

# HIGHLIFE

Spring 2020. Issue 74

## WIND IN THE WILLOWS

Durham High School's musical performance based on the classic children's novel at the Gala Theatre Page 7

# Girls raise money and food for those in need

There is light in the darkness; sometimes you just have to find it.

With the Spring term coming to a premature end, girls across Junior and Senior House took part in a non-uniform day for local food banks.

A tremendous £565.68 and a huge amount of food was collected, along with three large bags of sanitary products that the girls have been collecting over recent weeks to help with period poverty.

Girls in Upper Sixth used the day to don their ball gowns, after the cancellation of the annual School Ball, and celebrate what will most likely be their last day at Durham High School.

They were presented with a St Cuthbert's cross pin badge by the Headmistress, which is usually given to them after their Leaver's Service in May.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed towards this collection for Durham food banks..



# Beau takes home James Etherington Music Award

Two musicians from Durham High School took part in the James Etherington Music Award competition, with pianist Beau Beveridge taking home the trophy.

Beau and Charlotte Johnston were 2 of 6 entrants to the prestigious music competition, which was held in Chester-le-Street Methodist Church, supported by the Rotary Club.

The girls had to introduce a programme, chosen by themselves, of approximately 10 minutes.

Charlotte performed on the organ, and included her own arrangement of Bach's 'Air on a G String' for violin and organ, playing the two instruments simultaneously, as well as the Toccata and an organ solo by Bach.

Beau herself performed two Preludes by Scriabin very expressively and followed this by a movement from a

Mozart Sonata, which was energetic and dramatic as well as technically secure.

It was Beau who took home the trophy and £400 first prize in the end, with Charlotte also being awarded £50. Well done to both.



## A silver NCS Award for Durham High School

We are delighted to have been named a NCS Champion School for yet another year.

The NCS (National Citizen Service) is a voluntary personal and social development programme for 16-17 year olds in England and Northern Ireland.

Durham High School was presented with a Silver award for embracing the NCS and encouraging high levels of participation last year.

Well done to all the girls who have taken part so far and we look forward to the same high levels of participation this summer.

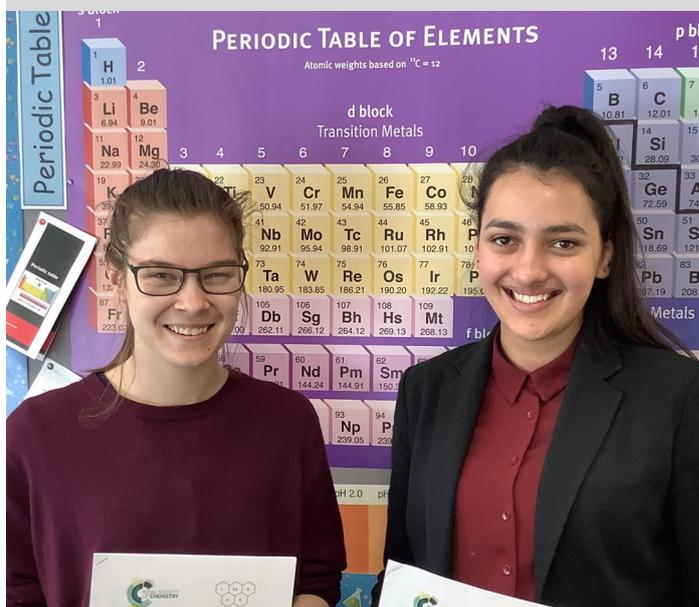


## UK Chemistry Olympiad 2020

Two members of Upper Sixth volunteered to sit the challenging two hour UK Chemistry Olympiad paper back in January.

We were delighted to find out that both Charlotte and Noor had achieved Silver Certificates, placing them in the top 30% of candidates.

Well done girls!



# Senior North East Classics Competition

Congratulations to all the girls who entered the North East Classics competition, held at Newcastle High School for Girls.

A wide range of schools entered teams in the competition, including RGS Newcastle, Durham School, Dame Allen's and Emmanuel College.

Our teams included one Year 9 team, two GCSE teams, and a Sixth Form team, with Scarlett Nixon from Year 11 bringing her skills to the Sixth Form team.

