

Durham

HIGH LIFE

SUMMER 2019 ISSUE 72



HIGHLIGHTS

Low Mill Outdoor Centre p6

Art Show p10-11

Prom p14-15

Masquerade Ball p16-17

Sports Presentation p22-23

Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat p32

Editorial



I cannot believe that a year has nearly passed by since I became the Headmistress of Durham High School. We have had so many highlights, but my favourite event of the year has to be Speech Day, where I, in post for less than two weeks, began to see for myself just how special and inspiring our great school is and how wonderfully our girls achieve.

As you know, the School made the decision to cancel the planned Sixth Form trip to Sri Lanka, owing to the Foreign Office's recommendations. Our hearts go out to the people who suffered during the atrocities that took place over Easter and we have been in contact with our partner schools, donating to them the money we raised for the trip. We wish them all the very best and hope to be able to resume our relationship in the future.

This half term, we welcomed our new catering team, Thomas Franks, and we have been sampling the delights of their new menus for the last five weeks or so. Thomas Franks is a family-owned catering company which has extensive experience in independent schools across the country. We have very much welcomed the feedback that parents, girls and staff have given to our new team and we look forward to working with the company next term, and beyond, with new menus and events.

Over the summer holidays, we will be having building work in the Reception area. We are very excited about this project, as we believe that it will enhance the entrance to the school considerably, and will make access easier for

visitors, parents, girls and staff. I should like to offer my thanks to Howarth Litchfield, the architects who have overseen the project during this academic year.

In May, I said goodbye to my first Sixth Form Leadership Team, so ably led by Neisha Mistry, Head Girl, and her two Deputy Head Girls, Varsha Krishnan and Maya Slee. However, I am now delighted to be working with my new 'team', with Eve Lodge at the helm as Head Girl, and Jessica Mary Walton and Emma Simpson as Deputy Head Girls. I look forward to working with all the prefects next year, and we have many upcoming events where they will be able to display their interpersonal skills. As I always say to parents, our girls are our best ambassadors, and I never fail to be impressed by their warmth and evident love of our school as they show prospective parents and other visitors around.

I am extremely proud to be the Headmistress of Durham High School and feel that my first year here has, indubitably, deepened the initial warmth and enthusiasm that I felt when I was first appointed to the post in December 2017.

I hope that everyone has an excellent holiday and that we will all be suitably refreshed, rejuvenated and raring to go in September for the next academic year.

Simone Niblock

Mrs Simone Niblock
Headmistress

Prefects 2019-20

I feel honoured to have the opportunity to represent Durham High as Head Girl. I believe we have an excellent team who will work well together to make a positive impact on the school which is so important to us. Our Deputy Head Girls are Jessica M Walton and Emma Simpson who, along with the other Prefects, will prove vital throughout our year in office.

Hoping to carry their Houses to victory are our new House Captains: Georgia Armstrong (Heath), Laura Hunter (Tempest),

Jess Cooper (Booth) and Sienna Thompson (Neville). Representing Charities we have Jen Graham, who is particularly enthusiastic about her role and has lots of exciting ideas. Our new Sports Captains, Jess Walton and Anna Jewitt, are very well-qualified for their roles, both having achieved sporting success on numerous occasions, within and outside of school.

Representing both Eco-Schools and School Council together are Emba Cairns and Jess Dixon, who I know are eager to hear the ideas of the younger girls and integrate them into school life. Our Junior House Prefects are Katie Tipple and Laura Hopper, who already do great work in Nursery and so are perfect for the job. Last, but not least, we have appointments to newly-created roles: Gabrielle Bennett as Art and Design Prefect and Drama Prefect, Kitty Bartlett. We are all extremely proud of our positions and very excited to see what our final year at DHS will hold for us!

Eve Lodge, Head Girl

Leavers' Service

We had a wonderful farewell service for our leavers, with their parents joining us at St.Oswald's for this celebration of their time at Durham High.

Sadly, our Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Wheeler, was unable to attend but her words were read, reminding us of the different characters in our fantastic Upper Sixth.

Head Girl, Neisha, introduced their chosen theme - Sisterhood - which emphasised how much being in this year group has meant. As one leaver commented: 'I've laughed until I've cried on an almost daily basis and been supported through everything. I'll miss all the jokes that make no sense and coming into school every day, knowing that even if you don't feel great, someone will be there to make sure you smile about something.'

