



Spring '24

A busy term of learning and discovery!

SPRING 2024

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Forest School girls explore our beautiful grounds.



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Key Stage 2 Update

Literacy has been centred around high quality texts and everyone has produced lots of great pieces of creative writing based on books including 'Darwin's Dragons' by Lindsay Galvin and 'The Lost Words' by Piers Torday.



The Primary Engineering Competition is under way and Year 6 have just submitted their entries and ideas for their inventions.

Years 4 and 5 have worked in teams to create an Anglo Saxon Village.



WINNING MODEL

'I really enjoyed the challenge although it was really hard fitting all the grass into the box'.

Islay.



PTA Quiz Night

Well done to Mr Walker's team who won the annual PTA Quiz. Thank you to Mrs Rowley and Mrs Lam for organising a really fun evening for our parents and staff. Also, a big thank you to Gorman's Fish and Chips for providing a lovely supper for everyone.

Whitehouse Farm

As part of our special topic this term, the girls enjoyed a trip out to Whitehouse Farm!

We had a fantastic time and a huge thanks must go to our fabulous parent helpers, Mrs Roberts and Mrs Eden! We were especially impressed by Mrs Roberts' bravery in holding the hissing cockroach!

The girls enjoyed feeding Inky, the baby lamb, milk from a bottle, meeting some of Santa's reindeer and a terrifically bumpy tractor ride! We were also given the chance to cuddle some small animals, including mice, guinea pigs, rabbits, bearded dragons, a blue-tongued skink and even a corn snake! Everyone was very brave and gentle with the animals and our tour guide Nancy commented on how kind and caring they were.



Well done girls!

Margot gets hands on with the little animals.



Nicha feeds the lambs.

Fun Little Foodies

While learning about the Celebration of Lunar New Year in February, the girls enjoyed visiting Fun Little Foodies on Gosforth High Street to learn how to make their own spring rolls.

All of the cutting and chopping was an excellent opportunity to develop our fine motor skills while learning about other cultures and how eating lots of different coloured vegetables can keep us healthy!

Kat from Fun Little Foodies was so helpful and even sent us a recipe card so we can make spring rolls again next year. The only downside was the whiff of garlic, which some of the girls thought was a bit "too stinky!"

We have had a very fun and busy Spring Term in Bright Start and we're all looking forward to lots of lovely warm-weather activities next term! Thanks again to all our parents and community helpers who have allowed the girls to enjoy so many wonderful experiences.

Mrs Pocock





Ms Porter the dentist, shows everyone how to remove 'sugar bugs'.



People Who Help Us

As part of our 'People Who Help Us' topic this term, we were lucky enough to enjoy lots of visits from different community helpers!

The girls really impressed us with some of the questions they asked, such as "why did you want to become a firefighter?" and "do you ever get scared doing your job?"

We enjoyed talks from the crew at Gosforth Fire Station as well as PC Simon and his sniffer dogs, 'Naughty' Norman and Clay. We also enjoyed dressing Mrs Pocock up in the RNLI wet suit and testing its waterproof capabilities by throwing bottles of water all over her!

Special thanks must go to our parent community helpers, Mr Curtis the paramedic and Ms Porter the dentist, for giving up their time to talk to the girls about staying healthy! The girls had lots of fun checking their heart rates and blood pressure and especially liked learning how to brush their teeth carefully to get rid of sugar bugs!



Danielle loved wearing the fireman's helmet.

Amber tries on an RNLI helmet.



PC Simon introduced us to his 'sniffer dogs'.

STEM Stories

This term, we held a wide range of STEM-based activities, including a STEM careers competition, with entries from Upper 3 to Lower 5.

Upper 3 and Lower 4 Challenge Day was really good fun. They worked together to create 3 different timers, each one had to be 30 seconds long.

We also took part in the annual VEX robotics competition, with Zoe L and Laura F winning the Judges' Award.

Hannah F, Lower 6, STEM Prefect.



Zoe L and Laura F.
Judges Award - Winners.


Westfield

Stemettes

A social enterprise which encourages girls and young women aged 5 - 25 to pursue careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths.

On Thursday 7th March, Aminah in Lower 6 took to the big stage at the House of Commons. She volunteered to become the North East Regional Advisor for the Stemettes Youth Board.