It was excellent to see the breadth of knowledge the girls have built up, from the whole of the Classics department curriculum and to see them take confidence from the experience.

The girls faced a range of questions, which included grammar questions, derivations, mythology and history as well as some very up to date song titles in Latin which completely baffled Mrs Murray who was acting as one of the questioners.

All the girls acquitted themselves admirably, but a particular well done goes to the Year 9 team consisting of Georgina Baker, Vibha Hemanth, Evie Short and Emily Stavers, who were placed second in a very large category and won all their rounds. A quick starter for 10: Which artist wrote 'somnia clara'?

Answers to Mrs Murray next term!

## Year 8 girls go #CyberFirst

This term, girls in Year 8 took part in the #CyberFirst Girls' Competition, set up by the National Cyber Security Centre.

It is a UK-wide competition to introduce pupils to the world of cyber security and aims to help boost interest among young females who are very under-represented in the industry currently.

A team from the School progressed beyond the qualifiers and into the regional semi-finals, which took place in February. Well done girls for getting so far!

## Durham High Alumnae Business Network

We are excited to announce plans to launch the Durham High School Alumnae Business Network in 2020.

The aim of the network will be to connect Old Girls of Durham High School that are working in business to celebrate success and help inspire the next generation of businesswomen.

Are you an Old Girl working in business in the North East? If so, register you can register your initial interest at [tinyurl.com/DHSalumnae](https://tinyurl.com/DHSalumnae)



## DHS ALUMNAE BUSINESS NETWORK

Celebrate success and inspire the next generation of businesswomen

#BeYourBest



# Raising aspirations at Newcastle University

A group of ten Year 9 girls recently visited Newcastle University to attend a Medicine and Dentistry Day.

It was an action packed day which involved allowing the girls to gain an insight into what is involved in becoming a doctor and dentist.

In addition to lectures by dentistry students, the group took part in various activities including making model teeth, analysing toothbrushing technique and looking at many different types of animal teeth.

In the afternoon, the girls enjoyed a lecture from medical students then learned how to take blood pressure, perform eye examinations and perform CPR.

They were even able to get hands-on and diagnose and treat a robotic dummy patient called 'Sim Man'.

All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and it has certainly inspire them to consider medicine or dentistry as a career.



## Old Girl gets Queen's honour

Congratulations to Durham High School Old Girl Wendy Craig who was presented with a CBE medal from the Queen for her services to drama and charity.

The actress, known for *Not in Front of the Children*, *Butterflies* and *The Royal*, was a pupil at the school during the Second World War.

The 85 year old was given the Royal accolade as part of the 2020 New Year Honours list.

## Science Week (6-15 March) Quiz 2020

More than 40 girls joined our inaugural Kahoot! Science Week quiz on the theme 'Our Diverse Planet'.

Sixth Form teams faced fierce competition from Middle School and a Year 8 team eventually placed second between Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth teams.

We love the twin challenges of answering with speed and accuracy and have even bigger plans for 2021...



# Careers Update

This term has seen a variety of careers activities take place across both Junior and Senior House



**Careers Talks** included two Old Girls Eve Welch and Kate Ashcroft, who returned to talk about their experience at University studying Languages.

Mrs Hardy from Par Petroleum (below) gave a Business talk about her journey to Managing Director and Sixth Form Medical Society have hosted speakers too.



**Unifrog**, a one-stop-shop careers platform has been launched and all girls in Senior House will have the opportunity to sign up, take the personality test and start exploring the platform.

They can use the platform to discover all career opportunities open to them such as job roles, university and college courses, apprenticeships and there is a whole host of information about applying for next steps and creating CVs to name but a few features. Girls will have time to explore this further in PHSE lessons.

Year 9 girls have been considering their **GCSE Options** and have had interviews. The Sixth Form girls are also in the process of receiving detailed guidance interviews.

Meanwhile, the Sixth Form girls have been running the **Accumulator Challenge** selling sweets and hair scrunchies in school. So far they have raised over £300 for St Cuthbert's Hospice.