Tinaye's poem, 'To Fly, to Soar and to See', captured that sense of community in good times and bad, and a poem by Alexandra looked back at their time at DHS, growing in confidence and forming lasting friendships.

The choirs sang joyously, from the gentle 'Evening Prayer' from Hansel and Gretel to the spiritual sounds of 'Feel Good' and a Gospel version of 'O Happy Day', inspired by 'Sister Act'. We are very grateful to Charlotte in the Lower Sixth who played the organ so wonderfully for us.

We heard Jesus' words from Matthew's Gospel: "Do not worry," and Mrs Niblock read from Julian of Norwich's 'Revelations of Divine Love'. Rev Vallis reminded us that while we are all unique, we build on the ideas and work of others and God's love helps us to build community and hope.

"...those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Isaiah 40



A Road Less Travelled Conference



Girls from Year 10 and Year 12 were joined by delegates from schools across the area and from Durham University's Josephine Butler College as DHS hosted a National Council of Young Women conference. We were delighted to be able to enlist the support of some truly inspirational speakers. In the morning, we were treated to talks from leading female professionals: computing expert, Professor Sue Black OBE; Dr Yitka Graham, Associate Professor of Health Services Research at the University of Sunderland and Tamma Carel, Director and Senior Environmental Consultant at Imvelo Ltd.

Jeni Banks from Sunderland Software City then delivered a session on networking skills, which the girls were able to put into practice during lunch. In the afternoon Jill McKinney, Head of Skills and Training at Sunderland Software City, led a workshop on 'breaking down barriers' which saw the girls working in groups with those from other schools to prepare their presentations to be delivered to the whole conference.

Our thanks go to all the schools taking part, to our speakers and workshop facilitators and to the National Council of Women for their support.

JESSICA - *"The speakers inspired me to be brave, take life as it comes and strive for the best. I feel I have been assured that taking an unconventional, less travelled path will not prohibit me from accomplishing my goals."*



EMMA - *"The networking aspect of the day really helped to improve my communication skills and confidence while talking to people I have never met before: a skill I will take to University and beyond."*

Speakers



PROFESSOR SUE BLACK OBE

Sue is one of the UK's top computing experts, an academic and social entrepreneur who advocates for women in computing and who launched Britain's first online network for women in technology. Work takes Sue around the globe, inspiring women to embrace careers in computing.



DR YITKA GRAHAM

Dr Graham is an Associate Professor of Health Services Research at the University of Sunderland with research leadership posts across various Commissioning Groups and NHS Trusts. She is a member of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland's Women in Surgery working group, and volunteers with the Inspiring the Futures programme.



TAMMA CAREL

Tamma is Director and Senior Environmental Consultant at Imvelo Ltd. She is a practising Environmental Consultant and has been running her own business since 2015: "I am one woman on a mission to help the environment strategically and use my position to demonstrate that women can be powerful agents of change!"

Workshops



JENI BANKS

Business Support Specialist at Sunderland Software City, Jeni has won a number of awards including being one of the 'Future 100 Young Entrepreneurs' and a 'Growth Accelerator Programme' winner. She published her first book in 2017 and now supports businesses across the North East exploring new technologies.



JILL MCKINNEY

Head of Skills and Training at Sunderland Software City, Jill works across the North East to support digital & tech businesses. Recognising that there is a wealth of talent in the region, and a need to make the sector more accessible, Jill created community engagement programme Go-Reboot to support people taking their first steps into a career in tech.

The Parents & Friends of Durham High 2018-19

The objective of the Parents & Friends is to enhance the educational experience of the girls by funding both equipment and memorable experiences. The main fundraising activities this academic year have been the fantastic Masquerade Ball which raised over £4,500 and the Christmas Fayre generating £2,113. Other regular events include used uniform sales and the sales of Christmas puddings. The P&F also organise the pantomime trip – a perennial treat for the younger girls. The Committee is very grateful to everyone who has played their part both in organising these successful events and to those who have attended to help raise funds.

The following events and equipment were funded during 2018/19 by the Parents & Friends:

Parents & Friends made a contribution towards the Year 11 Prom (pages 14 & 15) and the Year 6 disco to help the girls celebrate the momentous move into Sixth Form and Senior House respectively.

Parents & Friends generously set aside £20,000 to fund a new grand piano as the current piano has seen much better days. Whilst £20,000 is a lot of money, it isn't in "grand piano" terms and it has been a challenge to get hold of the right instrument. We are grateful for the support of the music staff and we believe we are nearly there. Watch this space!

