



**BEDLINGTON**  
Academy

# WINTER NEWSLETTER

December 2019

## MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our termly newsletter for parents, students, staff, governors and members of the community.

This term has been exceptionally busy, most recently with our '12 Days of Christmas', which has involved hosting a huge number of festive activities, community events and performances. We hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas fun and cheer!

I am hugely proud of the generosity our school community has demonstrated in donating to the Salvation Army Foodbank, fundraising for good causes and supporting community events such as our senior citizens' Christmas dinner. I also continue to be wowed by the talents of our musicians, who have performed brilliantly at a number of events and whose confidence continues to go from strength to strength.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to everyone for your tremendous support, which continues to make Bedlington Academy the wonderful school that it is.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a fantastic Christmas break with your families and I look forward to welcoming our students back to school in 2020.

Have a lovely Christmas!

**Mrs Lamb**  
Head of School



## GCSE SUCCESS!

**During the summer, students celebrated a great set of GCSE results, with the rate of Grade 9s three times higher than last year!**

The results show a significant improvement in the number of higher grades awarded with the pass rate in several subjects also increasing significantly.

Our top performers at the Academy included Erin Bradley, who achieved six Grade 9s in maths, triple sciences, geography, and food and nutrition. Sophie Bell achieved four Grade 9s in maths and triple sciences, a Level 2 Distinction\* in creative media, and three other subjects at Grades 6-8.

*(Continued overleaf)*



## GCSE RESULTS

*Continued from Page 1...*

Alex Williams achieved three Grade 9s in chemistry, physics and French, as well as five other subjects at Grades 7 and 8.

Gregor Bennett achieved Grade 9s in English and physics as well as six other subjects at Grades 7 and 8.

Caitlyn Alderson made exceptional progress from her starting points, scoring two Grade 9s in combined science, a Level 2 Distinction\* in creative media, a Level 2 Distinction in performing arts, and four other subjects at Grades 7 and 8.

Joanna Lamb, our Head of School, said:

"Since joining the North East Learning Trust in April 2018, numerous improvements have taken place at Bedlington Academy. The number of top grades this year is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, as well as the high-quality teaching and personalised support they receive from staff."



## DofE LAUNCH

**We are delighted to have launched the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme with our Year 9, 10 and sixth form students.**

The scheme is a fantastic opportunity for students to take part in a range of activities over the year including volunteering, developing a physical activity and learning a new skill.

At the end of the year students plan, train and complete an unaccompanied expedition which involves a minimum of two days and one night for the bronze award and three day and two nights for the silver award.

We have been delighted by the interest from a large number of our students and we are excited to start the awards in early 2020.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

**20 Dec** Break up for Christmas

**06 Jan** Return to school

**22 Jan** Year 12 parents' evening

**05 Feb** Year 13 parents' evening

**14 Feb** Break up for half term

**24 Feb** Return to school

**04 Mar** Year 8 parents' evening

**18 Mar** Year 8 options evening

**25 Mar** Year 11 revision evening

**25 Mar** Sixth Form options review

To keep up to date with all news and events please visit:

[www.bedlingtonacademy.co.uk](http://www.bedlingtonacademy.co.uk)



## STUDENTS REFEREE THEIR FIRST MATCH!

**A group of students from Years 8 and 9 recently attended their first event as referees, for the Girls' Football School Sports Partnership Tournament, as part of the Young Sports Leaders Initiative.**

The initiative aims to develop students' leadership skills such as organisation, communication and teamwork, as well as helping to build confidence and self-esteem as they take on the responsibility of leading their peers and younger children.

Miss Scott, Head of PE at the Academy, commented: "The leaders were praised for their maturity and attitude displayed throughout the afternoon."

Well done students!



## GENERAL ELECTION

**On 12 December students participated in the Academy's own 'General Election' as part of their work on British values and democracy.**

All students learned about the importance of the 'vote' in a democratic society as well as the major policies of the main political parties.

