



Spotlight on... Opportunities

Our staff are always on the look-out for exciting and unique opportunities for our students, whether it's brand new theatre experiences, STEM projects, sporting competitions, educational visits or talks and workshops within school.

We are incredibly honoured to be amongst the 32% of Turing Scheme applications that were successful for funding this academic year, and one of only 23 schools in the North East to be able to offer these opportunities. The Turing Scheme provides funding

for students to take part in life-changing experiences to study abroad, specifically aimed at young people who may not otherwise have the opportunity to travel to such places. Over the past

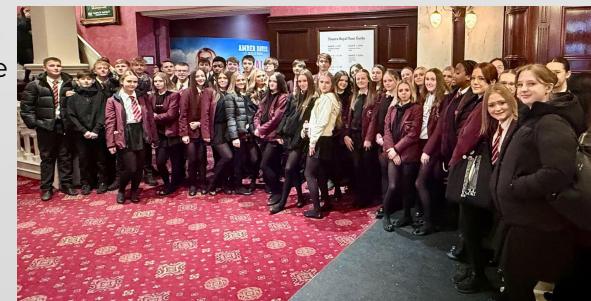
four years, these experiences have not only broadened our students' horizons but sparked excitement for future global opportunities and aspirations. We look forward to our next Turing Scheme trip to Singapore in April and plenty more exciting future opportunities for our students.



Our Year 8 students recently returned from an unforgettable Turing Scheme adventure to Geneva, where they proved themselves to be outstanding representatives of St John's. During their visit, students explored some of the world's most influential international institutions. At the United Nations, they learned how global cooperation helps tackle major issues such as peacekeeping and human rights. A visit to the International Red Cross Museum offered powerful insights into humanitarian work and the importance of compassion during times of crisis. The highlight for many was the trip to CERN, home of the Large Hadron Collider. Students had the rare opportunity to see cutting-edge scientific research in action and to discover how physicists are working to understand the fundamental building blocks of the universe. Throughout the trip, our students showed curiosity, maturity, and enthusiasm. Staff consistently praised their behaviour, engagement and thoughtful questions. We are incredibly proud of how they represented both themselves and St John's. Well done also to Riley and Isabella who, on their return, fed back on their experiences at the UN to the Year 13 History students.

On Friday, a group of Year 10 students went along to Newcastle Theatre Royal to watch 'Weird'- a brand new, electrifying pop-powered musical reimagining Shakespeare's classic tragedy, Macbeth. Students were selected by their English teachers for the fantastic start they have made to their GCSE course. The musical told the dramatic tale of the Scottish king through the eyes of the three witches, giving our students a unique insight into one of their GCSE English Literature texts. The show is part of an amazing initiative to provide more pathways for young people to be able to access live theatre, and we were incredibly privileged and honoured as a school to have been selected to be amongst the first people in the world to see this musical! A huge thank you to Newcastle Theatre Royal for offering our students, many of whom have never been to the theatre before, this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see a world premiere on their doorstep, inspiring them and instilling a love of theatre, culture and live performance. Well done to all of our students for their impeccable manners, behaviour and engagement.

A huge well done to our Year 8 and 9 girls who put on a fantastic performance at the Regional Schools Netball Tournament at Sports Central this weekend, finishing an impressive 3rd place behind Barnard Castle and Dame Allan's School. The girls showed excellent teamwork, resilience and sportsmanship throughout. This is a hugely talented group who all play for Bishop Auckland Netball Club, with many also representing at County level. We are incredibly proud of their achievement- they are a true pleasure to watch and a fantastic example of young athletes playing a sport they love.



COMING UP THIS WEEK

Tuesday 3- The Choice is Mine workshop for Year 9. This session will help support students in their GCSE option choices, exploring transferable skills and where subjects can take them in the future.

Thursday 5- Year 9 Progress Evening. We look forward to welcoming our Year 9 students into school along with their parents and carers for important discussion about progress and option choices. Appointments are still available via SchoolCloud; there will be chance to see staff on the night if appointments appear fully booked.

Looking Ahead: Year 9 GCSE Option deadline- Friday 13 February. Students must ensure they have completed their form by this deadline and should see their tutors if there are any issues with this.

