



# WHYTRIG MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSDROP

Week Ending 13th March 2026

## Year 8 Newcastle College Trip

Last Friday, a group of our Year 8 pupils enjoyed a visit to Newcastle College for a dedicated careers exploration event. The group spent the morning learning about the wide range of qualifications available post-16 and were treated to a tour of the campus. Our pupils were particularly amazed by the specialist facilities, including the professional beauty therapy suites and the industrial kitchens. A highlight of the tour was a chance encounter with a former pupil who is currently training at the college to become a professional chef!

Following the tour, the group attended a specialised careers event focused on the Highways Industry. Students engaged with various businesses to learn about roles in traffic management and road sign development, even getting a first-hand look at the heavy machinery and vehicles used to keep our roads running. As always, the behavior and participation of our pupils were exemplary, making it a fantastic day for everyone involved.



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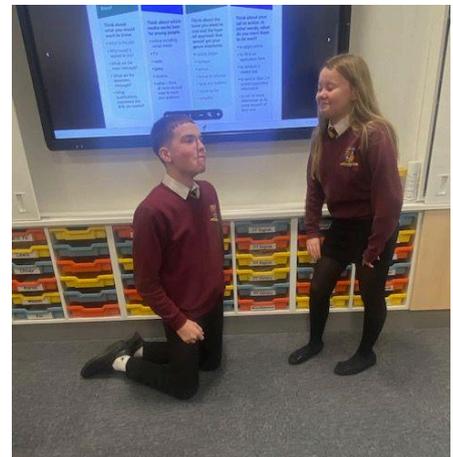
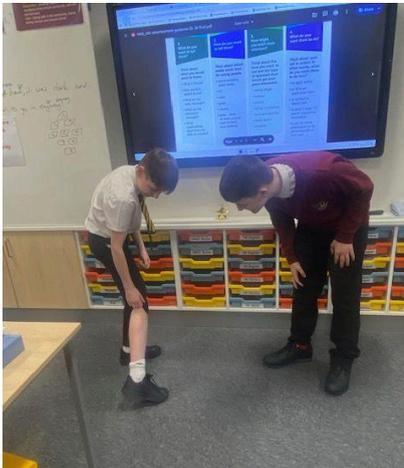
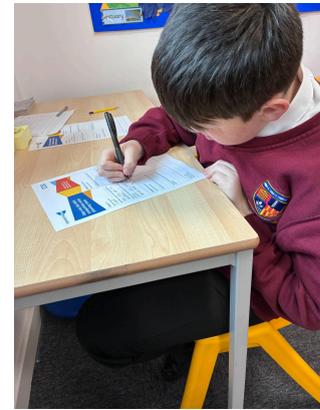


## National Careers Week

Last week was an action-packed National Careers Week at school, with students across all year groups diving into the world of work. This week's focus was a close look into the NHS, the UK's largest employer. During PSHE lessons, pupils explored the incredible variety of roles within the health service, researched specific entry routes, and completed career quizzes to see which roles might suit them best in the future.

We are also excited to announce our participation in the NHS Schools Careers Competition. To enter, pupils need to create a creative job advertisement or information sheet for an NHS career. While the competition is judged on a national level, we will also be awarding school prizes for the best entries in each year group. Further details on the competition can be found in Google Classroom and all entries must be handed to Mrs Campbell by the end of this half term.

We continue to encourage all parents and carers to support our careers education at home by regularly chatting about the world of work and helping your child research the different pathways—such as apprenticeships or university—available to them. If any parents or carers would like to get involved with our school careers program by sharing your own professional journey or industry insights, please contact Mrs. Campbell at [wms@svf.org.uk](mailto:wms@svf.org.uk).



## KS3 DWP Workshops

Continuing our careers theme this week, our KS3 students received a special visit from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to focus on vital employability skills.

Our Year 7 students explored the 'Essential 8' transferable skills such as teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving, before putting them into practice in a high-energy 'Dragon's Den' style pitching competition. It was fantastic to see such confident presentations and innovative ideas! Meanwhile, Year 8 took part in an eye-opening session on Social Media and the Digital Footprint. They learned how a positive online presence can be a powerful tool for finding future jobs, but also how important it is to manage their digital footprint carefully to protect their future employability.