Junior House will soon receive new play equipment costing £2,100 funded by Parents & Friends.

Other areas earmarked for Parents & Friends funding include play equipment and storage for the Senior House playground as well as i-pads for Junior House.

The Parents & Friends would be delighted to receive ideas for experiences or equipment from the girls and parents and we are in the process of setting up a suggestion box to this end. We are also looking for the next "Big Ticket" item and all suggestions are very welcome.



Whilst the girls work hard, they like to play hard too and Parents & Friends organised the annual Three Schools Disco for Years 7 and 8 and pupils from Choristers and Durham School, complete with photobooth and tuck shop!



Junior House girls enjoyed a Performing Arts day.



The Art Department asked Parents & Friends to fund a laser cutter (£2,697) to help the girls, not just with their art projects, but also to make the many displays around school look more professional.



When BBC Newcastle asked if they could film at the High School for a programme about an Old Girl we were, of course, delighted, but rather mystified: who was Lorna Hill? We learned that she had attended DHS early last century and went on to become a children's writer. It then emerged that Mrs Niblock and Mrs Flavell were both fans of her ballet stories.

We were even more excited to discover that the programme was to be presented by a guest celebrity: Debbie McGee. We're looking forward to seeing the end result on BBC Newcastle's 'Inside Out' to be screened in September.



low mill outdoor centre

In May, Year 6 embarked on a week of climbing, canoeing, bushcraft, abseiling, caving and gorge walking at Low Mill Outdoor Centre in North Yorkshire. But these weren't the biggest challenges the girls had to face: for some, just making their own bed for the first time was quite a feat! The glorious weather was an added bonus and everyone returned proud of their achievements.



'I enjoyed canoeing the most because we got really wet and when we said to go forwards, we ended up going backwards!'

Liza



'Abseiling was also the scariest activity for me, but as soon as I started to climb down I loved it!'

Maddi



'My favourite activity was gorge walking. It was hard to climb up the waterfall but it was extremely fun.'

Millie



Durham University Botanic Garden

We were unsure as to how this trip would relate to the work that we had done in our Year 8 RE classes. However, we soon realised how important an understanding of the natural world is to thinking about creation stories, and whether some are more plausible than others.

After exploring the different species of plants and animals, we had a tour of the gardens by the Head Gardener. We discovered more about evolution and how plants and animals are adapted to fit in with their surroundings and stay alive. We learned how plants make themselves look unattractive to keep away predators, including a plant that pretends to be dead. Other activities included a scavenger hunt and a quote search on religious, philosophical and scientific beliefs about the natural world.

In the afternoon we worked in our groups to create a scrapbook drawing together photos and ideas from the morning and from our RE lessons. We had an amazing day and learnt a lot more about religion and science.

by members of Year 8



Laser Crosses

This Lent, girls in Christian Union created crosses using the new laser cutter provided by the Parents and Friends. Adding thoughts and Bible readings to reflect the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection was a great example of how modern technology can be used to help us in our spiritual explorations.

Sponsored Walk

When all the girls in Junior House took part in a sponsored walk, it was with the knowledge that they were raising money for very worthwhile charities and so happily walked the set distance. It was a wonderful morning for everyone and we were very grateful for the support from parents too. Donations were made to The Solan Fawcett Cancer Trust, NSPCC and Durham Community Foundation.



Performing Shakespeare

The English Speaking Union's 'Performing Shakespeare' competition is open to all girls in Years 7 to 9, with the first round held in January.

It was fantastic to see so many girls choosing to enter and we were particularly impressed by Hollie Dent, Annika Mitchell, Anna Slane and Rachael Vallis who all earned places in the regional final in Harrogate. All the performances at this stage were excellent and the judges observed it was one of the best finals they had seen this year.

We were delighted when Annika was announced as one of the two entrants selected to compete in the National Final in London - the third consecutive year a girl from Durham High has reached this stage. The pairing of Anna Slane and Rachael Vallis was one of the two commended performances and the girls therefore qualified as reserves for the National Final.



Junior Maths Challenge

Each year, able mathematicians in our Years 8 and 9 enter UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, which poses some very difficult questions designed to test the best in the country. Ava Local in Year 8 achieved an outstanding score, placing her in the top 25% of entries nationally and qualifying her for the second round. We are now eagerly awaiting her result.



