



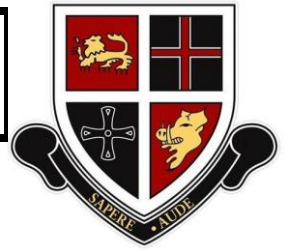
Did you know....

Buckingham Palace has 775 rooms, including 78 bathrooms!



A half-termly insight into our wonderful year group

Excellent Eights Newsletter



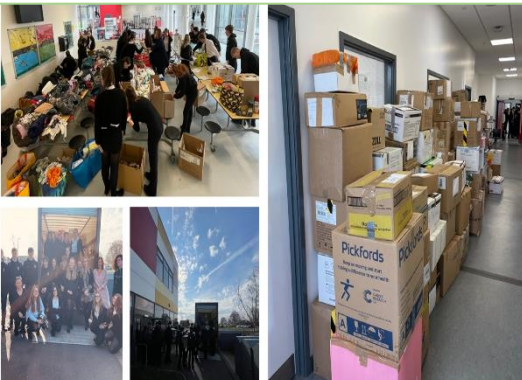
DJ UKRANIAN APPEAL

For the week commencing the 7th march, students of all ages throughout the school dedicated themselves, alongside outside contributions, to collecting as many goods as possible to be shipped to Ukraine later that week.

The sixth form students dedicated that week into sorting, counting, packaging and transporting the hundreds upon hundreds of clothes, food and toiletries products that the rest of the students had kindly donated towards the cause- while simultaneously raising awareness and raising money for various other causes.

As a school we strive to benefit our community and work to contribute as much as we can to our wider surroundings- the school really succeeded in that.

By Rosa Bacha-Sixth Form House Lead



Simpson says.....

Well, the clocks went forward last weekend and we seem to have been propelled ten months ahead rather than one hour. Just after we'd packed our winter woollies away and enjoyed a barbecue-worthy weekend of sunshine, Britain reminded us that we are still able to get cold and freezing weather conditions any time.

The onset of cold and snow didn't do anything to damage the spirits of year 8 students, however. After school clubs and sports continue to thrive – please keep checking the websites for updates and times of different activities – and the Durham Johnston Twitter feed is replete with examples of how our young people are doing well in competitions all over the place. On a day to day basis, much of my time is involved with teaching lessons and managing the pastoral care of our cohort (as you'd expect!), and it's important to step back and reflect on the many things that our youngsters get involved in, both in and outside school.

I think it's important to emphasise the point, that what we do with our time both inside and outside school matters. Or, more specifically, perhaps not exactly what we do but how our actions can help make us better people. There are many opportunities to contribute in meaningful ways to the school and the wider community. People often forget that simply doing the little things well still makes a big difference.

The Easter holidays are within reaching distance now, and I wish for all of our students and their families an enjoyable break. Let's also hope for some warmer weather!

Mr Simpson



Extra-curricular



A HUGE congratulations to the Y8's pictured above. **Grace C, Lottie M and Evelyn T.** They have recently passed their Grade 4 Ballet Exams.

Did you know?

More people visit France than any other country!

On the 16th of March, **Alastair Phillips (8DA)** scored **130/150 (a distinction)** on his Grade 4 exam for Alto Saxophone. It's the first exam he's been able to do since the start of the pandemic as lockdown meant he missed out on Grade 3 last year.

Excellent news Alastair.

Gymnastics Success

Sophie Waite (8DA) has once again qualified for the British gymnastics national competition in Stoke. Sophie competes as part of a trio and had one of the highest scores of the day, she will compete in May, Sophie earned a silver in November at the nationals. Sophie and her family are hoping for another medal and her family are proud of her achievements

Best of luck Sophie, you will be great!

Good
temperedness

A massive well done to **Beatrice Scholar (8MK)** who has recently passed her Grade 3 piano exam.

A special mention to the students of **8RH. Emily Hodgson, Abbie Barker, Evelyn Terry, Willa Twaddle, Brookly Ryan and Alexandra Shakleton** who have all completed their Durham Johnston Award.



Jack B (8HH) recently competed in the Tynemouth Gala. Jack won all of his events for his age group and qualifying for the North East Regional's held at Ponds Forge in Sheffield with times of 3.10 in 200 breaststroke and, 1.30 in 100 breaststroke.

Great stuff Jack!

Doing
our best

Did you know?

Days on Venus are longer than years!

Lucas M (8UA) was asked to play the piano at the High Sherriff Awards hosted by County Durham Community Foundation at Ushaw College on 17th March. Lucas has been playing the piano since he was 4 years old and is currently working towards his Grade 5 exam.

