



Durham

HIGHLIFE

July 2018 Issue No 69



Editorial

Welcome to the Summer 2018 edition of HighLife with the front cover setting the mood, showing Year 8 girls enjoying 'fun in the sun' in Spain. Last Friday, we were also blessed with fine weather when Senior House decamped to the Riverside Stadium, Chester-le-Street for our annual Sports Day, where a number of records were broken and precious House Points amassed.

Earlier this term we celebrated 50 years at Farewell Hall with girls past and present. The celebration was led by the Bishop of Durham and we welcomed back the 1967 Head Girl, Mrs Marjory Soar, who read the lesson and who enjoyed hearing about High School life today.

Sixth Form girls have been flying high: in May, a group, accompanied by Mr Priest was invited to Buckingham Palace where they were presented with their hard-earned Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards. Well done indeed girls, and thank you to our dedicated team of staff and volunteers for making it possible.

In May, the Golden Gatsby Ball at Hardwick Hall Hotel was an outstanding success and, as you can see from the photographs, everyone looked wonderful, dancing the night away after a

delicious dinner. A few days later, Leavers' Service took place in St Oswald's Church, prior to the commencement of their study leave. With examinations now well and truly over, we recently welcomed the Upper Sixth back into school to say their final farewells, before leaving us for pastures new.

Girls in Years 7 and 8 showcased their many talents in this year's summer musical: 'Mary Poppins Jr'. The girls thrilled us all with their excellent singing, dancing and acting ability and were supported by a fantastic back-stage team.

Junior House girls have been no less busy. They, too, were blessed with glorious sunshine for their Sports Days and a number of new records were set in the javelin. The ever-popular Outdoor Learning Day was great fun, with girls learning new skills from archery to pond-dipping.

Do enjoy this jam-packed edition of HighLife and, as the school year draws to a close, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

Mrs Lynne Renwick
Headmistress

I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Head Girl of Durham High School for Girls and I cannot wait to undertake the challenges that will come with my privileged position. Throughout the year I know I will be receiving invaluable support from our new Deputy Head Girls: Varsha Krishnan, front left and Maya Slee, front right. Other vital members of the Sixth Form Leadership Team are the House Captains who, for the next year, will be: Lauren Wragg (Booth), back row, right; Esmé Phillips (Heath), back row, left; Alex Roberts (Neville), back row, second right and Abigail Lintern (Tempest), back row, second left. Our newly-appointed School Council Prefects are Tinaye Mupedziswa,

middle row, left and Ellie Greenhow, second left, who are both eager to be advocates for all the girls in the school, voicing their opinions and working to integrate their ideas into school life. Keen to utilise the school's generosity and charitable attitude is Grace Cleasby, middle row, second left, our Charities Prefect and, finally, we have Laura Selvarajah, middle row, right, who will be our Junior House Prefect. All the girls are incredibly excited about taking on their new roles and I'm certain that, as a team, we'll make many positive contributions to the High School.

Neisha Mistry, Year 12



**Your Sixth Form
Leadership Team**

Farewell at 50

To mark 50 years at Farewell Hall we held a Service of Thanksgiving at Durham High in April, attended by girls, staff, parent representatives, Governors and Old Girls. We are grateful to Bishop Paul for officiating and giving such a wonderful address, as well as to all our special guests including the Deputy Mayor and the Vice-Chancellor of Durham University. It was wonderful welcome back Miss Stephenson (Headmistress 1978-1992) and Miss Walters (Headmistress 1992 – 1998), after whom one of our Junior buildings is named. Our Service of Thanksgiving included bible readings and prayers by girls, staff, the Chair of Governors, Mrs Morag Cummings, and the Head Girl of 1967, Mrs Marjory Soar.

Our Head Girl in 2017/18 reminded us of some of the events of the last 50 years:

"1968: the year of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, humans orbiting the moon for the first time and, most importantly, Durham High School for Girls making its own 'giant step' by moving to Farewell Hall.

Since moving to the site, the school has continued to develop with the building of the Sports Hall in 1975, Junior House in 1989 and Nursery in 1997. In 2003 the Hurworth Building was opened with state-of-the-art labs, the Shroder library and ICT facilities. The Salter Building was built in 2009 to house the Drama Studio and Music facilities. More recently, under the leadership of Mrs Renwick, we opened the fantastic Astro Turf pitch, a facility that has enhanced sport for girls of all ages.

School life is constantly evolving too, from the 1982 charity coffee mornings to the charity bin bag fashion shows of today, yet the ethos of our school has remained constant. The strengths and unwavering values of our school are evident throughout its history. Durham High School continually produces generations of girls, who strive for the best, and who have been encouraged to #GoAnywhereBeAnyone".

Hannah King, Year 13



Hannah King (Head Girl 2017 - 2018) and Mrs Marjory Soar (Head Girl 1967)



Members of the History Club modelling past DHS uniforms



Key Events in 1968

Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. is assassinated aged 39.

Enoch Powell delivers his controversial 'Rivers of Blood' speech.

Robert F. Kennedy, the younger brother of John F. Kennedy, is assassinated while campaigning for the presidency, aged 42.

Richard Nixon wins the US presidential election.

Frank Sinatra first records 'My Way.'

1968 Eurovision Winner

Spain with 'La, la, la' by Massiel

1968 Summer Olympics in Mexico City

Great Britain finish 10th in the medal table.

