



**BEDLINGTON**  
Academy

# WINTER NEWSLETTER

December 2020

## MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our termly newsletter.

As we approach the end of the autumn term, there is so much to reflect on. It has been a year like no other, with so many new challenges. However, what I am left with is an overwhelming feeling of pride at how well staff and students have responded to all the challenges they have encountered: lockdown, remote teaching and learning, and returning to school with all the new systems and routines.

This term has been exceptionally busy, not least with our 12 days of Christmas in the last two weeks. Whilst keeping everyone safe in their bubbles, we have enjoyed some festive activities including decorating the Christmas tree, watching a pantomime, and enjoying a delicious Christmas dinner. We

have also collected donations for our foodbank appeal and provided hampers to senior citizens in the community.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to parents and carers for your ongoing support in these difficult times. I wish you all a safe and restful Christmas break, and I look forward to welcoming students back to school refreshed in January.

Have a lovely Christmas!

**Mrs Lamb**  
Head of School



## A VERY CREATIVE CHRISTMAS

**As part of our 12 Days of Christmas celebrations, our creative students designed some fantastic Christmas cards.**

From snowmen to masked reindeer, our students designed and made some wonderful cards as part of the school-wide competition.

Well done to those who entered!



## DofE LAUNCH

**We currently have 35 students in Year 10 and 11 who are, despite the circumstances, carrying on with their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award.**

Students have logged many hours of activities linked to developing a new skill such as learning a language online or playing the guitar. They have also been logging all their physical activities such as walking, running and cycling. Hopefully in early 2021 we will be able to get into the countryside to practice for the two-day expedition.

During lockdown DofE students took part in two virtual challenges. Students completed all 82 miles of Hadrian's Wall in under two days and then climbed up Mount Everest by logging the time and distances covered when walking, running, cycling or dancing. In total they logged over 600 miles of physical activity which is a fabulous effort.

Most recently DofE students came together to take part in a foodbank appeal to help those in need.

Any student in Year 9 or Sixth Form who would like to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh's scheme should see Mr Hinshaw or Mr Waddle.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

- 17 Dec** Break up for Christmas
- 04 Jan** Return to school
- 12 Feb** Break up for half term
- 22 Feb** Return to school
- 26 Mar** Break up for Easter
- 12 Apr** Return to school
- 28 May** Break up for half term
- 07 Jun** Return to school
- 16 Jul** Break up for summer

To keep up to date with all news and events please visit:  
[www.bedlingtonacademy.co.uk](http://www.bedlingtonacademy.co.uk)

## STUDENTS LEARN TO SAVE LIVES

**As part of their PSHE curriculum all of our students in Year 7 have recently learned how to carry out CPR.**

Students learned how to do chest compressions in order to save someone's life. The two-hour training involved using resuscitation dummies kindly donated to the school by the British Heart Foundation. In recognition for their fabulous work all the students have been awarded a British Heart Foundation Certificate of Achievement.

## VIRTUAL ASSEMBLIES

**Each week, even though we can't have all the students in the school hall we make use of the technology we have to deliver a 'virtual assembly' to every student.**

The topics covered so far this academic year include links with our PSHE curriculum including: e-safety, mental health awareness week, strategies to help deal with stress and anxiety, remembrance, careers, financial planning, and decision making.



## STUDENT COUNCIL

Our Student Council meet (over Teams) every half term and is made up of elected representatives from every year group in school.

The Student Council have supported the school when looking at arrangements for home learning, homework and other matters related to the current organisation of learning. The students are also taking on work such as seeking to improve road safety, developing environmental projects and working with Choppington Parish Council as part of their long-term improvement plans. The discussions and debates are always informative, exciting and challenging.

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



@bedlingtonacad



@bedlingtonacademy



## CHRISTMAS TREATS SENT WITH LOVE

As part of our 12 Days of Christmas celebrations students have been getting involved in a range of festive activities.

Christmas is a time to be generous and what better way to spread cheer than with sweet treats!? Students were able to purchase a festive biscuit for a friend, teacher or for a loved one at home and have it delivered with a personalised message. We hope everyone enjoyed their special gifts.



## CHARACTER EDUCATION

We have recently launched a 'Character Education' programme at school. The aim is to develop a range of 'character virtues' such as resilience, leadership, creativity, honesty and compassion.

Staff and students are able to nominate a student who they think has demonstrated one of these virtues for a 'Character Award'.

Through our PSHE curriculum we are teaching the students why these virtues are important in school and in their working or family lives. To date over 30 students in Years 7 and 8 have received a Character Award and we look forward to giving out more of the awards and discovering the brilliant traits of even more of our students!





**Northumberland East**  
Sixth Form Academy

## SIXTH FORM VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING

Our sixth form, Northumberland East Sixth Form (NE6) unfortunately cannot host a traditional open evening this year, so we are bringing it to you online!

Come along and meet our friendly staff, flick through our prospectus and watch videos from each department over on our website.

[www.ne6thform.co.uk/open](http://www.ne6thform.co.uk/open)

## PSHE

**Following the lockdown earlier in the year and taking into account the current Covid-19 situation we have placed a greater focus upon supporting students back into school.**

Our PSHE recovery lessons focussed upon dealing with negative thoughts, managing stress and anxiety, building resilience, friendships, mental health awareness and staying safe (linked to e-safety). Additional activities such as a student survey and student myth buster have also helped us understand student's needs. We are working in partnership with a local Church in developing and delivering a wide range of activities to promote strong mental health.

This month, we had our first 'PSHE Day' which focussed upon positive relationships and how to promote strong long-term physical health. Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 participated in a wide range of discussion and practical activities which included 'How to build positive relationships and friendships' and 'Teenage health'.

## SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

**This year our annual senior citizen Christmas meal could not go ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions. So, to keep our community safe, we adapted!**

Thanks to the generosity of the staff and students of Bedlington Academy, East Bedlington Parish Council, Ashington Co-op, Bedlington Station Co-op, Bedlington Community Champion @ Morrison's and the Co-op Members Council we were able to produce wonderful hampers and deliver these out with a gift box to our regulars.

We hope they all have a very safe and enjoyable Christmas.