Friday 13 March saw our Year 7 girls take part in the annual **FBM Freshers workshop**. They undertook a series of Enterprise challenges to create a new product from recycled materials. The winning team devised a business plan to re-use old CD cases as make-up containers.

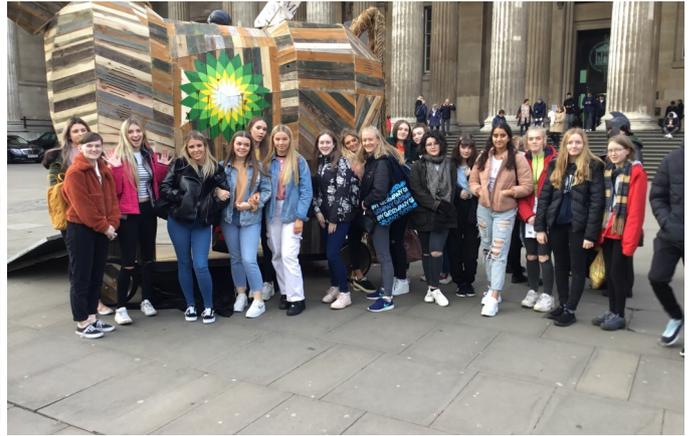
National Careers Week was in March, and pupils and teachers took part in various activities and the highlight was the **Junior House Careers Day** (pictures below).



# Classics trip to London

Year 11 and Sixth Form Classics pupils took in the sunshine and sights on a trip to the British Museum in London last month.

A fascinating day and a lot of exploring too.



## Seven Stories visit

Girls in Year 2 visited Seven Stories in Newcastle where they had a great time acting, dressing-up and listening to stories. Here is what some of the girls said:

*I love Seven Stories! It's nice to look around. River*

*I loved looking at the Elmer paintings and I loved hearing, smelling and rubbing the little boxes on the wall. Ava*

*My favourite floor was floor five because I really enjoyed the funny mirrors. One made my shoes bigger. Another made me bigger. Freya*

*The floor which I liked was number two because it was colourful. Scarlett*

*It was wonderful! I had lots of fun! Auriana*



## Year 8 FBM challenge

The Year 8 FBM Team are progressing well in the Competition and they are now sitting in 7th place on the overall leaderboard.

In recent workshops they have discovered how to market their business idea which has now changed to re-selling clothing in 'Clothes Fairs', creating a customer experience.



# Durham Gala performance of Wind in the Willows

Girls from across Senior School entertained crowds at the Gala Theatre, Durham across four nights with a fantastic rendition of *The Wind in the Willows*.

Durham High School were the first school in the North East to perform the musical based on the 1908 children's book written by Kenneth Grahame.

Our productions are a team effort. Participation by pupils is not limited to just those seen on stage, with girls taking up the roles of stage managers, sound and lighting, as well as hair and makeup and backstage crew.

They should all be extremely proud of their professional and entertaining performance, which saw months of rehearsal and meticulous preparation come to life on the Gala stage. It will be a difficult act to follow next year.





# Celebrating World Book Day in Junior House

Girls across Junior House took part in various activities to celebrate the annual World Book Day at the beginning of March.

Nursery had great fun celebrating World Book Day. All girls came to Nursery wearing their pyjamas and they each brought their favourite bedtime story to share with their friends. Nursery love reading, magical day!



The Girls in Years 1 and 2 participated in lots of book-related activities on World Book Day including making puppets, drawing portraits and writing stories about Nibbles, a little yellow monster who loves nibbling books!



For this year's World Book Day, the girls in Years 3 to 6 participated in a book swap.

Each girl brought in up to five books that they had read and enjoyed at home and donated them to the stock for swapping. Once all the books were set out, the girls enjoyed a good session of browsing before beginning to make their choices.

Everyone went away with at least one 'new' book to try out. Who knows, they may have discovered a new 'favourite' author – and all without spending a penny.



# World Book Day in Senior House

To celebrate World Book Day, KS3 forms were encouraged to create door fronts in the form of a book cover.

The competition included being eco-friendly by using the basic materials provided and adding suitable eco-friendly embellishments, such as recycled materials.