1968 Oscars

Best Picture: In the Heat of the Night

World Population

3.5 billion in 1968 (7.6 billion in 2018)

First Photograph of DHS Taken from Lunar Orbit

Bill Anders, Apollo 8, 24.12.68

1968 FA Cup Winners

West Bromwich Albion

No. 1 Singles Chart

Hello, Goodbye by the Beatles

Best Selling Car in 1968

Austin Morris 1100/1300

Average UK House Price in 1968

£4,000 (£210,000 in 2018)



A Deputy Head Girl reflected on what it means to be a High School Girl:

"As a member of the High School you will learn many things: to always have one's skirt at an appropriate length and never to chew gum; to know how to open doors carrying three textbooks whilst holding down your kilt when it's windy; that the teachers who tell you off for forgetting books in Year 7, will believe in you more than you ever thought you could believe in yourself by the time you reach Sixth Form.

The more time you spend at DHS, the more you will realise just how fortunate you are, to be surrounded by these people: your teachers, your colleagues, your friends. Although we are celebrating 50 years at Farewell Hall, the essence of the High School does not lie within these walls, but in each and every one of us.

To be a High School girl is to have the knowledge that there is always somewhere where you are safe and wanted, that you do not have to be related to people for them to be your family, and that wherever you go and whoever you become, Durham High will always welcome you home".

Elinor Fowler, Year 13



Keertana Adla and Freya Baring told us what they had discovered about just how much can change in 50 years: "50 years ago, cash machines had just been introduced, no one had walked on the moon, people were campaigning for civil rights in the USA, The Beatles were still making music together and petrol cost the equivalent of 7p per litre. It was unusual to fly on planes for holidays, computers filled entire rooms, heart transplants were a new thing, and the internet had not been born".

They shared some of the thoughts of Junior House girls on what the world will be like in 50 years:

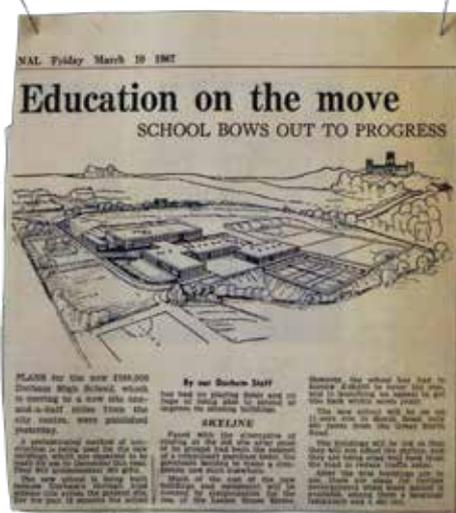
- "The seas will have been completely covered in plastic"
- "There'll be a huge swamp"
- "Trees will have gone"

Other ideas were more hopeful:

- "There will be no more wars"
- "The world will be less polluted"
- "Robots will do our chores and homework"
- "There will be cures for deadly diseases like cancer"
- "Smiggle will take over the world".



Progress is being made towards realising some of these hopes even now, and some may just be a distant dream. In the next 50 years, who knows what role Durham High girls will play in creating a better world, what inventions will they create, what issues will they campaign about? As Bishop Paul observed, one of our girls could even be Bishop of Durham! Whatever they do, we hope that they will all be inspired to help make this world as good and kind and amazing as it can be.





Leavers' Service



This is the family of us:

Since day one we've all gone
Through ups and downs
And merry go rounds,
From playground games in summer dresses
To tartan kilts and tuck shop messes.
We've rolled up skirts
And rolled down when told,
Weren't GCSEs a thing to behold!
There's been laughter and success,
We'd expect nothing less,
There's been heartbreak and life shakes
But nothing we can't take.
We've lost loved ones,
We've gained new ones,
We've made new friends and
Stuck by our old ends,

We've danced about,
Screamed a shout towards the sky
Looked each other in the eye ...
And then told the truth.
Now it seems we're getting on and going off
To be doctors, artists, linguists, the lot.
The thing with families is this unbreakable bond
And I can't help that I'm rather fond
Of who we've become, and for some,
Maybe we will never meet again
But then,
We're all from the same green and yellow stone
And the cement runs deep, even down to the bone
And so, however dysfunctional we may be - or not,
We are family, and that means a lot!

Josie Broome, Year 13





Performing Shakespeare

When I heard about this competition organised by the English Speaking Union, I was eager to take the opportunity. For the first round, I chose to perform Shylock's 'If you prick us, do we not bleed?' speech from *The Merchant of Venice*. I was pleased to get through to the second round and although I was initially nervous, I was soon at ease performing. When I received the news that I had progressed through to the third round in London, I was completely overwhelmed. I really felt at home on the stage and it was an incredible experience – I would definitely encourage others to enter next year.

Fenella McKenzie, Year 9

Standing in the gardens of Buckingham Palace on a sunny day in May to collect our Gold Duke of Edinburgh's award made all the hiking through rain, wind and snow for our Bronze, Silver and Gold awards worthwhile. After months of volunteering, physical and skills activities, as well as a week-long residential course, enlightening Her Royal Highness Princess Anne on our escapades at what was only the third ceremony held at Buckingham Palace in 12 years was a privilege. Amidst the royal bands and celebrities entertaining the crowds, Frank Skinner, who presented our awards, reminded us that we, in fact, were the VIPs for the day. After relishing this once in a lifetime achievement, we were happy to come away with blisters from our high heels rather than our walking boots - and sunburn: something we never experienced on an expedition!

