAMA DAY

Our school looked wonderfully cosy today as pupils arrived in their comfiest pyjamas, fluffy socks, and cheerful prints. While the day brought plenty of fun, it also carried an important purpose.

All donations raised supported the Round Square International Service Project in South Africa, helping to make a meaningful difference to communities in Huhudi and at the Tiger Kloof Educational Institute.

Thanks to the generosity of our school community, we were able to:

- Provide materials to help build shelters in Huhudi
- Support community initiatives led by the Tiger Kloof Educational Institute

Thank you for helping us turn a light-hearted, comfortable day into one with real global impact. Together, we made a difference - one pair of pyjamas at a time.



...and the Staff
joined in too!



Spanish Apprentice Challenge Day

In March, our Lower 5 Spanish GCSE group was chosen to take part in 'The Spanish Apprentice' challenge at the Spanish Gallery in Bishop Auckland.

The Spanish gallery is the home to some of Spain's most important pieces of artwork and even includes a painting depicting the crucifixion by El Greco which is valued at over £12 million!

The aim of the challenge day was for the girls to discover the attractions and history of the town to be able to pitch Bishop Auckland as a destination worthy of a visit. Our girls worked very well with our designated student ambassador from Durham University, beginning with a tour of the local attractions including; the Bishop's Palace, the deer park, the souvenir shop, art gallery, local Spanish restaurant, the viewing tower and nearby Binchester Roman fort.

Following a false start, the map was turned around and Mila was able to demonstrate her amazing map reading skills to lead the rest of us across the town at great pace.

Once the girls had a good grasp of the local highlights, they undertook tasks ranging from responding to email enquiries from potential Spanish speaking clients, listening and responding to audio explaining the significance of the artists on display and finally, creating a pitch in Spanish to sell Bishop Auckland as a destination.

The girls used their skills of teamwork, resourcefulness and resilience to create a two minute pitch that was ultimately delivered with confidence, fluency and perfect pronunciation by Lula and Maha to a room of well over one hundred guests, including the Spanish Ambassador from the Consulate of Spain in Edinburgh who congratulated the girls on their endeavours.

Mr Quinn



Well done girls!



Senior House

First Aid Challenge Day

Our KS3 students enjoyed a highly engaging First Aid Challenge Day, where they learned and practised six essential areas of first aid.

After developing their core skills, pupils took on the role of instructors, teaching their peers a range of techniques - an excellent opportunity to build confidence, communication, and teamwork.

They will soon complete their own videos and information pages to consolidate their learning even further. It was a thoroughly impressive effort from everyone involved.



Robotics Club Shine at VEX IQ Competition

Robotics Club took part in the VEX IQ Competition at Nissan in Washington, marking an exciting milestone for the team.

Elva, Celia, Sana and Clara have been working together since September to design, build and programme their robot, Puck, ready for this year's VEX IQ game Mix and Match. Their months of commitment and creativity were put to the test across a full day of challenges.



Timetable Takeover Challenge

Our Lower 6 (Year 12) Chemistry students stepped into the shoes of Mr Russell, delivering their very own 'Rocket Science' lesson to Lower 5.

The students independently researched, planned and prepared their session before confidently leading the lesson with enthusiasm, creativity and impressive subject knowledge.

Not every rocket launched perfectly on the first attempt, but true scientists don't give up! The girls demonstrated fantastic teamwork and problem-solving skills, working collaboratively to troubleshoot and refine their designs.

A brilliant example of leadership, resilience and scientific curiosity in action!

Well done!





Music

An exciting term in Music!

We began in January with a fantastic visit to The Glasshouse for KS2 and the Senior Orchestra.

Pupils explored the incredible venue, took part in a hands on blues and jazz workshop, and even watched a live rehearsal by a professional quintet. The bassoon was a firm favourite, and there were plenty of amazed reactions to the size of the double bass!

Upper 4 students visited the Music Department at Newcastle University.

They enjoyed a tour of the facilities, experienced what a real university lecture is like with a fascinating session on ethnomusicology, and watched a final year performance recital. Highlights included an impressive folk and contemporary set - complete with bagpipes played to upbeat modern music.



