



Message from Mr Goodman, Head of School

Welcome to the final edition of Astley News. This term has been a strange and extremely busy one. The packing up of the school site has intensified over the past month with lots of crates being filled and wall displays taken down. We are all very much ready to embark on a new chapter in our journey at the new school site as Seaton Valley High School.

The students have continued to have many opportunities to engage in exciting events and activities. Many students have taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and this is a credit to Mrs Pawsey for facilitating this. We have had varied trips out including a Year 9 Maths problem solving trip to Newcastle University, Year 12 Travel and Tourism Trip to the Crowne Plaza and St James' Park, and a Year 12 History and English Trip to Newcastle University Library. Our Year 13 students saw success with the Chemistry Olympiad, securing 5 bronze certificates and 2 gold certificates! This term has also saw sporting success with our Year 9 boys' football and rugby teams which was great result!

In July we welcomed our new Year 9 cohort for their transition days. Our new students got the opportunity to meet fellow members of their tutor group and staff, as well as taking part in a personal development and fitness carousel.

The last week of term saw a whole host of activities. Unfortunately, torrential rain stopped our Sports Day – but students still got the chance to take part in badminton, pickle ball and even 'Just Dance'! Our Year 9 and Year 10 students took part in a drop-down day of fun activities including a Samba Band, Muay Thai, basketball, football, dodgeball, cricket and talks from the Fire Brigade, Ambulance Service and the Police. We took the entire Year 9 for our annual visit to Seaton Delaval Hall which was a great success. We finished our time at our Elsdon Avenue site with assemblies, celebrating student successes.

I would like to thank all parents/carers and members of the community for their continued support across this academic year.

I wish everyone a safe and happy summer break and look forward to welcoming all students to the new Seaton Valley High School site in September.

Mr Goodman



New School - Seaton Valley High School

We are really excited to be welcoming all of students to our new Seaton Valley High School site. Here is a reminder of the arrangements for the new academic year:

Monday 1st September – Staff Training Day

Tuesday 2nd September – Online work for all students via our website - www.svf.org.uk

Wednesday 3rd September – Year 9 in school (school gates will open from 8.15am – students must be in school by 8.50am). All other students to complete online work.

Thursday 4th September – Year 9 and Year 11 in school (school gates will open from 8.15am – students must be in school by 8.50am). Year 12 and Year 13 in school at 10.05am. Year 10 to complete online work.

Friday 5th September – All students in school (school gates will open from 8.15am – students must be in school by 8.50am).

During the first week we will be facilitating student tours around the school so that they start to get familiar with the new site. Over the Autumn term we will also look at organising opportunities for parents to come and tour the new school – we will be in touch with further details

Please look out for further communication over the summer with regard to routes into school and safe off site parking.



Duke of Edinburgh Volunteering

Congratulations to our Duke of Edinburgh students for their dedication and support of our community.



Thank you

to
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants
from

Astley Community High School

who spent
416 Hours

volunteering between
1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025.

We are immensely proud of the dedication, effort and achievement of young people making an impact in their community.

The social value of these hours is
£2662

Ruth Marvel OBE, Chief Executive

June 2025



Duke of Edinburgh - Bronze Expeditions

The students spent two days at the beginning of June working in school and East Cramlington nature reserve to develop their navigation, map and campcraft skills. Later that month they completed their assessed expedition along Hadrian's Wall, camping at Windshield's campsite. The students carried all their kit whilst exploring the history of Northumberland and the impact of the Romans in the area. They cooked their own meals and displayed a high degree of independence and resilience.



Mrs Ferguson accompanied them on their assessed expeditions and commented how brilliant the Astley DofE students were; they looked after each other and were a credit to themselves, their teachers, the school and their families.

At the end the boys were even running back along the route to help the last group with their bags to make their journey to the end a little easier. I was proud to be their teacher.