Jes and Pip Stewart, Year 13



In April I decided to have 12 inches of my hair cut off for the Little Princess Trust, a charity which makes wigs for children with cancer. I decided to do this because of my personal connections with the charity, which motivated me to help children who are going through difficult times to regain their confidence and feel more like themselves again. I hope to do this again in the future and make an important difference to the lives of these children.

Antonia Mitchell, Year 10

Sixth Former, Maya Slee, has been awarded the Rotary Club of Durham's prestigious Richardson Award to help her achieve her dream of a career in medicine. Awarded annually, the scheme aims to enable members of the Durham community to pursue their vocational goals. Maya plans to use the money to attend the 5 day residential Medical School Preparation Course in Liverpool this August to enhance her university applications: "I am grateful to the Rotary Club of Durham and I am really excited about my BioGrad course. As well as offering help and advice for applying to medical schools, the course will allow me to gain skills in speciality areas such as pathology and ophthalmology." Rotary President Ed Kear said, "Maya is a hard-working, very dedicated student who clearly deserves this opportunity to follow her vocation; The Rotary Club of Durham wishes her every success."





The Golden Gatsby Ball







Viaje a España 2018



This year's French Exchange started in October when a group of students from Lycée Jean Cassaigne in St Pierre du Mont came to Durham to spend a week with their DHS host families. The return trip took place in March, giving our girls the chance to immerse themselves in French culture, family and school life as well as improving their listening and speaking skills. There was also time for sightseeing and shopping in Bordeaux before climbing the Dune du Pyla, the highest sand dune in Europe. All the girls benefitted from the experience and will hopefully stay in touch with their French partners for years to come.

After an exciting plane journey, we were greeted at Alicante airport with a big smile from one of our 'monitores', Gisela. Soon after settling into our rooms at the Arbolar Centre, we went out to play beach games in the sun. Everyone enjoyed our first meal of a delicious paella before heading off to bed, exhausted.

In the morning, the first activity was our Spanish lesson where we translated instructions for our cooking class. We then learnt how to make traditional the Spanish dishes of gazpacho and tortilla. After a break relaxing on the beach, we got ready for an afternoon of kayaking and sailing.

The beautiful city of Cartagena was our destination on Day 3. We were given a tour of Cartagena museum and the amazing Roman amphitheatre then found some welcome shade for our packed lunches.

On the last day, a Spanish lesson prepared us for a trip to the market where most of us bought presents to take home. Back at the Arbolar there was a fun afternoon of dance and a barbecue. Our leaving party was amazing with singing and dancing - we even got some entertainment from the teachers!

This was an amazing experience that nobody in Year 8 will forget; although everyone was a bit apprehensive at first, in the end nobody wanted to leave.

Annika Mitchell and Alicia Chadwick, Year 8



L'échange Français

Camping Creativity



A period of heavy rain forced us to reduce this year's Junior overnight camp to an outdoor evening as we were simply not going to sleep on a waterlogged field! Nevertheless, we still had a great experience with lots of outdoor activities. The evening started with team games in the den area, followed by hot dogs. Then we headed off to the Woodland Trust's Low Burnhall site where everyone's trust was tested as we took it in turns to be blindfolded and led through the willow tunnel. Next, at the stone circle we needed to jump on the stones when the floor turned to lava. Our artistic skills were called for later as we created pictures with natural materials and sketched the view across the valley. On returning to school, a magical trail of fairy lights led us to the bonfire for story-telling. It seemed all too soon when our parents arrived to pick us up.





When Year 7 went on a residential trip in March to the Opal Coast in northern France, we stayed in the Hotel Moulin aux Draps, surrounded by beautiful scenery. During our stay we visited the Nausicaa Sea Life Centre, where we admired all the sea creatures including the spectacular Sea Lion Show! After that, we visited a local creperie and made some delicious crepes ourselves. We enjoyed many excursions, including to a French supermarket and a visit to the old town of Boulogne, where we all bought matching berets. On a visit to a goat farm we were lucky enough to see a baby goat that had just been born that morning. All of us thought that it was adorable! It was a memorable trip and I'm sure everyone agrees with me that we would definitely go there again, if we got the chance.

Vibha Hemanth, Year 7



The first week of May saw Year 5 setting off for Northumberland to spend four days in and around the village of Bamburgh. During their stay, the girls visited the Grace Darling Museum, searched for fossils, explored Bamburgh castle, stood inside a lime kiln and chased crabs. Most of all, they had loads of fun, spending time with their friends in the glorious outdoors:

"The best part of our trip to Bamburgh was the beach. Every morning, we could choose to go to the sand dunes to play. You didn't have to, but nearly everyone did! On the beach, we had long jump competitions and even saved a starfish."

Sara Bhatti

"Going to Bamburgh Castle will always be the thing that reminds me of our trip. It was great fun walking down the hallway with Sophie the ghost and hearing about the other ghosts that lurk in the castle."

Poppy Moody

"The most enjoyable, but terrifying, moment for me was allowing Sophie the ghost to hold my hand as I walked down a corridor in Bamburgh Castle."

