



Message from Mr Goodman, Head of School

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Astley newsletter. It has been a long Spring term – from the dark mornings after the Christmas break up to the Easter holidays. The last 13 weeks have been extremely busy, with lots of exciting things going on across the school.

This newsletter highlights the curriculum enrichment opportunities our students continue to enjoy. This has included the Health and People workshops run by Newcastle University and the Nissan visit for Year 9 students. In February our annual careers fair was held. This event featured exhibitors from universities, colleges and employers helping our students to gain an insight into education and job opportunities.

We continue to offer a range of extra-curricular opportunities across the school. Students have benefitted from Lego Club, Duke of Edinburgh Award and Craft classes. Youth Elections took place across the County with candidates from this school. We were delighted with Alfie

from Year 10 being elected to the Northumberland Youth Cabinet. In March the joint Whytrig and Astley production of Matilda the Musical took place. All performances were brilliant and the cast and crew were superb.

As the Summer term approaches, we inch ever closer to moving into the new school building. This newsletter contains an update on the progress of the new school – after a recent site visit I have got to say that the building and facilities look fantastic – and I can't wait to welcome students in September. Over next term we will be in contact with parents/carers with more details on the transition process to the new school building.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are well underway with their preparation for their upcoming exams. Coursework is in the final stages of being completed and students are attending after school revision sessions. I hope that students use the Easter break to relax and enjoy themselves but that they also use the time to complete revision for each of their courses. Results Day for Year 13 is Thursday 14th August and for Year 11 is Thursday 21st August. This will take place on this school site in the school hall.

I hope that all of our students and their families have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter break. I look forward to welcoming students back on Monday 28th April with full uniform and an eager attitude to learn.

Mr Goodman



Year 11 Health and the People Workshop

The Year 11 History students attended two workshops to develop their skills for the GCSE exams. The sessions were run by Newcastle University and the Great North Museum and the students were able to look at historical artefacts and even touch them!

In the university session they had access to the “*Special Collections*” which included texts from the Medieval period as well as Aboriginal surgery stones and a carbolic acid antiseptic machine from the Industrial Period. The workshops really developed their understanding of the Health and People module and there were lots of excellent questions and knowledge shown by our students throughout the day - well done!

After School Craft Classes

Students enjoyed some after school craft classes before half term with Something from the Craft Room. They enjoyed glass painting, dotting (making fridge magnets) and silk painting (making cards).



Duke of Edinburgh Success

We are extremely proud of Dazie in Year 10 who was presented with her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award at Army Cadets last week. She has already enrolled for the Silver Award and starts her first expedition for this in a couple of months. This was something she started within school and later signed over to complete the Army Cadets. Well done Dazie.



Students enjoy Lego Club every other Tuesday where they can build models and programme them to move remotely using specific code.

This is run by Mrs Clennell in A12.



Year 9 Nissan Visit

Some of our Year 9 students were fortunate enough to visit the Nissan plant in January, they said that it was very informative and they learnt a lot about the processes around the factory and the careers available across the factory



Careers Fair

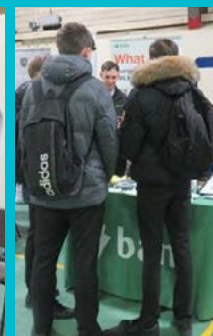
On Friday 7th February, Astley Community High School hosted an engaging careers fair for all our students, providing them with a chance to explore various career pathways. The event featured exhibitors from universities, local colleges, apprenticeship providers, and employers, offering students insights into higher education, hands-on training, and immediate job opportunities.

Representatives from universities and colleges discussed academic programmes, scholarships, and campus life, helping students plan their higher education journey. Apprenticeship providers highlighted training programmes that allow students to gain skills while earning, offering an alternative to traditional college routes. Employers from diverse industries shared job opportunities and career advice, showing students the possibilities of entering the workforce after school.

The fair encouraged students to explore a wide range of options and ask questions, helping them make informed decisions about their futures. It was a great opportunity to network and learn about careers they might not have previously considered.

The feedback from our students has been overwhelmingly positive, with many mentioning how surprised they were by the options on offer. The efforts of our exhibitors have certainly opened students' eyes to new possibilities.

We're already looking forward to next year and hope to welcome many of our exhibitors to our brand new school on Friday 6th February 2026.





Matilda - An Amazing Show!

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome family and friends into school on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th March to see the joint Whytrig Middle and Astley Community High production of Matilda. With a cast of children from Year 5 all the way to Year 12, we were all wowed by the dancing, singing and acting performances.

We really have a talented group of pupils in our schools, coming from our performance club, which runs on a Monday night after school. We thank them for all their hard work and efforts, learning their lines and practising all the routines over many weeks, including time in the half term holiday. Of course, none of this would be possible without our team of fantastic, dedicated staff, who make all of this possible in the first place. A huge congratulations and thank you to everyone involved!

Northumberland Youth Elections

Thousands of students across Northumberland took part in the Youth Elections to choose their new Youth Cabinet and Youth Parliament members.

More than 7,000 students aged 11-18 from middle, high, and secondary schools voted in this year's annual Youth Elections. The votes were counted and the results were announced at County Hall in Morpeth.

Two candidates from Astley Community High School stood for elections this year. We are delighted to that Alfie H (Yr 10) won and has been elected to the Northumberland Youth Cabinet.



New School Progress

We are really pleased with the progress of the new school build as can be seen from the photos below. Students and the Community will benefit from the fantastic facilities.



Student Visit to New School

Some of our students recently visited the new school to see the progress being made.



A link to the most recent progress video can be found [HERE](#)

Students commented that the sports hall is the most exciting part of the new school and are also looking forward to the pool. They also commented on how much bigger the new

school is compared to the current school and that there are lots of exciting things to look forward to.



Dates for your diary

School closes for Easter	Thursday 10th March 2025
Teacher Training Day	Friday 11th March 2025
School reopens for Summer Term	Monday 28th April 2025
School closed for May bank holiday	Monday 5th May 2025
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Assessment	Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th May 2025
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Assessment	Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th May 2025
School closes for half term holiday	Friday 23rd May 2025
School reopens for Summer term	Monday 2nd June 2025
School closes for Summer Holidays	Friday 18th July 2025
A Level / BTEC Results Day	Thursday 14th August 2025
GCSE Results Day	Thursday 21st August 2025

We wish all our students and their families a very enjoyable and safe Easter holiday and look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 28th April 2025!