Practical Maths

In a trip to Durham Cathedral, Year 7 examined the mathematics to be found in the art and architecture of this historic building. They examined tessellating patterns on the quire floor, used trigonometry to find the height of the pillars and enjoyed recreating a 3D representation of the cathedral from the Lego model. The girls left with a sense of wonder at the real world applications of mathematical ideas.



Science Festival

Such is the interest in science, that 24 of our Year 10 students signed up to attend a hands-on science and technology event, hosted by Durham University's Department of Biosciences. This annual Schools' Science Festival aims to encourage wider participation in science and to support the next generation of scientists from the area.

Our students explored the power of magnetic induction and modelled lava flows with golden syrup in the 'How to survive a volcanic eruption' activity. They were then challenged to complete tasks wearing distortion goggles to find out how fast the brain can adapt. A highlight was the 'Cool Chemistry' demonstration: can you hammer a nail using a banana? Yes... when it has been frozen with liquid nitrogen at -196°C.

Head to @DHSfG_Science to see the excitement.



Top of the Bench

7.30am on a Saturday in March and four girls from Year 9 to 11 are sitting on a train reading Chemistry textbooks. Mrs Flavell is pinching herself to see if she is dreaming, but no: Jenny Hu, Prakriti Shriyan, Isabella Thompson, Aaliya Hyder are cramming whilst on their way to the Royal Society of Chemistry's Top of the Bench national final in Birmingham.

Our team had won the Teesside regional heat in November and were preparing to face more than 30 schools from across the UK and Ireland. The competition was themed around polymers and the girls each had to take an individual chemical knowledge test and then complete a two hour practical challenge in pairs.

Isabella and Jenny worked on measuring the density of polymer samples and Aaliya and Prakriti were plotting a pH curve to identify an unknown organic acid. Whilst the scores were being counted, the team tried to give their full attention to a final lecture on biodegradable polymers. All their hard work paid off when we learned that we had achieved 6th place nationally – an amazing achievement!



Analyse That

Amy Douglas, Charlotte Johnston and Jessica M. Walton in Lower Sixth competed in the Teesside Area heat of the 2019 Royal Society of Chemistry Schools' Analyst competition.



This year there was an extra-terrestrial theme: students had to determine iron in 'Martian' soil by titration, determine phosphate using colorimetry and identify amino acids using thin layer chromatography.

The practical work was challenging but a fantastic experience. The girls came 5th overall and it was noted that they were the only team to get all the calculations correct!

Bright Ideas

Can we use our science lessons to figure out real problems and help make life easier and better in the future? What will cities look like in 2050? How will they be powered to be vibrant, healthy and clean places to live? These were the questions put to students aged 11-14 by the Bright Ideas Challenge, Shell's cross-curricular schools' competition.



Girls in our Year 8 STEM club rose to the challenge with Isabella Entwistle, Grace Hildreth and Ava Local using their creativity, teamwork, research and STEM skills to devise solar powered street lamps for cities of the future. After all their hard work, we were delighted to find out that their project 'Photovoltaic Sells' was selected as the North East Regional Winner of the Bright Ideas Challenge 2019.

As a result of their fantastic achievement, we have been awarded £1,500 for STEM at DHS and the girls are looking forward to a funded VIP STEM experience at The Invention Rooms, Imperial College, London. This will include a prototyping workshop to bring their project to life, as well as a variety of inspiring STEM activities.