Isla Metcalf

"I loved going on the boat to the Farne Islands and seeing the seals and the puffins."

Julia Reavley

"At the end of each day, we went to the park where I really enjoyed getting stuck in the traffic jam on the slide."

Emily Hayes

"I really enjoyed dressing up as Grace's mother when we went to the Grace Darling museum."

Jessica Wood

"My favourite part was the Grace Darling museum. The lady there told us lots of interesting facts. I also liked seeing the belongings of the Darling family. It was fun to dress up and act out the story."

Katharina Sheen

"My favourite part was going rock-pooling and finding creatures amongst the rocks. We found about six crabs under one stone!"

Indie Arora

"I really enjoyed going to the rock pools, where we were looking for animals like starfish, crabs and sea snails. My friends and I found a really large crab."

Millie Powell

"My favourite part about Bamburgh was playing hide and seek in the sand dunes. We did this before breakfast which, I think, made me feel fresher and more awake for the day ahead."

Emma Beckmann

"On the last day of the trip, we went on a boat trip around the Farne Islands. I really enjoyed looking at all the sea life on the rocks, including seals and puffins."

Anna Williams

"I loved making my sand sculpture with Indie. We made a crocodile with a baby crocodile. We won the sculpture competition!"

Hannah Ribchester

"I liked lots of things about the trip, such as the food and the Grace Darling museum, but most of all I loved staying with the people from my year group."

Sapphire Hanover



Year 6 were extremely lucky to have beautiful weather for the duration of their activity week at Low Mill Outdoor Centre in Askrigg, North Yorkshire. With gorge-walking, canoeing, rock-climbing, abseiling, caving and bushcraft, it certainly was an action-packed trip and the girls returned to school exhausted but having enjoyed a week of many new challenges.



Year 4 girls visited the Palace Green Library for an excellent workshop about Anglo-Saxon life. They dressed up as monks, handled replica artefacts and learned how to create illuminated letters using quills.





Junior House Grandparents' Day





NEBA

Miss Casey and Mrs Hawkins accompanied six girls to the North East Book Awards party in Newcastle in June. Although three of the nominated authors could not attend, they were replaced by local authors who gave presentations instead and everyone bought more books by their favourite author. Our girls delivered a polished presentation on author Helena Duggan and were delighted when she went on to win the award! Fuelled by pizza, and basking in reflected glory, we caught the train back to Durham, inspired to read (and write) even more.



Year 7 Communion

As part of Year 7 RE, the students explore the Easter Story and Holy Communion then help plan and lead a Communion service for the year group. This year, girls played and delivered reflections, prayers, short sermons, bible readings and poems about the Last Supper, the Crucifixion and the Resurrection. They engaged in the service with great maturity and staff commented on the sense of peace and respect in the service, which made it a very special afternoon for all involved.

Greenaway Day

At the end of exam week Year 7 spent the afternoon in the Library, exploring the seven illustrated works nominated for the Kate Greenaway Medal. The girls enjoyed the books, which ranged from books of facts for children to ones exploring themes such as belonging. The afternoon culminated in a discussion of which book we thought would win – only one girl spoke up for the eventual winner, which just goes to show that thinking for yourself is worth the effort!



Careers Talks



Each year we run a series of informal lunchtime careers talks. These are open to all girls, with the aim of encouraging curiosity and providing encounters with a wide range of future career pathways.

We are very grateful to the different speakers we have enjoyed this year, covering the Theatre, Engineering in the Merchant Navy, Law, Geography and Earth Sciences, the Police, the RAF and Studying Abroad. It has been particularly positive to welcome back Old Girls, Alex Fisk and Tracey Russell who have

spoken about their personal career journeys after leaving DHS in Nursing and Art and Design. We were also delighted to welcome Susan Bell of Waterstons to launch Science Week, by speaking about her own career path to Chief Executive of this rapidly growing local technology company.

Thank you to all those who have supported us in this way and we are always keen to hear from parents and Old Girls who would be willing to talk about their own careers, or who have contacts in other career areas.

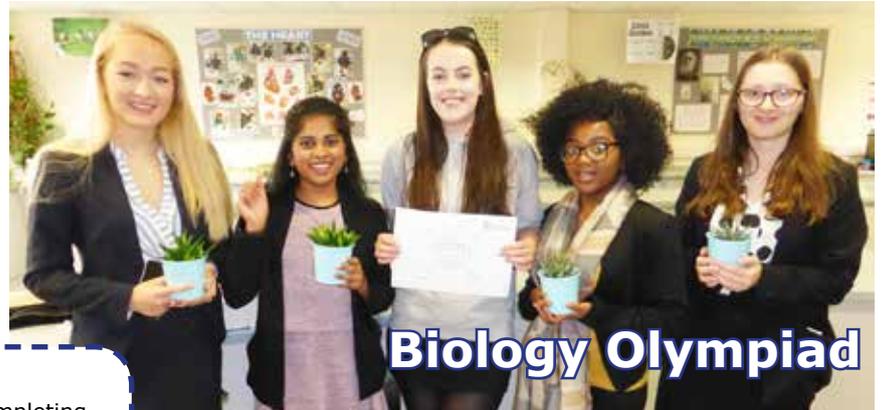
Future Business Magnates

In late April we welcomed Future Business Magnates to run a workshop with Year 7. This is a new offering from Future Business Magnates, who run the highly successful annual business enterprise competition we enter each year. Year 7 spent a morning working in groups to initiate, develop and market innovative ideas, all with a view to making profits. They all showed great initiative and teamwork and thoroughly enjoyed this introduction to enterprise.





