



# Hebburn Comprehensive School

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Head Teacher: Mr D R Thompson

22 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of term, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you pupils' achievements and whole-school events from the Autumn Term, as well providing you with some key dates for our return in January.

## KEY DATES



- As parents and carers are aware, school will finish at 12.00pm on Friday 23 December.
- Pupils return to school on Monday 9 January.
- Pupils break up for half term on Friday 17 February, returning on Monday 27 February.
- We break up for Easter on Friday 31 March and return on Monday 17 April.
- May Day is on Monday 1 May, meaning that the school is closed.
- Monday 8 May will be a bank holiday for the coronation of King Charles III. This means that the school will be closed.
- Pupils break up for May half term on Friday 26 May and return on Monday 5 June.

## STAFF AND GOVERNOR NEWS



After 22 years of dedicated service to the school Mrs Payne, Assistant Head Teacher, SENCO and Designated Safeguarding Lead, is retiring at the end of term. In her time at the school, Mrs Payne has taught her first subject of maths, as well as English and RE. She is a highly respected senior leader and has supported many pupils and families over the years. She will certainly be a big miss to the school. We wish Mrs Payne a happy and restful retirement.

Mrs Kirkham, Attendance Officer, is leaving on Friday, having joined the school in 2009. Mrs Kirkham has held a number of admin roles in the school, including receptionist and reprographics technician. Over recent years, she has played a crucial part in improving attendance, as part of our attendance team. We are all going to miss her.

Mrs McKay, Attendance Officer, who has worked at our school since 2010, is also retiring at the end of term. Before joining Hebburn Comprehensive, Mrs McKay worked in attendance in another secondary school in South Tyneside, bringing a huge amount of experience to the role. Mrs McKay has played a significant role in bringing about improvements in attendance. We wish her a long and restful retirement.

Mr Stanford, Teacher of Biology, who joined the school in 2019 is leaving at the end of term to pursue a different career. We wish Mr Stanford well and thank him for the contribution he has made to the school.

## EXPECTATIONS FOR THE NEW TERM

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### Basic Equipment



A huge thank you to parents and carers for your support with basic equipment throughout the term. Pupils are coming to school fully equipped for learning, which is wonderful to see. Pupils should continue to bring their basic equipment with them every day in the new term.

#### ***What is meant by the term 'basic equipment'?***

The following items of stationery constitute your child's 'basic equipment': a blue or black pen, pencil, ruler, green pen and planner. Your child is expected to bring all of these items with them to school every day. They should also have a school bag to carry books, folders, homework and PE kit.

#### ***What happens if my child forgets or loses their basic equipment?***

Equipment checks will take place at the start of each new school day. If your child is missing their basic equipment, or any part of it, they will be issued with a detention during period 1. At the start of each new lesson, your child will be asked to place their basic equipment on their desk to show that they are prepared for the lesson and ready to learn. Our prefect team will continue to run a stationery shop every day, on morning entry, so that missing items can be replaced promptly and inexpensively. Please refer to the price list below for further information. The stationery shop can be found in the packed lunch area every morning from 8.30am.

#### ***Why does my child need these items every day?***

It is hugely important that children are prepared for learning. As part of our marking policy, your child will be required to use a green pen when self-assessing and/or developing work marked by their teachers. We also have high expectations in relation to how classwork should be presented. For example, pupils will need a ruler to underline the date and title, and a pencil for any diagrams or sketches that may need to be recorded in their books. Planners will be used to record homework and to help pupils ensure that homework is handed in on time; they will also be used to track individual attendance percentages on a weekly basis.

#### **Price List**

- Blue/black pen: 20p
- Pencil: 20p
- Ruler (15cm): 30p
- Ruler (30cms): 50p
- Green pen: 20p
- Replacement planners can be bought from the tutors' rooms for £1.

## UNIFORM

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As a school, we have high expectations in relation to all aspects of school life, including the wearing of school uniform. It gives pupils a sense of belonging and is an important part of our corporate image. It is important that staff are not wasting valuable teaching and learning time dealing with issues relating to uniform.

Some important reminders:

- Blazers are a compulsory part of school uniform. They should not be replaced with an alternative outer layer/jacket.

- Leggings are **not** part of school uniform.
- Tube skirts/elasticated skirts are not acceptable. School skirts should be **knee length**.
- Pupils are required to wear **black, polishable footwear**; canvas / material footwear is not permitted. As you are already aware, boots are not allowed.
- No false, gel or acrylic nails.
- No false eyelashes.
- No jewellery.

Uniform list for 2021-2022 can be found here: [School Uniform - Hebburn Comprehensive School](#)

Equipment list for 2021-2022 can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3GBV0KC>

## YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

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Our thanks again to all pupils and parents who attended our Open Evening in September. There were lots of happy children engrossed in all the exciting activities on offer around the school. We were delighted with all the positive feedback and look forward to meeting families again in September.

## YEAR 11

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In November, as part of our first assessment cycle, Year 11 students sat their GCSE mock examinations. The buy-in to additional revision sessions and study support in the run up to the exams was generally very good, but a more consistent buy-in from some pupils would increase their chances of success in the summer. We are planning to hold another pizza and chips revision night.