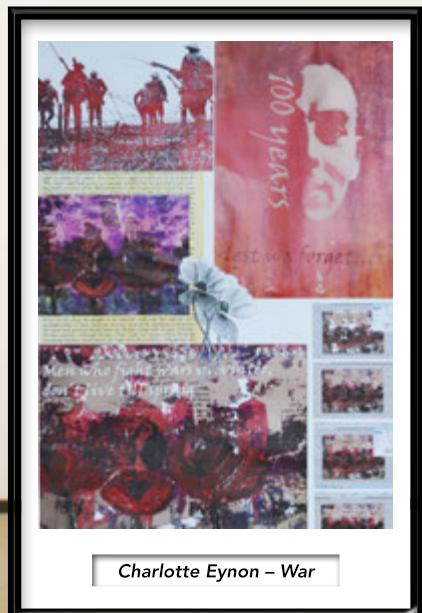
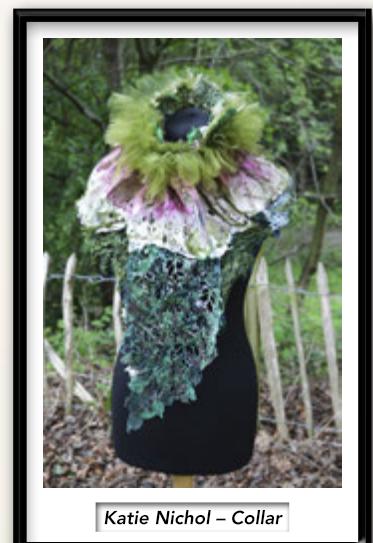
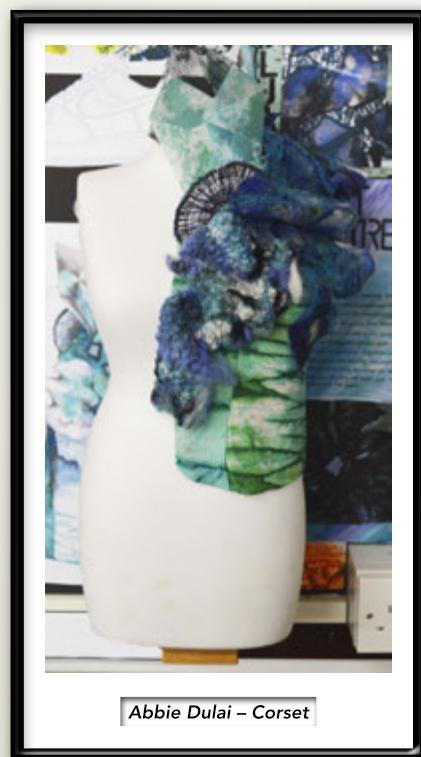
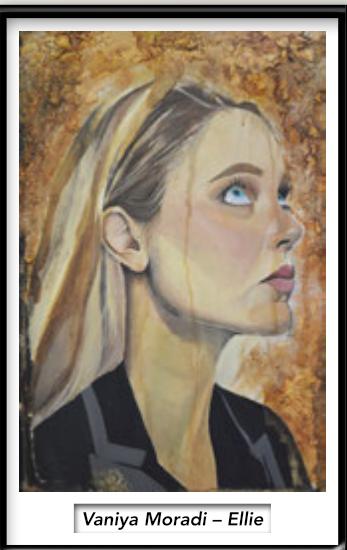
Chemistry Olympiad

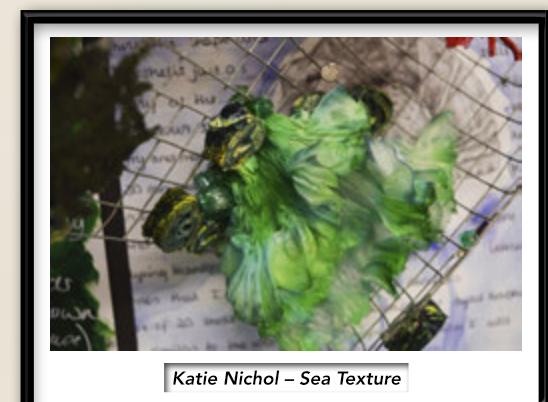
Congratulations to four Upper Sixth Chemists: Grace Cleasby, Lucy Garman, Hannah Nicol and Maya Slee, who were brave enough to attempt the challenging 2019 UK Chemistry Olympiad paper. There were 7000 entries nationally and Maya Slee was awarded a Silver certificate, recognising her placing in the top 25%.



Art Show

Work by girls studying Fine Art, Textiles, Graphic Design, Photography and Art & Design was displayed in a private viewing on July 1st for the parents of our talented students. We are so proud of the variety and personality in the GCSE and A Level work which will remain on display in the Art Department all year, so all are welcome come and see it!







France Trip

At the start of the Easter holidays, 26 excited Year 7 girls set off for the Opal Coast for a five day adventure. We stayed at the beautiful Moulin Des Draps hotel in rolling countryside just a stone's throw from Boulogne. During our stay we enjoyed many interesting excursions, including a visit to a French boulangerie where we learned how to make our own croissants. We also enjoyed visiting Boulogne old town where we had the opportunity to spend some of our euros at the weekly market.