Sport

There has been another exceptional term of sport including lots of netball tournaments against our local teams.

Below: Upper 3 and Lower 4 master the art of gymnastics displaying their fantastic flight and balance techniques.

Westfield

Gymnastics



Remember to keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram sites for our up to date sporting news!

Food and Nutrition News



Cook of the Year 2026

We were delighted to welcome Mr Ciprian "Chip" Scurtu, Head Chef at the award winning Woodmans Arms in Whickham, as our guest judge for this year's competition.

Our talented contestants were challenged to plan, prepare, and present both a savoury and a sweet dish within a strict time frame - a demanding test of creativity, technical skill, and composure under pressure.

Chef Chip generously shared his expertise throughout the day, offering insights into the diverse

kitchens he has worked in around the world. His guidance and encouragement brought an extra layer of inspiration to the event.

Huge congratulations to Millie, who was crowned this year's winner, and to Lily, our runner-up. Every participant demonstrated impressive ability, dedication, and professionalism.

We are incredibly proud of them all.



Winner

Millie was crowned winner for her perfect risotto and chocolate mousse.



Crêpicious Day

Late in February, our Thursday morning break turned into a flipping fantastic celebration as pupils filled the food room with delicious crêpes and tempting toppings, much to the delight of both girls and teachers.



Fish in School Hero Programme

It's been an exceptionally busy term in Mrs Mather's Food Room. As well as Cook of the Year, it was the 'FISH IN SCHOOL HERO' programme launch! We were fortunate to receive a donation of fresh fish to help increase the girls knowledge of fish preparation and nutrition.



THE
'FISH IN SCHOOL HERO'
PROGRAMME

Red Nose Day

This year, we were honoured to be chosen as the trial school for the Red Nose Day cookery challenge. Photos of our girls were shared around the world as they featured in the charity's official marketing. Keep an eye on Westfield's social channels for more creative ideas and silly food faces!



Food Education

Mrs Mather, Ambassador for the Food Teachers Centre led a training day to support teachers who are new to delivering Food in schools - helping them build confidence, develop essential skills, and explore effective classroom strategies. It was a pleasure to welcome such enthusiastic and dedicated colleagues into our school. The collaboration, shared ideas, and professional conversations throughout the day made for a truly inspiring event.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended. We are proud to support the development of Food Education across the region.



Easter Egg Decorating Competition

Here are some eggsamples of the amazing eggs, decorated and ready for judging!

Look out for the results and more on the Westfield socials.



National Careers Week



Thank you to Miss Malloy for organising a fantastic Careers Week, which culminated in a carousel of inspiring talks, advice, tips and insights to help guide our students in their future career choices.

Our pupils have received first hand advice and information on a variety of industry experts which included a lawyer, police officer, electrical and construction engineer, financial controller, newsletter writer/reporter, marketing and design director. All highlights can be reviewed on the Westfield Facebook site.

The girls enjoyed an inspiring and insightful session with Sir Graham Wylie, North East entrepreneur and founder of **Sage** and the Sir Graham Wylie Foundation. His visit offered a rare opportunity to hear directly from one of the region's most successful business leaders.

Sir Graham spoke openly about his academic journey, the passions that shaped him, and the pivotal moments that led to his remarkable career. He encouraged the girls to recognise their strengths and lean into them with confidence, sharing two simple but powerful principles:

- *Understand what you are good at*
- *If you are good at something, stick to it.*

He also passed on a memorable piece of advice from Alan Shearer:

"To be early is to be on time, to be on time is to be late, and to be late is unacceptable."

A reminder of the discipline and professionalism that underpin longterm success.

One of the most striking parts of his story was the influence of his PE teacher, former England rugby union player Roger Uttley OBE, who first recognised his potential and encouraged him to pursue programming.

The visit left the girls motivated, thoughtful, and energised about their own futures.



Sir Graham Wylie



Mr Simon Keightley,
electrical engineer from
Northern Powergrid.



Mrs Megan Nellis,
multiple book author.



Mr Will Larkin,
Wistl Marketing.



Katie Waterston - former
pupil, now apprentice at
Turner and Townsend.