A number of people who were also walking the same route complimented them on how supportive they were to each other and also how polite they were. The bus driver said she'd never had such a lovely group of school children in her bus. The Group Leader also said he was pleasantly surprised by the fact they all thanked him as they left. At the end of the expedition, they were all asked to give their teammates positive feedback, and the phrases they said included: resilient, fun, kind, caring, great leaders and positive/uplifting.

Champions - Ole, Ole, Ole

Congratulations to the Invincibles. Our Year 9 Boys Football team have been crowned Northumberland League Champions for the 2025-56 season.

The boys were undefeated in the entire league season winning all bar one game which they drew after Hexham were awarded a last minute penalty. Mr Gilhooly and Mr Lamb have been so impressed with the attitude and commitment of the team, they have all been a pleasure to work with.

AWARDS

Player of the Season - Adam B

Goal of the Season - Charlie R

Unsung Hero of the Season - Harry L

Most Improved Player - Cody H

Best Attitude - Ben P

Top Goal Scorer - Noah C

Well done. We are looking forward to more of the same next season.



Chemistry Olympiad Success!

Seven Year 13 students recently entered the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad competition. The students sat a 2 hour exam full of questions designed to challenge their chemistry knowledge. Topics asked about this year included clay pigeon shooting, epoxy resins and oud which is a fragrance common in UAE as well as more standard chemistry topics; 15,000 students around the country entered and 5,000 of those didn't get a certificate so our students have done amazingly well. Five of the class got a Bronze certificate and two students gained a gold certificate.

Year 8 to Year 9 Transition 2025

Our brand new intake of Year 9s for September 2025 have completed a very successful three days at the high school. Although we are very much looking forward to moving into our new school, Year 8 pupils attended the Elsdon Avenue site for three days of sample lessons, inductions, form tutor sessions and a whole day of group activities. This has allowed them to meet their new staff, each other and familiarise themselves with the ways of high school life. The walls and classrooms might be bare, but the new cohort filled the school with

excitement and fresh energy. On the Thursday, the group took part in a carousel of activities and we even found some hidden talent in lawn bowls across at Astley Park. Pupils conducted themselves exceptionally well and have made a great first impression on the high school staff.

A big thank you to our Year 10 helpers who looked after and escorted their form groups around the site.

We look forward to welcoming this brand new year group to the brand new Seaton Valley High School in September!



Year 12 World of Work Trip (Crowne Plaza and St James Park)

Students from the Year 12 Business Studies and Travel & Tourism classes visited Crowne Plaza and St James Park in Newcastle city centre to gain a valuable insight into how the two businesses operate. The focus of both visits was to help students to understand how both businesses cater for the needs of a wide range of customer needs. Students attended a talk at the Crowne Plaza to see how a large hotel functions on a day to day basis and the lengths that they have to go to in order to remain competitive despite ever

growing external factors. Students were able to take part in a Q&A session with Paul Borg the General Manager for the hotel. This was followed by a stadium tour of St James Park to see how a premier league football club works behind the scenes. They gained access to the players changing rooms, pitchside and the press conference room as well as seeing how corporate hospitality operates at the club. The students now have an excellent starting point to begin their Year 13 coursework.



Year 9 Maths Trip

On Wednesday 9th July, we took 18 Year 9 students to Newcastle University for a maths problem solving event. They were split into 3 teams with 17 teams in total participating from various other schools. One of our teams came in 2nd place! The students showed some brilliant problem solving and mathematical skills and were one of the only teams to play fairly! (there may have been some foul play from other schools' students using their phones for help!). Our Astley students did us proud and had a lovely afternoon out. Our 2nd place team consisted of Jessica M, Nathan G, Ben P, Matilda B, Nikola F and Robbie R. Well done Year 9!

Rugby League Success

On the 12th of June at a gloriously sunny Kingston Park Stadium the Year 9 boys Rugby League Team were officially crowned as the worthy winners of the North East Secondary Schools Rugby League Competition. The boys had already achieved the number one spot from the previous round which secured their title as the North of the Tyne champions but this was to be the unified champions playing games against Eaglescliffe and the local rivals from all of the previous competitions, John Spence.