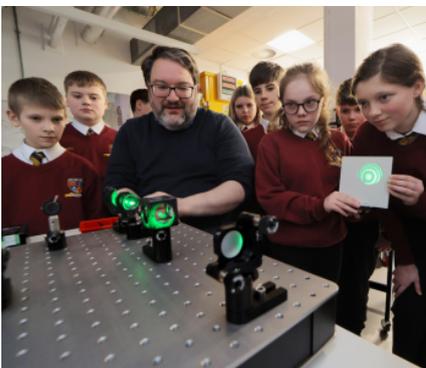
Our pupils were fully engaged throughout the sessions and gained a real head start on understanding the world of work.



## Year 7 STEM Project

Click the link below to read a fantastic article from the University of Northumbria all about our Year 7 STEM project.

[University partnership brings space research to life for school pupils](#)



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## Spring 2 - Dates for your Diary

- Monday 16th March - Whole school parents' evening (4 to 7pm).
- Wednesday 18th March - Aim High KS2 English workshops.
- Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th March - KS3 Groundswell Project.
- Friday 20th March - Red Nose Day non-uniform.
- Monday 23rd March - Girls U11 Tag Rugby Festival.
- Friday 27th March - KS3 Girls Cricket County Final.
- Thursday 2nd April - **School closed for staff training** - Start of Easter Holidays.
- Monday 20th April - School opens first- day of Summer term.

## Stars of the Week

Our Stars of the Week are nominated each week by staff for a variety of reasons, which might be contribution to the school community, school work, or something outstanding. Each week, their success is shared in school in the Star of the Week video, and they receive a certificate and a chocolate bar.

Week ending 13/03/2026

5C: Noah M; 5K: Lucia S; 5L: Madilyn-Mae M;  
6E: Beau A; 6F: Darcey W; 6S: Gracie B;  
7H: Ava-Betty R; 7L: Olie E; 7W: Ava O;  
8K: Sarya Z; 8Ro: Alfie D; 8Ru: Bobby O;  
Head of School SOTW: Lacey R (6E)

## Job of the Week



This week's Job of the Week is **Visual Merchandiser**. The video can be found in Google Classroom and also [here](#).

We encourage you to watch the Job of the Week with your children so you can take part in the discussions we are having in school about future education and work.

If any parents or carers would like to get involved in our Careers provision at Whytrig please contact Mrs Campbell at [wms@svf.org.uk](mailto:wms@svf.org.uk)

## Wake Up Wednesday - Streaming Services

Streaming services have become the go-to entertainment choice for many families, with children often favouring on-demand platforms over traditional television.

This #WakeUpWednesday guide explores the realities behind these services, from rising subscription costs and advert-supported tiers to the impact of autoplay and endless content libraries on young viewers' screen time and wellbeing.

A PDF copy of the #WakeUpWednesday leaflet was also sent out this week via MCAS.



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## Book of the Week



This week's Book of the Week is 'Jakub's Otter' by Coral Rumble

**Jakub's Otter** tells the story of a 10-year-old Polish boy named Jakub who acts as a young carer for his mother, who has multiple sclerosis. The story highlights the heavy, adult-like responsibilities Jakub carries and his subsequent need for a break.



If you liked 'Jakub's Otter', you might enjoy 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold - a heartwarming story about a young girl who forms a special bond with a polar bear focusing on environmentalism and empathy. Available to borrow from Mrs. Campbell

## Fixtures and Results

Our Year 8 Boys continued their excellent run in the Northumberland Schools FA County Cup with a fantastic 5-2 victory over Ovingham MS, meaning we have reached the semi-final for the first time since 2008!! Goals came from R.Young x2, D.Young x2, OG. We play the winners of Walker/Gosforth in the semi-final.

The year 8 boys league fixtures continued on Wednesday at Bede Academy. We ran out comfortable victors over Blyth Academy 4-0 and then lost 2-0 to a strong Bede side.



The KS3 Girls cricket team took part in the area Northumberland Cricket Board indoor Cricket competition on Monday at Ponteland HS. The girls played fantastically well, losing their first game to Ponteland, they then won their next 5 games, including victory over a very strong Duchess HS side, to qualify for the County final later in the month. All of these girls play cricket at our local cricket club Bates CCC. If your daughter is interested in cricket, please get in touch with Bates CCC and they will be able to advise.