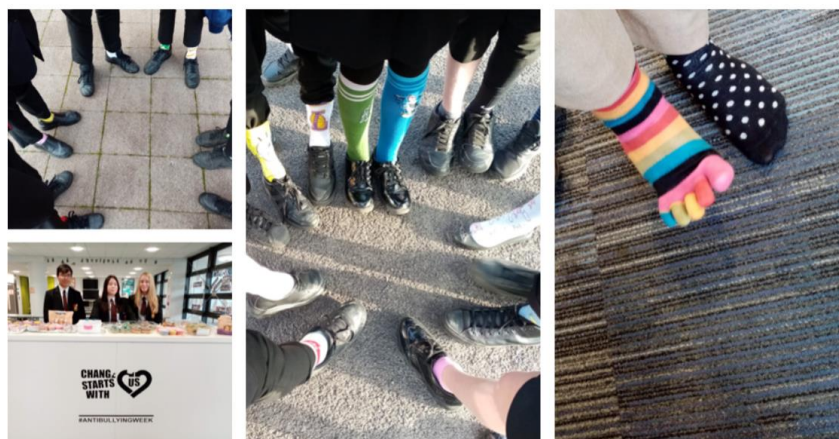
As parents, carers and students will know, examinations are scheduled to take place as normal this year. It is hugely important, therefore that students return to school with a real determination and focus. As has been the case in the first term, there will be lots of additional study support sessions on offer across a range of subjects.

## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

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Various activities took place during anti-bullying week, to raise awareness of this extremely serious issue. Pupils took part in an 'odd socks' day, a cake sale and special assemblies on the theme of anti-bullying.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

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Pupils, across year groups, have been taking part in our extensive range of extra-curricular clubs after school: [After School Clubs - Hebburn Comprehensive School](#). Well done to all pupils involved. We would like to see even more pupils involved next term!

## SPORTS NEWS

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On Thursday 3 November, 50 of our pupils competed in the South Tyneside Schools' cross-country competition at Temple Park. There were seven schools represented; in the overall competition we finished 3rd.

Our Year 7 girls' team were 1st in their team competition. Year 8/9 girls were 4th and year 10/11 girls were 3rd.

Our three boys' teams in the same age categories were all 2nd.

Notable individual performances in their races included:

Theo Pick Year 7 (1st)  
Harry Urwin Year 11 (2nd)  
Reuben Henry Year 7 (3rd)  
Lily Isherwood Year 7 (3rd)

Elijah Cummins Year 11 (3rd)  
Ada Todd Year 7 (4th)  
Tia Jenkins Year 7 (5th)

All the children showed great determination and a real sense of pride when representing our school. Their conduct throughout the competition was exemplary.

Our Year 7 athletics teams competed in the South Tyneside schools' indoor athletics competition at Temple Park. From the seven schools taking part, we finished 2nd in both the girls and boys competitions; therefore, qualifying for the County Championships in January.

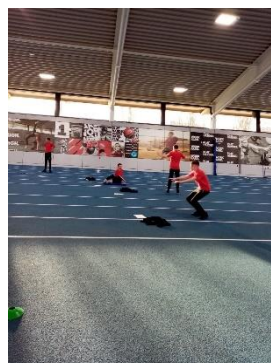
The boys' points score of 198 was narrowly behind St Joseph's, with 209. The girls narrowly missed out on the title with 163 points, 2 behind St Joseph's.

The pupils were real ambassadors for our school and were a pleasure to take.

## COLLEGE VISIT

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On Friday 16 December, Year 10 Sports Studies students visited Gateshead College. They took part with great enthusiasm in a circuit training session led by a sixth form student, before receiving a tour of the college. The afternoon was really enjoyable, and our students gained a real insight into studying in further education. They returned to school feeling inspired.



## **Basketball**

Year 7 and 8 are excited to be taking part in the Jr NBA Basketball league. They have approached this new tournament with great enthusiasm and team spirit. Results so far include an 8-4 win against St Joseph's

### **Year 7 Team**

George Watson  
Ada Todd  
Glen Cunningham

Oscar Lumley  
Moah Collison  
Jake Middlemiss

Lilly Isherwood  
Adam Swinburne

### **Year 8 Team**

Lewis Heley  
Finley Coulson

Freddie Robson  
Bailey Hogg

William Gowens

Year 9 boys are currently taking part in U14 basketball CVL and wins so far include 10-0 against Jarrow and 11-2 against Whitburn.

### **Year 9 Team**

Jospeh Holt  
Zac Duncan

Jonathon Ige  
Russell Chirubvu

Jack Seymore  
Harvey Hillcock



## **Boys' Football**

The Year 9 Boys football team have seen a number of wins this term  
vs Jarrow won 12-0  
vs Thorpe Academy won 3-2  
vs Whitburn won 4-2

## **Girls' U13 Football**

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In the first four games the girls played as a fantastic unit. Their communication and positional awareness were outstanding. They worked hard for each other and made frequent goal scoring opportunities.