The lads were motivated from the start and this showed on the pitch with some terrific forward runs and some crunching challenges when defending. The lads scored four tries against John Spence without conceding which set them up for the unknown encounter against the South of the Tyne champions, Eaglescliffe. The lads were able to raise their spirits and game even more and managed to score six tries in the final encounter and again through some terrific displays of teamwork and determination not concede. Ten tries scored and our try line was like a secure fortress! The lads have shown real ability all season and this day was the perfect

way to end it. Tremendous performances from them all. The downside of this success is that we will be the team that everyone wants to beat next year but I am confident that the lads will be doing everything that they can to go for the double!

The victorious squad was made up of Noah C, Harry L, Kaden B, Cody H, Ben P, Max D, Charlie R, Theo G, Lucas B, Ben R, Jacob C, Josh S, Nicholas P and Bailey W. Well done!

Seaton Delaval Hall Year 9 Trip

Thursday the 17th July 2025 involved an excellent trip to Seaton Delaval Hall for Year 9 students. The students were a credit to the school and fully immersed themselves in all the activities that were organised for them.

The day started with each tutor group walking the 1.7 mile route down the Avenue, escorted by their tutor and other members of staff that were assigned to each group. On arrival each group was shown to the area of their first activity by the Seaton Delaval Hall staff team. The activities that the students were involved in ranged from arts and crafts to gardening. These included Bunting Making, Cane Toppers, a Mischief and Mayhem Talk, as well as a tour of the house and grounds.

The students engaged in each activity and produced some excellent work, while picking up some new skills and learning a bit about the History of the Hall. If you haven't had a chance to visit, I would highly recommend it. It's a National Trust property, so remember to take your cards if you're a member.

Thank you to all the Seaton Delaval Hall staff for putting on an excellent day for us, the students and staff both really enjoyed it.

Year 10 Life Skills BAM Garden Project

Students in the Year 10 Life Skills group were asked to design a school garden, incorporating elements to benefit both learning and wellbeing. The project was led by BAM (Company building our new school) who have delivered a variety of 'social value' initiatives for our school and the local community.

Representatives from BAM came in to deliver some workshops to help the students create a space that enhances the curriculum, promotes physical and mental health and fosters social skills.

The design process involved several steps, starting with mapping the existing school garden, considering sunlight and obstacles. Students were then tasked with incorporating various features, such as sensory elements, play spaces, and areas for wildlife observation

All students worked on their own designs for three weeks and then presented their garden designs to BAM. The feedback the students received from the BAM representatives was brilliant and all their hard work planning and designing their own unique gardens was a credit to their individual creativeness.



Year 12 Library Trip

On Wednesday 2nd July we took 19 Year 12 English and History students to the Philip Robinson Library in Newcastle. They undertook work linking to their coursework for both subjects, including using online journals and other resources. They also had a library tour and learnt about how to use sources of information effectively.



Dates for your diary

School closes for Summer Holidays	Friday 18th July 2025
A Level / BTEC Results Day	Thursday 14th August 2025 in the Sports Hall as Astley Community High School
GCSE Results Day	Thursday 21st August 2025 in the Sports Hall as Astley Community High School
School Opens for Autumn Term	<p>Wednesday 2nd September - Y9 in school (school gates will open from 8.15am – students must be in school by 8.50am). All other students to complete online work.</p> <p>Thursday 4th September – Y9 and Y11 in school (school gates will open from 8.15am – students must be in school by 8.50am). Y12 and Y13 in school at 10.05am. Y10 to complete online work.</p> <p>Friday 5th September – All students in school (school gates will open from 8.15am – students must be in school by 8.50am).</p>
School Closes for October Half Term	Friday 24th October 2025
School reopens for Autumn Term 2	Monday 3rd November 2025
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 19th December 2025
Staff Training Day	Monday 5th January 2026
School Opens for Spring Term	Tuesday 6th January 2026



We wish all our students and their families a very enjoyable and safe Summer holiday and look forward to welcoming everyone to our new school **Seaton Valley High School in September 2025!**