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## Extra Curricular Clubs in this Half-Term

Mon- Y5/6 Dodgeball- Mr Robinson + Dodgeball Coach

<https://forms.gle/Gse7Sv3YDymrc9UFA>

Mon- Chess Club- Mr Robinson- 12:30- Rm 02

Mon- KS2 Girls Rugby Club-Coastal Rugby Partnership

<https://forms.gle/aRKNuYJh2dbnF66g7>

Tues- KS3 Netball- Mrs Harland and Miss Waterfall (Sportshall/yard):

<https://forms.gle/GocrSTHaau5fxkwv8>

Tues- KS3 Girls Fitness Club- Mr Robinson- Fitness Suite- starting Tues 3rd March

<https://forms.gle/pb1ehervDmhvjWN6>

Alternate Tuesdays - Y8 Coding Club - Mrs Sykes:

<https://forms.gle/xSvDnGRosKe9ziSUA>

Alternate Wednesdays (Week 1) KS2 Netball- Mrs Harland (Sportshall/yard):

<https://forms.gle/QnuzPNNURiSU4aNu9>

UPDATED KS2 Netball Dates for the Spring term: 18th March, 1st April

**The football club will resume later in the year. School teams will still have fixtures when they are arranged.**

Thurs- Performance Club - Mrs S Kelly

<https://forms.gle/pkMvz84djzkSHd619>

Thurs- Dance Club with Miss Lamb- Dance Studio

<https://forms.gle/XvGiDZPwyTyjWcD76>

Fri- KS3 Badminton Club- Mr Robinson- SportsHall

<https://forms.gle/hBF3w6zdMk6v3meX6>

KS2 Swimming Club - Mr Day- **This club is now full. We have a reserve list if places become available. If you are collecting a child after swimming, please wait at the green gate**

## Police Cadets (current Year 8)

**Become a Volunteer Police Cadet with Northumbria Police!**

Applicants must be 13/14yrs old on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2026 (going into year 9 or 10) and live within the Northumbria Police area.

For full details and how to apply, please visit [Police Cadets -Northumbria Police](#)

The closing date for applications is 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2026.

A PDF copy of the Volunteer Police Cadet Scheme leaflet was also sent out to parents of Year 8 children via MCAS.



## Attendance

Please remember to call in to the Middle School attendance line or send a message via MCAS if your child is unwell and will not be attending school by 8:30am. It is important that we have evidence for each day your child is absent, even if they were sent home the previous day.

**To report an absence via telephone call please dial 0191 2371402, select 5 for Whytrig Middle School then select 8 to report a pupil absence.**

Please send evidence of medical/dental appointments/medication to [wms@svf.org.uk](mailto:wms@svf.org.uk) so we can attach these to your child's profile on our system.

If you are submitting a Leave of Absence request please ensure any documentation supporting the exceptional circumstances is handed in at the same time as the Leave of Absence form.



**This week's whole school attendance: 93%**

| Year 5 | Year 6 | Year 7 | Year 8 |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 96.0%  | 92.0%  | 92.6%  | 91.9%  |

**The best attending class this week is: 5K (96.7%)**

## Free School Meals

It is always worth double checking if your child is eligible for free school meals. If your circumstances have recently changed or whether you've never checked before, the process is very straight forward: <https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/education-skills/schools/school-meals>

For every pupil who is eligible they receive £2.60 lunch credit every day and the school receives additional funding which can be used to support learning and progress through the pupil premium grant. You can read more about the school's strategy here: <https://svf.org.uk/our-federation/pupil-premium>

## Lunch Account Balance

Please check your child's lunch account balance, and top up as necessary. We will never allow your child to go hungry, and should they not have enough money on their account then we will ensure they are able to buy a Main Meal Deal by granting them a temporary overdraft for that day of £2.60. You will then receive a message via MCAS advising you that you need to top up their account. This temporary overdraft facility will not be extended for additional days and should your child not have enough funds in their account the following day they will only be provided with a basic sandwich and drink. Our expectation is that you will top their account up immediately so they have a positive balance again.

## MCAS Contact Details

Please remember to double check that your details are correct on MCAS. When you make a change in My Child At School, it updates the systems that we use to contact home. This also means that we don't make a mistake in the spelling of an email address or taking down a number incorrectly.



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### Social Media Channels

Don't forget to keep up to date with everything else on our social media channels

X - @WhytrigMS

Facebook - @Whytrig Middle School

Links to external agencies are provided in good faith. We do not take any responsibility for the content of these links.



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