Towards the end of last term a number of Year 8 and Year 9 girls were invited to a Girls in STEM event at St. James' Park in Newcastle. The aim of the event, hosted by Accenture, was to get more girls interested in careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The girls also enjoyed visiting the interactive exhibits where they rode a bicycle to create a smoothie, used ultrasound to scan a very realistic foetus, danced with a robot and entered a 3D virtual gaming world. The highlight of the day (as well as the free cupcakes) was an engineering challenge in which the girls were tasked with designing and building a wind turbine.



Biology Olympiad

This year an enthusiastic group of Upper Sixth entered the Biology Olympiad competition, completing two papers online, covering topics from their A Level Biology specification and beyond. These are demanding papers and only a small percentage of entrants are presented with awards, making the achievements of our girls all the more impressive. Lucy Walton was Commended, and Hannah King, Nyaradzo Mugwendere and Olivia Rowe were Highly Commended. Elinor Fowler was awarded a Bronze medal while Lara Herriott, Dharshini Sambamoorthi and Jenny Tipple were all Silver medallists.

A group of our Year 7 girls was one of 23 teams of Year 7 and 8 pupils from across the region who entered the North East Institution of Civil Engineers Inspire Competition. This was an event aimed at giving young people a chance to use research and creative skills to build an awareness of civil engineering as an important discipline that affects us all. The girls were required to write an essay describing the impact on civil engineering on their everyday lives and to produce a 2 minute video promoting civil engineering as a career. They must have impressed, because we were delighted to hear that our team was one of just 6 invited to take part in the final in Newcastle in April.

On the day, the girls were challenged to build a shelter using only bubble wrap, bin bags and bamboo canes. Not only had the shelter to be water tight, but all six girls had to be able to sit inside – with the President of ICE! Water from a high-pressure water sprayer was then 'rained' down. They remained dry and warm; perhaps the experience of Durham High School's bin bag challenges had rubbed off. We also had an opportunity to meet and chat with DHS Old Girl, Amy Wright, who is one of the top 50 women in engineering in the country. We were delighted when the results were announced: 2nd place overall and the highest placed Year 7 team. Each girl received a medal, a certificate and a £25.00 Amazon voucher. The Physics Department also received £250 to put towards STEM activities and a lovely glass trophy. Inspire team: Lucy Hayes, Issy Howe, Charlotte Ramshaw, Ellen Gray, Isabella Entwistle and Phoebe Flavell.



ICE Competition



It has been another brilliant term for our primary partnership programme, Science Sparks, where Year 6 pupils have experimented with fun activities in the laboratory. Budding physicists have investigated the laws of motion in a rocket-building and launching competition. The pupils also had to concentrate very hard whilst mirror writing, which is much harder than it looks but excellent

Science Sparks 2017 - 2018

Beth, Laura and myself decided to take on the challenge of planning and delivering 'Primary Science', the Year 3 and Year 4 extra-curricular science club. During the first term we prepared our lessons by researching topics, creating presentations and designing accompanying practical activities and quizzes to consolidate the girls' learning. DNA and inheritance, chemical reactions, cells and the solar system were just a few of the topics we covered, with practical activities including making slime, sweetie DNA and planet models. The challenge, whilst preparing our lessons, was to find ways to explain difficult concepts, such as DNA.

We thoroughly enjoyed delivering our lessons in the Spring Term. It was rewarding to see the girls enjoying themselves and taking an interest in science and we like to think we created an enjoyable atmosphere in lessons. It was a fabulous opportunity to get to know some of the members of Junior House; just maybe we will have helped inspire them to follow in our footsteps and study the sciences when they are our age.

Lauren Scott, Year 12



Primary Science

When three of our Upper Sixth participated in the RSC Chemistry Olympiad, we were proud and delighted when all three girls certificated. Elinor Fowler achieved a Silver Award, an impressive achievement as out of the 6527 entries, only 24.9% achieved this standard. Hannah King and Dharshini Sambamoorthi both achieved Bronze Awards. The girls sat two extremely challenging papers, designed to stretch candidates way beyond the boundaries of A Level Chemistry.



Chemistry Olympiad

Year 3 Science lessons have been even more 'hands on' this term than usual. While learning about the organs of the body, the girls had the opportunity to observe - and even handle - real organs, thanks to one of our parents who is a veterinary pathologist. An explanation of the functions of the different organs within the body was also given by a medical doctor (Charlotte's mum!). The girls were particularly fascinated by the differences between the two sides of the heart and the surprising solidity of the brain. Many thanks to the parents who really brought our Science to life and inspired some budding doctors and vets.



Medics in the Making

Ten Year 9 girls attended an inspirational Medicine and Dentistry (MAD) Day in June at the University of Newcastle. Mini lectures and quizzes were informative and entertaining, as were the undergraduate Medics who shared their most embarrassing clinical moments so far.