Aminah joined other advisors and discussed the launch of their impactful whitepaper reform on an equitable curriculum for more inclusive STEM education. The full whitepaper document can be downloaded. Search: [Stemettes.org/whitepaper](https://stemettes.org/whitepaper).

"Did you know that in our GCSE and A Level Science curriculum, there is only one woman, Rosalind Franklin, mentioned? We have to strive to create a more inclusive environment and curriculum where young people can see themselves represented"

Aminah H.



Food and Nutrition



Phoebe prepares her teacake.



Upper 3 took part in the Tunnock's Teacake Challenge

The girls were tasked to present a single teacake with the focus on food styling, where they were able to demonstrate their outstanding skill and creativity using the theme of the 4 elements; earth, water, air and fire.



Fish Filleting

Quite an intricate skill to master; Lower 5 GCSE girls did a fine job preparing some delicate types of fish including sea bream. The girls got to grips with how to fillet, skin and debone the fish. The girls also looked at sustainability.



Thandi is certainly a busy person. As well as her volunteering at Northern Stage, Thandi has been busy perfecting her practical skills and techniques in food. She recently travelled to Middlesbrough to compete in the Finals of the Rotary Young Chef Competition after winning the heats at school.

"I prepare a lot of meals for my family at home; I really enjoy learning new high level skills as it helps me with new ideas and dishes"

Thandi



All our Upper 3 finalists for the Tunnock's Teacake Challenge.



World Book Day

Junior House students and staff were absolutely amazing as usual; it was lovely to see the incredible thought and creativity that went into each costume design and it was so nice to absorb the genuine love of books that the girls shared with each other.



Mrs Slack's class made their book themed lanterns which are now displayed along the corridor and everyone is looking forward to showing them off to all our visitors on Open Morning on the 16th March. They are great pieces of artwork which help to celebrate and spread the joy of reading.

Mrs Slack





Northern Stage

Young Directors Programme



Working in groups to create inspirational and motivational quotes



Thandi in Lower 5 has been volunteering her time at Northern Stage as part of the 'Young Directors Programme'.

She also delivered an assembly to the whole of Senior House about the benefits of deciding on rules for group work, something which she discovered through the programme.

"I am really passionate about drama and directing; being behind the scenes and actually being around actors and directors is absolutely amazing."

Thandi.

A day at the BBC's 'Bring the Drama Festival'



Izzy in Upper 5 also spent a day at Northern Stage as part of the BBC's 'Bring the Drama Festival'.

"The day was amazing! I didn't realise how many different roles there are in producing a theatre production. I learnt a lot about what it's like to be a director, set designer and technician. It was a great experience and I thoroughly enjoyed it."

Izzy.



Maliah



FRANKENSTEIN

Frankenstein is our forthcoming school production which is being led by Lower 6 students, Maliah and Noah. They have meticulously researched and planned the whole event, deciding on the cost of tickets, refreshments on offer, selecting and acquiring the props and equipment needed and also marketing the event. They will also play a vital role in ensuring the smooth running of the event on the night.

Impressively, they have also cast the play, organised and led all of the rehearsals and co-directed what promises to be an amazing show.



Noah



Keep an eye out on Westfield social media for pictures and sneak previews.

Sports Roundup Spring term



This term has proven to be yet another busy one for PE and sports fixtures.

Netball

Our Junior House girls displayed their enthusiasm, participating in an Under 11 festival at Mowden Hall. They faced fierce competition playing against teams from all around the region and were able to demonstrate their ability to play hard and smart.

Similarly, in Senior House, our Upper 4 girls competed in the City Netball tournament at St Mary's. Their teamwork and communication skills were second to none.

Touch Rugby

Our amazing Sixth Form collaborated with Newcastle School for Boys to create a mixed touch rugby team. Everyone involved was thoroughly engaged and they demonstrated excellent teamwork. The tournament was held on the 13th of March at Billingham Rugby Club.

For schools, the touch rugby season has only just started and it's no easy task forming a mixed team in a short space of time and then heading to a tournament. Our girls worked exceptionally hard.



Some exciting school team performances...