In typical DHS style, the girls responded with enthusiasm and creative flair – it was certainly a competitive effort. The doors were judged by Mrs Gellately, Head of English, together with upper and lower Sixth Formers. Picking a winner was a difficult decision due to the quality of the entries and all girls deserve applause for their efforts. The results are as follows:

Form	Book and Author	Judges' Comments
9H (JSNe)	<i>To All the Boys I've Loved Before</i> Jenny Han	Fabulous display which included real letters; a mature and artistic response very popular with all.
9D (RC)	<i>The Day the Crayons Quit</i> Drew Daywalt	A fun display, which was particularly creative with the crayons' facial expressions.
7H (JF)	<i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> Roald Dahl	Stunning display which was interactive and eco-friendly: a great team effort using only basic and recycled materials.
7D (GCo)	<i>Winnie the Pooh</i> A A Milne	A cute and colourful display, appropriate for the book – judges particularly liked the effort made with colouring in and painting!
8D (JSu)	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i> Lewis Carol	A classic story was reflected in the quality of the display, with the effects of the patterned scrolls being particularly striking.
8H (EG/AH)	<i>To All the Boys I've Loved Before</i> Jenny Han	An array of eco-friendly materials used to create another wonderful display for this book (adapted in film) with the addition of props inspired by the book.

And the winner is... 7H! *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl. All students who participated receive a prize of house points, with the winning form getting something suitable to their choice of book as an added prize!

## Pupil plays for renowned Organist

Charlotte Johnston played the organ at St Clements Danes on the Strand London in December as part of an International Competition for 17 to 19 year olds.

She was successful in winning one of four places on a Masterclass in London over February half term, which was delivered by organist Jonathan Rennert at St Michael's Cornhill .

Charlotte was one of four young Organists to play one piece of their own choice which was critiqued by the renowned artist.



# Junior House entertain with Music Concerts

Pupils in Years 1-4 entertained their parents and family with some fantastic musical performances.

There was a plethora of talent on show from piano to guitar and other musical instruments as the girls showcased their skill. Some have only been learning a matter of weeks.

Well done to all who took part.



## Ecoschools and Fairtrade

*Eco schools is a national programme that aims to raise environmental awareness in schools and encourages us to take action and make improvements regarding the environmental impact of our school.*

*We have been working to launch the Eco schools programme in Senior House with the ultimate aim of achieving our Silver award by the summer and our Green Flag award by the end of the next academic year.*

*There are 8 different categories included in the Eco schools programme which are, marine life, energy, litter, transport, biodiversity, healthy living, school grounds and global citizenship.*

*After conducting an environmental review of our school and seeing how well we are doing in each of these areas, we decided our first target is to work on the global citizenship section by improving our awareness and support of Fair trade.*

*Fairtrade is important because it ensures that farmers in less developed countries get paid at least the living wage which does not always happen. It does not affect the price of the goods you buy.*

*Fairtrade works with businesses, consumers and campaigners. Their vision is a world in which all producers can enjoy secure and sustainable livelihoods, fulfil their potential and decide on their future. If we all make one change in our lives regarding Fairtrade, together we can make a difference. We have asked each girl in Senior House to make a Fairtrade pledges (e.g. only buying Fairtrade chocolate, or to buy an item of Fairtrade clothing) in order to support Fairtrade.*

*We have guaranteed that the form with the most pledges met after we come back from the Easter holidays will get a prize. We encourage students and hopefully parents as well to make Fairtrade pledges for lent, as it really benefits more people than you think. Please support us in this endeavour.*

**By Adi Gupta and Lily Murray**

# Year 1 visit to Beamish Museum

Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Beamish Museum.

The girls were able to step back in time as they took part in a 'Let's Clean Up' workshop in one of the Pit Cottages. They were tasked with doing some polishing, sweeping, carpet beating, making beds and washing clothes.

The girls then got to travel by bus and by tram to the 'old town' to explore the many old fashioned shops and homes. The sweetie shop was by far the favourite!