In Dentistry, the girls handled jaws and teeth of a variety of mammals, including a great white shark. They used microscopes to look at slices of teeth to allow greater understanding of the different parts of human teeth. Oral hygiene was discussed in the Paediatric Clinic and the importance of manual dexterity skills was evidenced in the mirror writing exercise. Finally, the girls learnt to model human teeth - another crucial skill for aspiring dentists.

In the Medical practical sessions, the girls learnt nasal and tracheal intubation procedures, laparoscopy techniques, how to make medical knots and how to use a stethoscope to diagnose respiratory conditions. This day provided many thought provoking moments and will be, for some, the first step on their career decision pathway.



MAD Day





Neville

House Singing



Booth

Another fabulous win for Heath in this year's House Singing with a retweet of the final performance by Tiffany herself! Check out the videos of all the fabulous performances on our House Twitter feed @DHSfG_Houses



Tempest



Heath

Tiffany @tiffanytunes · 45m
I love it! They did such a great job!

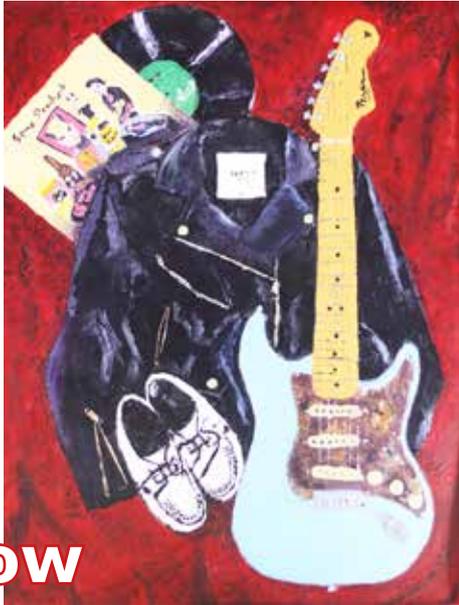
DHSfG Houses @DHSfG_Ho...
Heath house singing entry 2018 #ithin...
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Music for a May Evening

On 1 May Senior House girls delighted their audience with some beautiful 'Music for a May Evening'. There were performances from an array of soloists as well as our Ceilidh Band, Swing Ensemble, Orchestra, Wind Band and choirs. The orchestra gave a dramatic finish to their 'In the Hall of Mountain King', leaping to their feet on the final beat. Chamber Choir also wowed the audience with the Mexican Huapango, 'Las Amarillas', a number they will be performing in the Birmingham Symphony Hall in the National Round of the Music for Youth Festival. Congratulations on getting this far – we wish you luck!





Summer Show

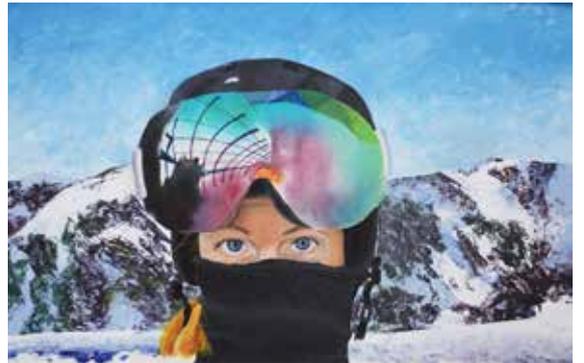
Work from Fine Art, Textiles, Graphic Design, Photography and Art and Design by GCSE and A Level students was displayed in a private viewing for parents of the girls taking part in the show. We are so proud of the huge wealth of talent at DHS and the work will be on display in the Art Department all year, so come and see it for yourself.

This page, clockwise from top left: Beth Garrigan, Marianne Pilmoor, Lucy Hilton, Jes Stewart, Pardis Farahi, Ellen Measor, Josie Broome, Honor Cessford, Jessica Walton, Sophie Carey, Jess Dixon, Abbi Hunter, Olivia Shaw.





This page from top middle:
Georgia Armstrong, Laura Blanchard, Maisie Iley, Jess Walton, Georgie Mcillroy, Imogen Stout, Myah Erasmus, Anna Cowan, Caitlin Whitaker, Eve Lodge.



What Have the Parents and Friends Ever Done for Us?

To achieve their aim of enhancing the educational experience of the girls, the Parents and Friends of Durham High have raised funds through a number of activities this year, as well as by parent subscriptions. The main events were highly successful, with The Golden Gatsby Ball raising £7,400 and the Christmas Fayre £2,100. Sales of second-hand uniform raised £600, while the Christmas Puddings, the Pantomime trip and the Race Night together raised £1,000.

The school is very grateful to the Parents and Friends for their hard work organising these events and for the donations this year of £23,750 which have provided equipment and supported educational and fun activities throughout the whole school.

We now have 20mph school speed signs and the Parents and Friends donated the £5,000 to enable us to ensure the safety of families crossing the road to get to the school.



Parents and Friends kindly contributed £10,000 towards the cost of our Astroturf which was opened by Jack Waller, captain of the GB under 21 hockey team





Junior House girls enjoyed meeting author, Andrea Prior, whose visit was funded by Parents and Friends (£300). With the younger girls, Andrea read and discussed 'A Parcel of Pigs', an illustrated anthology of her own poetry and older girls were given an insight into the tortuous process of getting a book from the raw idea to publication.