Excellent News Lucas!



What did the farmer call the cow that had no milk?

AN UDDER FAILURE

William G (8RH) attended a swimming gala at Tynemouth on Saturday 26th March and achieved personal bests in all 5 of the races he competed in. However his most successful achievement was his 100 fly, where he took 35 seconds off his previous time and achieved a **silver medal**. William will be aiming for a North East regional time at the next Gala in Middlesbrough in June. William has been swimming with Durham City Aquatics for 2 years and has moved from entry squad to the performance squad.

Great work William.



Isabella Brown (8CW) who has been chosen to be part of a dance show on the 9th April at Alun Armstrong Theatre in Stanley.

Isabella is a member of Durham Dance school and will partaking on Ballet, Modern, Jazz and Tap performances.

Good luck Isabella.



Well done to 8SW who have the most house points this term and receiving a house system treat.

Keep up the good work year 8's!

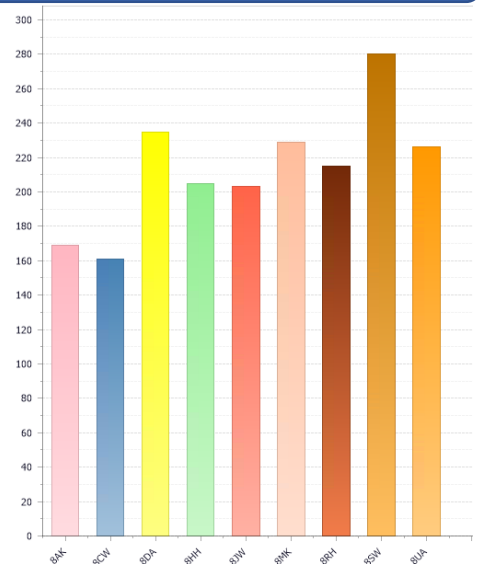
On Friday 18th March, two Literature teams gathered for a regional Literature quiz. The quiz, which is organised by the National Literacy Trust, is a very popular event, and we were competing with a number of schools, including independent schools, across the region.

After a very intense 3 hours, we are pleased to announce that we have won it and one of our teams will be off to London in May to represent the North East in the National final.

Well done **Lucy D (8AK)** and **Beatrice S (8MK)**

Well done **Tom Briggs**, Tom competed in the February 2022 U13s Tignes Giant Slalom ESF ski racing event, Tom was the only British nominee, finished 5th out of 19 against French opposition and achieved the Flechette race qualification standard.

House Points



Last week we were excited to welcome the England U18 schoolboys' football squad. They took part in a training session with DJCS U13 girls' & boys' football teams. It was an amazing experience for our footballers to train alongside this England team.



On this day in 1904, New York City changed the name of Longacre Square to Times Square, in honour of The New York Times's move to the area!



SPORTING SUCCESS

Well done to U13 girls cricket team, 2nd place in the County indoor cricket finals this week. Outstanding bowling again. You can look forward to the summer tournaments now.



Lats month **Grace C, Tom B and Will J** travelled to Kent to take part in the English Schools National Country Finals, a **MASSIVE** achievement. **WELL DONE** you three!

The many months of training the U13 girls have committed to paid off last week, with the team winning all 4 of their matches. Congratulations girls you are the County Sevens Champions!
Just AMAZING girls, well done!



The Yr 8 girls futsal team travelled to the Beacon of Light to play in the County Finals against the top schools in the area. Unfortunately, the team finished runners up. **GREAT EFFORT** girls!



A fantastic performance at the indoor athletics, both teams (right) won so we now are County Champions. The Yr 8 won in both the girls & boys team events.
JUST WOW!!



The Year 8 Rugby Boys team competed in the 13-side County Cup. They played three games, all of which were won, subsequently leading to a triumphant victory for the DJCS rugby players. The first match against St. Thomas More School was a 7 – 1 victory with special mentions to **Josh Roffe** and **Sam Jordan** for excellent footwork and precise tackling. The second match was a successful 6 – 2 victory against Woodham Academy; special mentions to Charlie Barker for his 2 tries and **Ryan Nixon** for his effective tackling. The final game against Emmanuel was a 6 – 1 victory with special mentions for **Erik Meek** for his superb performance and **Olly Bennet** for his skilled evasive running. Overall, an amazing performance from all the players and a great end to the season.
By Ben Hodgson



Facts supplied by Toby Rundle
Jokes supplied by Ben Hopkins

Don't forget to check out our 'Excellent Eights' Teams for weekly updates on all extr-curricular clubs and activities.

Would you like to write an article/subject review for the next newsletter? Please get in touch with Mr Kidd via email/Teams