



Tuesday was our whole school Careers Day which saw the whole school off timetable to take part in a range of different activities linked to careers. Year 7 took part in the Tyre Challenge, building key employability skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership, problem solving, financial management and creativity. Year 8 spent the day designing and creating their own board games. Some of our Year 9 students had a day of work experience, whilst those in school took part in the Barclays Life Skills game followed by talks and workshops from representatives such as Jet2, Siemens and Durham Wildlife Trust. Year 10 had the chance to explore careers in subjects of their choice, whilst some visited Bishop Auckland College to explore potential next steps. Year 11 spent the day considering their steps beyond GCSEs, engaging in A Level taster sessions in their chosen areas for a taste of life in Sixth Form, as well as the chance for some to test out the post-16 courses on offer at Bishop College including E-Sports, Bricklaying, Catering and Childcare. Finally, our Sixth Form students took part in workshops focused on their future choices, including topics such as university, apprenticeships, careers in the NHS, finances, interview skills and work experience. Well done to all of our students for their fantastic engagement, and to all of our visitors for coming in to deliver such important sessions for our young people. A special thank you also to Ms Somers and Dr Little for organising the day and ensuring it ran so smoothly.

On Friday, Miss Bell and Miss Liddle took a wonderful group of Year 7 History students to see the world premiere of Horrible Histories- The Concert at Darlington Hippodrome. The group had so much fun singing, clapping, heckling and boozing along- all encouraged in Elizabethan theatre according to the host, William Shakespeare, who was the guide for this fantastic production through the ages. They heard all the classics from the hit BBC series, meeting lots of characters along the way, including Queen Elizabeth I, Henry VIII, Boudica, Cleopatra and many more. The students' behaviour was exemplary and was even commented on by members of staff at the theatre. Well done on a fantastic trip, Year 7.



A WORD FROM LISA BYRON,
HEADTEACHER

Spotlight on... Careers

At St John's we remain committed to providing high-quality careers education that supports every student in achieving their full potential. Through our careers units as part of our Pastoral Programme, our own dedicated Careers Advisor and the wide range of career talks and workshops delivered throughout the year, we ensure our students are as well informed as possible for their next steps. Tuesday's Careers Day was a superb event, designed to help students explore future pathways, develop employability skills and gain first-hand insight into the world of work. We are incredibly proud of our students for their enthusiasm, maturity and fantastic engagement throughout the day. Events like Careers Day play a vital role in helping young people raise aspirations and make informed choices about their futures.

We have had some fantastic sporting achievements to begin 2026. Our Year 7 and 8 Netball teams had their first fixtures at Teesdale against Staindrop and Teesdale last week, displaying great practical skills and team work. Year 7 won 6-0 against Staindrop and drew 1-1 against Teesdale and Year 8 won 9-0 against Staindrop and 2-0 against Teesdale.

Last week, we welcomed students from Wolsingham for our first badminton fixture. The students enjoyed lots of competitive, fun and friendly games. Well done to all the students involved.

Our Year 11 football team were victorious against Parkside in the semi-final of the BASFA League Cup and are now through to the final.



COMING UP THIS WEEK

Sunday 25- Turing Scheme trip to Geneva. Our Year 8 students and staff have arrived safely in Geneva, Switzerland and we wish them an enjoyable trip. We look forward to sharing photos and updates.

Tuesday 27- Holocaust Memorial Day. To commemorate the day, two of our Sixth Formers have prepared a special reflection for all tutor groups. They will also be holding a sweet stall across break times on Tuesday, with proceeds going to the Holocaust Memorial Trust.

Thursday 29- Year 12 and 13 Progress Evening. Appointments are still available via SchoolCloud.

Friday 30- Year 10 English trip to see *Weird the Musical*. 50 of our Year 10 students are visiting Newcastle Theatre Royal for the world premiere of a brand new musical about the witches from *Macbeth*.

Looking Ahead: Appointments are now live for our Year 9 Progress Evening on Thursday 5 February.