The new kitchen in Junior House, costing £3,369, has improved our cooking facilities. Cookery is now covered within the DT curriculum for all classes as well as being included in the extra-curricular programme.

Other activities funded by the Parents and Friends this year have been a Junior House science workshop costing £260 and a Body Image workshop for Senior girls at £200.

Girls in the Equestrian Team can now proudly represent the school at competitions in kit supplied by Parents and Friends costing £835 while the Science Department is very grateful for the £174 used to buy mass balances.

Girls also want to have fun, and the £300 contribution towards the Year 11 prom and £295 for the Year 6 party to mark leaving Junior House were certainly much appreciated! Years 7 and 8 thoroughly enjoyed the Three Schools Disco (with Durham School and Choristers) organised by our Parents and Friends.



The two-storey wooden playhouse for Junior girls, costing £2,929, has proved to be a great success with the girls who enjoy it at playtimes.





Mary Poppins Jr Year 7 & 8 Summer Musical

With less than a week's rehearsal, the fantastic success of the Year 7 and 8 summer musical was due to hard work and a great team spirit. Every girl in both year groups was involved in some way: performing, backstage, make-up and costume, marketing or sound and lighting. It truly was 'practically perfect', as Mary Poppins herself would say!

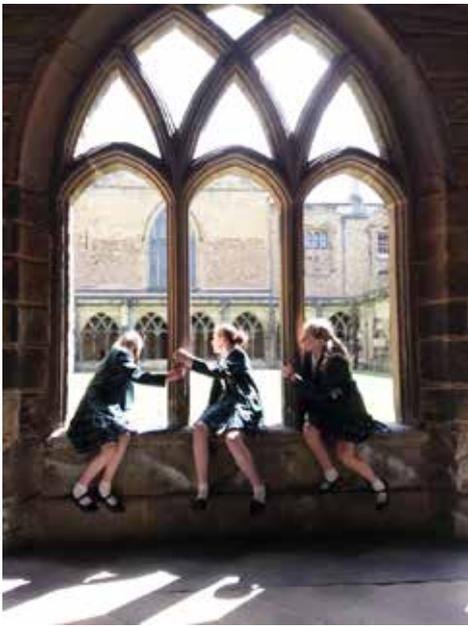




Outdoor Learning Day

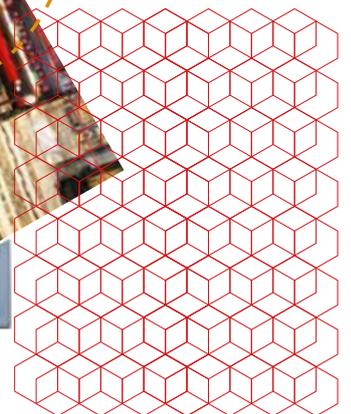
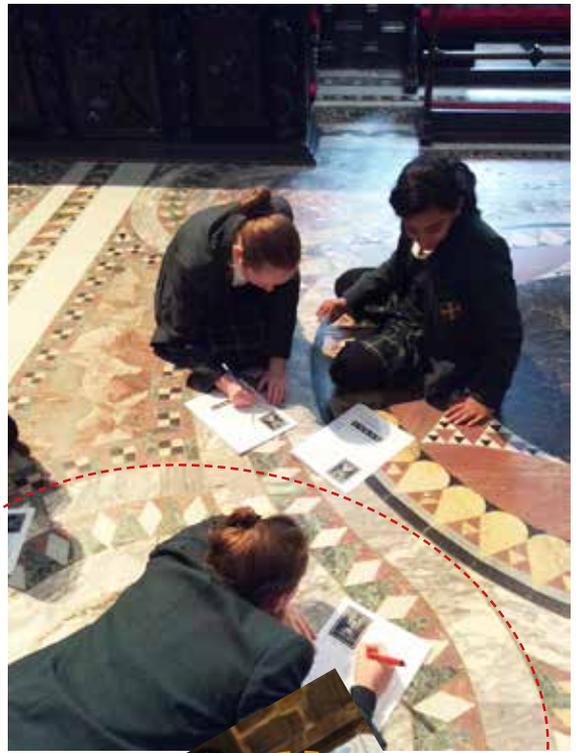
Learning in Junior House moved outside for a whole day in June. The weather was kind to us and the girls learnt a lot about working together and being creative while potting plants, pond-dipping, practising archery and fire-making. Problem-solving skills were called for when the girls needed to rescue each other with the help of the Teesdale and Weardale Search and Mountain Rescue Team and solve crimes with PC Bennison. It was great to be able to use the school grounds to facilitate such enjoyment of learning.





Year 7 visited Durham Cathedral to examine the mathematics to be found in the art and architecture of this historic building. A carousel of activities included examining the tessellating patterns on the floor, measuring the cloisters and using trigonometry to find the height of one of the pillars. Girls particularly enjoyed attempting to recreate a 3D representation of the cathedral from the Lego model. The activities left the girls with an appreciation of the real world applications of mathematical ideas.

Maths in the Cathedral





Girls from four local primary schools joined us for our annual Year 5 musical production. With a very topical eco-theme, 'Yanomamo' was performed at the Gala Theatre on 18 June following intensive all-day rehearsals. The younger girls were supported superbly by our Senior Performing Arts scholars to make this a fantastic experience for performers and their families alike.