Trampoline



Gabby bids 'Farewell'

"I've really enjoyed my role as Sport and Creative Arts Prefect this year; it's great to see so many girls try new things through our extra curricular clubs at lunchtime and after school. I know for a fact that some of our girls had never had trampoline lessons or played rugby before they came to Westfield but had some great achievements at competitions. I will be knuckling down to some A Level revision now and will be handing over my Prefect role into the capable hands of Millie.

Good luck to everyone for all the forthcoming matches and competitions; you will always have my full support".

Gabby H, Upper 6

...and fine individual out of school sporting achievements!

Many of our girls have achieved great success out of school too, in a diverse range of sports, from show jumping, ballroom dancing, and ice skating, to gymnastics, rugby, ballet and trampolining.

Showjumping



Ballroom Dancing



Ice Skating



To keep abreast of the news as and when it happens, please check our Westfield socials.



Mock Elections

As part of our Round Square programme of Leadership and Discovery, Mr Shieber organised a mock election.

Our amazing House Captains have been leading meetings and recently they have been steering the election process to assign four key posts: Party Leader, Deputy, Policy Officer and Campaign Manager. They will take part in debates and campaigns towards the end of term with the winning party being revealed in the end of term assembly. The House Captains have shown exceptional leadership skills and the enthusiasm from each room has been really great to witness.



Junior house 60s 70s and 80s Concert

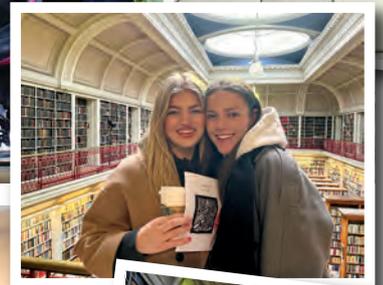
On Tuesday 19th March, the whole of Junior House, including parents, were invited to a celebration concert. It was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate and appreciate music from different decades.

Look out for more pictures on our social media channels.



National Careers Week

The week commencing the 4th March was National Careers Week and Mrs Quinn organised a busy and interesting week of presentations and talks from a diverse range of professionals.



Former pupils, Lauren and Liberty Bailey took time out of their busy schedule to talk to the girls about their career journey, starting from their time at Westfield, advice on subject options and A Levels. They are both Biomedical Scientists and have now set up a personal training business which specialises in fitness and nutrition.

Finally, to mark the end of a fantastic Careers Week, and to celebrate International Women's Day, Sixth Formers studying English Language, English Literature, Theatre Studies and Film Studies enjoyed exploring Newcastle's local arts venues.

They were treated to private tours of both the Lit & Phil and the Tyne Theatre and Opera House, learning all about the rich history of the organisations as well as what the two institutions have planned for the future. In the afternoon, the students

took on an International Women's Day challenge and discovered more about the impact women in Newcastle have had, and are having, on arts and culture in the city. "I first want to thank Mrs McGowan and Mrs Forster. It was a trip that I thoroughly enjoyed and wouldn't do normally.

The Lit & Phil was a beautiful place I would recommend visiting it in your spare time. It is a lovely place to get some peace and quiet which is very difficult for me! The last place we visited as a group was the Tyne Theatre and Opera House which was very interesting. I learnt more about what they do as a registered charity and that it's not just about the theatre side of things. I also learned lots about the business operations and how they manage the inflows and outflows of the business.

Overall, if you have some free time in your day, take a trip to the 'Toon' and go and visit these wonderful places."

Katie W, Upper 6

Our thanks go to:

Mrs Tamara Simpson, IT specialist and resources manager for Hyphen8; Mr Neil Hemming, Digital Technology expert, Laura Forrest, a former Westfield pupil, fashion industry; Joyce and Mark, Northumbria Police; Mrs Erica Collins, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Mrs Pamela Roberts, Financial Services, Mrs Autumn Rabbitts and Mrs Diana Bourke, business owners; Joely Hawke, another former Westfield student, Medicine; Author Mr Daniel Tawse; and Mr Pete Graves, Sky TV Presenter and author. Lucy in Upper 6 recorded an exclusive interview with Mr Graves on the subject of 'Success'. The full interview will be published in our in-house magazine, 'The Camellia', which will be distributed digitally to all our parents in July.