## Year 5 visit to Beamish

Year 5 also took a visit to Beamish Museum and here are some of the girls' highlights:

*I loved going to the dentist's house and seeing all the teeth and equipment. **Grace***

*At the back of the house behind the toilet was a hole where your business would come out. At night, someone would collect it. He was called the 'night soil man'. **Lucy***

*My favourite activity was the Victorian lesson. I didn't know that students were forced to only write with their right hand. **Anindita***

*I learned that children played with boulers. You had to hold the metal stick and run along balancing the hoop. **Charlotte***

*One of the things I enjoyed most was being in the Victorian school. I learnt that the teachers were very strict in Victorian times. **Seoyeon***



# National Council of Women conference to return

We are delighted to be hosting a day conference at Durham High School on 1 July 2020 with The National Council of Women.

The theme of the conference, "In The Spotlight" aims to encourage more young women to consider careers in the creative industries.

Girls in Year 10 and Lower Sixth, as well as those from other local schools, will join representatives from the National Council of Women (NCW) and a range of prominent local women for the event.

The aim of the NCW is to make women more interested in local, regional and national affairs and to get them more involved in important decision-making. They represent women's views at the highest levels of government and are determined to make sure that discrimination is eradicated from all areas of society.



The day will involve keynote speeches from:

**Ann Cleeves**, an author of over thirty critically acclaimed novels, and creator of detectives Vera Stanhope and Jimmy Perez who can now be found in ITV's Vera and BBC One's Shetland. Ann was recently awarded the CWA Diamond Dagger, which is the highest accolade in crime writing.

**Lisa Shaw**, an award-winning radio presenter and journalist. Lisa has worked at Metro Radio, Century, Real Radio, Heart North East and can currently be heard on BBC Radio Newcastle. She won the Sony Gold Radio Academy Award for Best Breakfast Show in Britain in 2012.

**Kari Owers**, who is founder and managing director at O, a creative agency in Newcastle that has won over 60 awards. Their clients include Dr. Martens, British Gas and British Masters. Kari was named 'North East Women Entrepreneur of the Year' in 2012 and currently holds several steering committee and trustee positions for organisations that promote the creative and digital industries across the UK.

In the afternoon the girls will be split into groups and will take part in a series of creative workshops.

## Reception Rocketing

Great Science fun with Rev Vallis for Reception class making and firing gas powered rockets.

They learned that reactions are usually quicker when hotter, cheered a lot and shot some awesome rockets all the way down the corridor.



# Public Speaking Competition

It was a pleasure to host The ESU Churchill Public Speaking Competition at Durham High School in January

All teams involved did really well with interesting discussions ranging from obesity treatments, the purpose of education and whether the planet can look after itself.

Congratulations to our Durham High teams. Team two won the heat and a special well done to Georgia for winning the 'Best Questioner' award.

Two teams went on to take part in North East Region Final in Leeds earlier this month and were did really well.



## Nursery Yoga

Girls in Nursery and Reception have been taking part in weekly yoga sessions, led by Miss Dobson.

Taking part in the activity can help to improve a child's strength, coordination and flexibility among encouraging other healthy habits.



## Promotion for Abi

A huge congratulations to Abigail in Year 10 who has been promoted from the Leeds Rhinos U15 Regional Academy to their U15 Netball Competition Squad.

This is down to her hard work and determination - well done Abi!

## Playing for Durham

Congratulations to our Grace and Darcy in Year 7 and Freya and Annabelle in Year 8 who played for Durham County in January.

All girls played superbly in the U13s tournament and Grace was awarded 'Player of the Tournament'.



# Swimming success at annual Junior House Gala

On Wednesday 4 March the Junior House Swimming Gala took place. It was a fantastic morning of swimming and excellent house spirit. A special mention to our record breakers:

Florence Year 4 Breaststroke, Chloe Year 5 Backstroke and Charlotte Year 5 Butterfly and Individual Medley.

The overall winning house was Tempest, 2nd Neville, 3rd Heath, 4th Booth.



# Junior Sport

## U11 Durham Cluster Netball Tournament

On Friday 7th February the U11 and U10 Netball teams entered the Cluster tournament.