Murcia

In April a group of Year 8 girls spent 5 days in the South East of Spain, in the sunny region of Murcia. Staying in a language centre by the Mar Menor, the girls experienced total language immersion as throughout the week they were challenged to undertake tasks and respond in Spanish. As well as Spanish lessons each morning, the week was full of activities such as sailing, kayaking and lots of beach games.

The highlight of the trip, however, was our trip to the beautiful city of Cartagena with its Roman amphitheatre. We also visited a traditional Spanish market and tried some delicious churros. Evenings were busy too, with skills and games as well as the opportunity to learn salsa dancing.



Thanks to the impeccable behaviour of our students, their positive attitude and eagerness to fully embrace all the activities, the trip was a resounding success.

Bamburgh

In spite of appearances, it wasn't all just fun and games for Year 5 at Bamburgh. The residential trip is designed to support their History, Geography and RE studies, with visits to Lindisfarne Castle and Priory, Bamburgh Castle and the Farne Islands. Developing independence and co-operation are other important elements of the trip and spending three nights away from family was a first for many of the girls - quite a milestone!



Hall Hill Farm

Despite the wet and windy weather, Reception had lots of fun on their visit to Hall Hill Farm. They fed many of the animals and asked lots of fantastic questions of their guide, Sara. They even saw a lamb being born – excellent timing!

The tractor ride was bumpy and they ended their super trip with a run around in the indoor play barn.



Prom 2019

The Year 11 Prom was held in Crook Hall and Gardens where the girls and their parents made the most of the sunshine. Everyone had a wonderful evening exploring the Hall, eating, dancing and taking photographs in front of the stunning 'flower wall' generously provided by the Parents and Friends. It was a fabulous way to mark the end of GCSEs and certainly well-deserved.





The Parents and Friends of
Durham High School's

Masquerade Ball 2019





Junior House Summer Music Concert

The Junior House Summer Music Concert took place on the evening of June 12th. Every year group from Year 3 to 6 had a special part to play and the variety and high standard of music-making made it a very enjoyable evening. The orchestra – Partenza - opened the concert and this was followed by a vocal solo, piano and violin solos and the Year 3 violinists. The choir rounded off the first half with a lovely selection of Disney songs.

The Year 5 brass players began the second half and we also had solos from a pianist, a singer and a harpist, as well as items from the Year 4 recorder group and Year 6 singers. The concert concluded with a beautiful rendition of "I Watch the Sunrise" by the choir, together with Year 6.



Durham
HIGHLIFE

MUSIC *for a* MAY EVENING



Our May Concert provided the audience with an eclectic mix of music, ranging from 'Arrival of the Queen of Sheba' by the Orchestra, to 'Build Me Up Buttercup', sung and accompanied on the ukulele by Varsha Krishnan. 'This is Me', by Middle School Choir featured several girls singing a verse as a solo, duet or trio.

The concert also featured items by Brass Group, Swing Band, Senior Choir, Chamber Choir and our Piano Trio, as well as a fantastic performance by the Upper Sixth of 'O Happy Day' which they reprised at their Leavers' Service.

Dr Hardy was very grateful for the lead taken by Katie Greenwood and Kitty Bartlett who each directed a choir piece. Grace Cleasby and Emma Hardy performed solos on the piano and violin respectively. Anna Cowan and Amelia Smith performed a lively Brazilian violin duet with piano accompaniment.

With such a range of talent to enjoy, the audience left the concert feeling uplifted.



HOUSE Singing

Girls performed songs from the theme of Girl Groups in this year's House Singing Competition. Our House Captains worked hard to refine some truly explosive performances which included 'Spice up your Life' by the Spice Girls,

'About You Now' by the Sugababes, 'We are Family' by Sister Sledge and 'Be my Baby' by the Ronettes. Neville stole the show with their Ronettes' classic rework, led by their House Captain, Alex Roberts. It was so lovely to see such enthusiasm from all the girls on the last day of the Spring Term. Check out the videos of all the fabulous performances on our House Twitter feed @DHSfG_Houses.



Staff Panto

The quality of House Singing was erased by the staff panto which followed, to rapturous but misguided applause. Unlearned lines snatched out of the air, scribbled on props or on the palms of hands, portrayed a nightmare world of ugly sisters, a Shrek-like fairy godmother and a Prince Charming who was anything but. But the moral was clear: there are no happy endings. The glass slipper was won by a triumphant ugly sister whilst the modern Cinderella, like any sensible DHS girl, learned resilience. The audience understood that however bad their singing had been, it could never rival the performances of their teachers. Thank goodness "it's behind you" ...