Year 11 Prom



SPORT

When Maggie Whitehead, Year 7, competed in June at the prestigious Huddersfield Golf Club, she was the youngest player to have ever been selected for the Northumberland Ladies team since its inception in 1921.

The big northern counties: Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Durham, Cumbria and Northumberland had each selected a squad of 10 ladies for this annual event which showcases the best female golf from the North of England. Having just turned 12, Maggie wasn't expecting anything from the week, other than experience....

Maggie was picked to play with her 16 year old partner, Jess, on Day 1 against a very strong Cheshire pairing: one, a 22 year old playing off a +1 handicap and the other the club champion of her home course. Amazingly, Maggie and Jess won the match by 2 holes – Maggie's first ever match. In the afternoon, playing in her first county singles match, she was narrowly beaten on the 18th hole.

The next day, Maggie was drawn against a full Welsh International who, at 21, has played at the World University Games. Maggie played her heart out and eventually won the match – an achievement that certainly turned heads.

Day 3 and Maggie and her partner again upset all the odds to pull off a truly remarkable victory on the 18th hole. Playing against Durham the next day, the pair continued their winning form and were, by this time, starting to attract a rather large following. In the afternoon, Maggie was drawn to play Durham's most steely player: a 17 year old +1 handicap and Scottish U16 Girls Champion. When Maggie birdied the 18th for a win, the crowd ran onto the green to celebrate.

By Friday, Maggie's caddy for the week was force-feeding her Jaffa cakes for a much-needed energy boost as the pair faced a talented 24 year old who had previously played in a European Tour event. Jess and Maggie battled hard and secured a great half (draw) on the 18th.

This was a truly memorable week for Maggie, not only being the youngest player, but playing in 7 matches to win 5 and half 1. It's not surprising that she was followed by a scout from the University of Georgia!



Par Excellence



Katie Thompson, Year 7, has been selected to play for Durham County Cricket Team this year. She played in the U13 Durham County Cricket match against Northumberland during half term and, although the team lost by 9 wickets, it was a great first experience with the County team for Katie.



Sports Presentation Evening

Sports Presentation Evening at Ramside Hall Hotel was a fantastic celebration of the successes of so many of our girls. We were honoured to welcome as our guest speaker Gail Ems MBE, who regaled pupils and parents with stories of her journey to World Badminton success. Her inspirational message of perseverance resonated with many in her audience.

We have fantastically talented girls at Durham High School who work extremely hard and show such commitment to their teams and sports inside and outside school - we are very proud of you all!





We were blessed with glorious sunshine for Infant Sports Day this year and all girls from Nursery to Year 2 had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon of running, jumping and throwing. They rose to the occasion, demonstrating to their family supporters all the skills they have learnt.



Infant Sports Day





Junior Sports Day

Three school records were broken this year: Chloe McCarthy set a new Year 3 record in the throw; Darcy Metcalf set a new Year 5 record in the Howler Javelin and Isabelle Eynon in Year 6 broke the Javelin record.

The Victrix Ludorum Trophy was fiercely contested, finishing in a three-way tie. Congratulations to Isabelle Eynon, Robyn Delaney and Darcy Metcalf who will all share the trophy.



We were blessed with beautiful weather for Sports Day at the Riverside Stadium, and it was great to have such fantastic support for all the competitors. New school records were set in Year 7 by Chloe Thompson in High Jump, Ade Obasohan in 100m and Sibi Mokake in Discus. In Year 8 the Booth Relay team set a new record, in Year 10 Hannah Wright set a new 800m record and in the Lower Sixth Natalya Sharp and Emily Corless set new records in 100m and 200m respectively. The Championship Athlete competition winners were Ade Obasohan in Year 7, Alex Julian in Year 8, Mia Liddell in Year 9 and Anna Brown in Year 10. All the girls competed superbly for their Houses and Booth was once again triumphant. Particular mention must go to Esme Phillips; as the new House Captain of Heath, she showed outstanding commitment, competing in all the Lower Sixth events for her House.



Sports Day 2018





On Wednesday 2 May DHS hosted the U8 Cluster Tennis Tournament, with Choristers and Barnard Castle joining our Year 3 girls for a combination of fun, skill-based tennis activities and mini games.



U8 Cluster Tennis

U10 & U11 Cluster Netball

Adverse weather affected the U10 and U11 Cluster Netball Tournament in March, leaving Durham High, Bow School and Choristers as the only teams who managed to play. It was still a very successful day for DHS: in both the U10 and U11 tournaments our teams won both their matches convincingly to become overall tournament winners.



Antonia Mitchell and Charlotte Payne recently represented the Northern Region at the Junior Inter Regional Regatta at The National Water Centre in Nottingham. In a coxed 4, with two other girls from Chester-Le-Street Rowing Club, they finished second in the B final – an impressive result with 12 regions competing in Junior events in this national competition.



Parent & Daughter Tennis

Wednesday 20 June saw our 2018 annual Parent and Daughter Tennis tournament. Fourteen entries, delicious refreshments, glorious sunshine and superb rallies made for a fantastic evening of tennis. Junior House winners were Jessica Wood and Mrs Wood, with runners up Millie Powell and Mr Powell. Senior House winners were Laura Hopper and Mr Hopper with runners up Katie Thompson and Mr Thompson. Well done to everyone for a wonderful evening.