Students were also encouraged to learn about major issues including the economy, public services, the environment and Brexit. Everyone then experienced the feeling of casting their own vote to compare the school results to the UK's national results.

**WE'RE ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK!**



@bedlingtonacad



@bedlingtonacademy

## SOUTH AFRICA 2020

**A group of students will be heading for the Kwa-Zulu Natal area of South Africa in June next year to take part in an 11-day expedition.**

This amazing experience will see students undertake a three-day trek in the Drakensburg Mountains where they will hike, bike and canoe. They will then visit a local school to work with local children across a range of projects before heading to one of South Africa's largest game reserves where they will learn about animal conservation including: rhino, elephants, lions, buffalo, and giraffes. The journey will end on the coast with a visit to a crocodile sanctuary and a swim in the Indian Ocean before being treated to a traditional Zulu meal cooked by the local villagers.

We are delighted to announce that a similar visit is being

offered in 2021 to any student in Years 10 and 12. This time students will explore Cape Town and the south eastern 'Garden Route', taking part in whale watching, trekking, visiting a local school and undertaking conservation work.

We believe the expeditions are a unique opportunity to experience new environments and cultures as well as developing essential life skills such as leadership, working in a team, communication as well as determination and resilience.

Any student interested in participating in the 2021 trip should contact Mr Hinshaw or Ms Nichol-Wilson.



## ENGINEERS IN THE MAKING

**A group of students got a taste for engineering as they took part in various workshops, organised by Newcastle University.**

Over three days, students expanded their skills and knowledge of engineering, all to prepare them for their future BTEC courses.

Students got a taste of different areas of engineering such as CNC machining, Rolls Royce

manufacturing, and aerospace design as well as speaking to an RAF pilot about job roles and modern aircraft design.

What a great experience for our students!



# Shotton Hall



School Centred Initial Teacher Training

## TEACHER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Did you know that Bedlington Academy helps to train the next generation of new teachers and we're looking for new recruits to start in September 2020?

Through our sponsor, The North East Learning Trust, we are a partner of Shotton Hall SCITT, the Trust's very own outstanding teacher training provider.

Trainees start their training at The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee, then undertake placements in schools right across the North East, including here at Bedlington Academy.

Applications are now open for primary and secondary courses starting in September 2020 with bursaries of up to £26k available for certain subjects.

To find out about entry requirements and the opportunities available, as well as hearing from people who have taken the leap and changed career visit: [www.shottonhallscitt.co.uk](http://www.shottonhallscitt.co.uk)



## NELT ROCK THE SAGE!

**Students from all nine schools in the North East Learning Trust joined together to perform at the Sage in Gateshead on Monday 16 December for their Christmas concert spectacular.**

Twice a year all Trust schools come together to showcase their incredible talent to parents, staff and students. This was the second time the concert was held at this world-class music venue.

Look out on social media for photos of the concert!

# Christmas fun facts

## Mince Pies

Although now mostly vegetarian, in Victorian times, mince pies were made with beef and spices.

## Tangerines

The tradition of putting tangerines in stockings comes from 12th-century French nuns who left socks full of fruit, nuts and tangerines at the houses of the poor.

## Wassailing

Carols began as an old English custom called wassailing, toasting neighbours to a long life.

## Stockings

Hanging stockings out comes from the Dutch custom of leaving shoes packed with food for St Nicholas' donkeys. He would leave small gifts in return.

## Christmas Trees

Nearly 60 million Christmas trees are grown each year in Europe.

## Noel

The word Noel derives from the French expression "les bonnes nouvelles" or "the good news".

## The Birth of Jesus

Many theologians estimate that Jesus wasn't born on December 25 but sometime in September between 6BC and 30AD.

## Turkey

Before turkey, the traditional Christmas meal in England was a pig's head and mustard.

## Banning Christmas

In 1647, after the English Civil War, Oliver Cromwell banned festivities. The law wasn't lifted until 1660.