Both teams played well. The U11 team finished third in their tournament and the U10 team finished first overall winning all their matches convincingly.

## U11 Mowden Hall Netball Tournament

On Wednesday 26 February the U11 netball team entered the Mowden Hall invitation Netball tournament. They displayed an excellent standard of play throughout the tournament to reach the semi-final. In the semi-final they met St Marys Melrose where they unfortunately lost.

## Durham School Netball Tournament

On Thursday 27 February the U10 netball team entered the Durham School invitation netball tournament. The overall team performance was exceptional winning every game convincingly to become the outright winners of the tournament.

## U11 Newcastle Cluster Netball Tournament

On Friday 13 March both the U11 and U10 Netball teams played extremely well against tough competition in the U11 Newcastle Schools Cluster Tournament.

The U11 team won their section and the U10 team finished second in their section. This resulted in them playing each other in a semi-final which went to extra time twice!

The U11 Team finished joint 3rd and U10 Team finished in 2nd place.



## Showjumping success

Olivia and her pony Finley undertook their first 148 Grand Prix 1m20cm class and they took 1st place out of a very strong competitive field.

She also completed her 1st JA Blue Chip championship qualifier and secured 2nd place and her qualification for the National Blue Chip Championships in early April.

Olivia has also gained 2 further National Blue Chip Championships qualifications on her young pony Missy at 1m and 1m10, so she will have both ponies competing in the national championships at Easter.

In addition, she has gained a number of further wins with Finley which means she has secured top place in the National showjumping Pony Silver league for the Northern Region and 4th place nationally, with 406 riders from across the country competing in this league.



## Old Girls gets gold spot at Northern Athletic Championships

Congratulations to Old Girl, Jazmine Moss, on her recent 200m win at the Northern Athletics Indoor Championships.

A fantastic achievement!



# Junior House Cross Country

On Wednesday 12 February the Junior House Cross Country competition took place.

Every girl from year 3-6 should be congratulated for their brilliant efforts during the morning.

A special mention must go to the winners of each competition:

## Year 3 and 4 competition

1st - Exeer, 2nd - Isla, 3rd - Florence

## Year 5 and 6 competition

1st - Millie, 2nd - Hannah, 3rd Harriet

The overall winning house was Heath, 2nd Tempest, 3rd Neville, 4th Booth.



## U11 North Regional Hockey Semi-Finals

On Friday 6 March our U11 Hockey team travelled to Wakefield to play in the North Regional Hockey Semi-Finals, after progressing through from the county round.

The competition was tough but our girls played fantastically showing excellent effort and determination throughout. Some draws and losses with some excellent hockey. Well done to all girls.



## U19 Easter Netball Tournament

Our Senior girls played in the Durham School Invitational Easter Netball Tournament. The girls enjoyed an afternoon of netball where they won all matches and not only won the tournament but also won an Easter egg each... which didn't make it home!

Well done girls- a brilliant end to a successful season.



# Senior House Netball Success

## U14 Invitational Netball Tournament

Our U14 Netball team were invited to the Newcastle Schools Invitational Tournament where they played against Newcastle High School, RGS Newcastle, Sedbergh, Yarm, High Tunstall and Ashville College.

The girls put on a brilliant performance and demonstrated outstanding skills throughout, beating all teams convincingly. Well done to the U14 squad!



## U16 Invitational Netball Tournament

The U16 Netball team played in the Newcastle Schools Invitational Tournament. They played against Newcastle High School, RGS Newcastle, Sedbergh and Yarm.

The girls were absolutely outstanding and beat all teams by more than half score, with some breath-taking skills on show. Well done girls!



## U12 Invitational Netball Tournament and City Tournament

The U12 Netball girls have finished the season on a high! In the Durham School Tournament they narrowly missed out on the trophy to Red House School, finishing in a superb second place.

In the Durham City Tournament they beat all teams convincingly, being crowned tournament winners. An outstanding end to a brilliant season!



## U13 City Netball Tournament

Our U13s have also finished the season on top! The girls competed in the Durham City Netball Tournament where they played all teams from around the city.

Winning all games and displaying excellent skills throughout, the team finished Durham City champions!





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