Winning the group, they then moved to the quarter final which finished goalless, meaning we moved to a penalty shootout. Each school had 3 penalties per school; unfortunately, we were knocked out. The girls showed so much resilience in a very tense penalty competition. Overall, an excellent performance by a from the team. Well done!

### **Squad**

Caitlin Wield  
Kelsea Martin  
Lilly Knight

Lyla Carr  
Sofia Lawson  
Lilly Isherwood

Lexie Fowlie

## Goal scorers

Lexie Fowlie - 5

Kelsea Martin - 1

Sofia Lawson - 1

## MUSIC

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Congratulations to Jacob Bickle (Distinction) and Ethan Topping (Merit) for passing their Grade 7 Trinity Rock & Pop Guitar exams.

We have been extremely busy casting and rehearsing this year's school production of Matilda Jnr. from 28 - 30 March, 2023! More information to follow!

Over 30 pupils in Year 7 attended Willowdene Care Home on Wednesday 21 December to sing carols to the residents.

The whole of Year 7 attended the annual Carol Service at St John's Church on Friday 23 December.

On Thursday 20 October, a rock band from South Tyneside Music Service visited the school to perform a live gig and workshop for Year 7 pupils. It was a fantastic event and pupils sang extremely very well.

## DOCUMENTARY FILM

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During July 2022, our Year 11 GCSE pupils helped to create a wonderful documentary film, in partnership with renowned archive film specialists, 'Amber Films'. Under the guidance of Bryan Dixon and Daniel Giddins, we learned how to use industry standard video and sound recording equipment.

We chose the topic of the old Hebburn lakes (the site on which our school now stands). Having interviewed local residents (Cecily Horspool, Vicky Holt and Norman Dunn) with living memory of the site and events surrounding those lakes, we hope we have captured some local history for future pupils and residents of Hebburn for posterity. We hope to share this film with the wider community very shortly.

## ART

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### LINDISFARNE GOSPELS ART TRIP AT THE LAING

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December we had the fortunate opportunity to take a number of Year 9 pupils to go and see the Lindisfarne Gospels exhibition at the Laing art gallery for free. Pupils were already studying lettering in class so this was an excellent chance to see real live art which was made on our doorstep hundreds of years ago. Original manuscripts, historic artifacts and contemporary artwork was on show. Pupils were so well behaved and considerate, one of the general public purchased a Lindisfarne book on the exhibition as a gift for our school library. Well done everyone!



## **VISIT FROM BAE SYSTEMS**

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On Wednesday 12 October, Hebburn Comprehensive school welcomed the BAE Systems Education Programme Roadshow. Delivered in partnership with the RAF and the Royal Navy, celebrating more than 15 years of making a difference in the perception of STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) subjects in schools.

The science roadshow, arranged by the science department, saw an engaging 50-minute theatre roadshow delivered to all of Year 8 students. The performance was aligned to the National Curriculum and designed to inspire and engage the students on the theme of Magnetism. The presentation explained the integration of magnets, magnetism and electromagnetism in our everyday life, enriching the science education and careers education of Hebburn pupils.

Mr Obee, Head of Physics, who organised and watched the event said, “the students really enjoyed themselves and got a lot out of the visit.”

BAE Systems provide some of the world's most advanced, technology-led defence, aerospace and security solutions. They employ a skilled workforce of 90,500 people in more than 40 countries. Working with customers and local partners, they develop, engineer, manufacture, and support products and systems to deliver military capability, protect national security and people, and keep critical information and infrastructure secure.

## **KEY STAGE 4 THEATRE VISIT**

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KS4 enjoyed a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' by Quantum Theatre, in the Main Hall on Monday, 19 December to support the study of one their GCSE English Literature set texts.

## **VOICES FOR EQUALITY**

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30 pupils from years 7, 8 & 9 worked with Sam from the Anne Frank Trust, learning about Anne Frank and antisemitism, as well as modern day types of prejudice and the impact it has on people. They produced presentations, speeches and stories to help educate other pupils about prejudice and discrimination.

## **CHRISTMAS FAIR**

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In December, we held our first Christmas Fair since 2019. We welcomed 15 stall holders to our festive market and pupils ran Christmas activities and games. Festive fun was had by families and children.

## **BAUBLE COMPETITION**

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Year 7 pupils were asked to design a Christmas Bauble. Alicia has created a beautiful and skilful drawing of a snowman and tree. She has used both colour and pencil shading within her work and is the overall winner. Alicia has received a stocking full of Christmas goodies. Well done!



**Winner – Alicia Mulholland**

## SHOEBOXES FOR THE HOMELESS

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The school council have been collecting items to put together in care-pack shoeboxes for the homeless in our communities. We are donating them to a local outreach shelter. Thank you to everyone who sent in donations. They will make a huge difference to those living on the streets this winter.

Merry  
Christmas

May I take this opportunity of thanking all parents and carers for your support over this past term, and of wishing all families a pleasant and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely



David Thompson  
**Head Teacher**