...but oh no it isn't! There's always next year!



The Great Outdoors

The benefits of learning outside are well-known, as it helps children to understand, appreciate and respect nature and their environment. We are keen, therefore, to provide as many opportunities as possible to take learning outside the classroom. As well as the numerous trips that enhance our girls' learning, we take full advantage of our extensive grounds and proximity to some wonderful natural areas to organise outdoor learning activities.

This term, Year 3 enjoyed a fantastic evening outdoors in May when a walk and scavenger hunt around Low Burnhall Nature Reserve was followed by marshmallows and hot chocolate around a campfire in the den area.

Year 4 also had a fantastic evening den-building and exploring the Woodland Trust site before coming back to school to share a meal and toast marshmallows around the campfire.

Outdoor Learning Day is now one of the highlights of the Junior House calendar and it's difficult to tell who enjoys it most: the staff or the girls!



"It's nice to work together and know how to survive in the wild."
Millie, Year 6

"The bug hunt taught us where all the creatures live."
Emma, Year 4

"The blindfold activities showed us what it is like to be blind and how fortunate we are."
Lyla, Year 4

"I like the bird-feeding because you can look after the birds at home."
Hannah, Year 4

"I like den-building because you learn useful skills."
India, Year 6

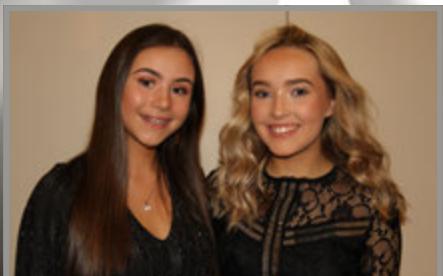
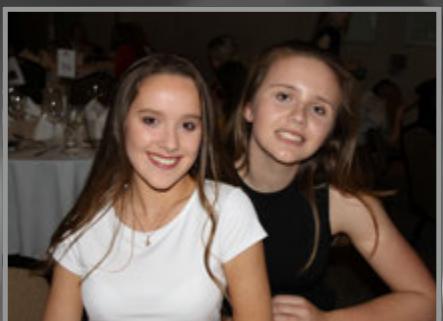
Sports Presentation 2019

Durham High School's Sports Presentation Evening at Ramside Hall was a splendid affair, celebrating yet another year of impressive sporting achievement. Middle distance runner, Laura Weightman, was our guest speaker and we enjoyed hearing about her own journey in sport, including some dramatic accounts of her successes at the Olympic and Commonwealth Games and at the European Championships: her determination was truly inspirational for our girls.

Among the many special trophies presented throughout the evening were the Judith Kenmir Cup which went to our Sports Captain, Lucy Garman, and the Shelley Dixon and Rebeca Newlove trophy for excellence in sport, awarded to Georgia Hewison and Keira Redford. It came as no surprise to anyone that the Durham High School Team of the Year was our U14 National Schools Netball Team.

We congratulate all our girls who have enjoyed and excelled in sport over the last year and thank all the parents who helped make the evening such a special event.





Deputy Head Girl at Glasgow International Swim Meet

Deputy Head Girl, Emma Simpson, competed in the Glasgow International Swim meet on 25th and 26th May, along with 800 swimmers from clubs across



Europe. Emma competed in the 100m and 200m breast stroke and the 200m fly, coming just outside her Personal Best for each event. This is a real achievement, as Emma had been concentrating on revising for Lower 6 exams which finished just the day before the event.

Tumbling

Congratulations to Kaitlin Major in Year 6 who recently competed in a tumbling competition at Birmingham Arena. This was a semi-final competition and Kaitlin completed all three runs very well to be one of the youngest competitors to qualify for the final on the 13 July in Coventry. Good luck Kaitlin!



Maggie Whitehead

This year I have played in many national tournaments, but the biggest was the R&A Girls U16 Amateur Championships. There were 120 girls in the field and 117 were older than me! This was the first time I had played in front of so many people, with film cameras and press photographers. I eventually finished in 5th place which I was very pleased with. I had to do a lot of media work that week which will, hopefully, help me when I am older.



In July, I will be playing for the Northumberland County Ladies team in County Match Week where the best female golfers of any age from Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Cumbria, Durham and Northumberland play each other over 5 days. Some of the ladies are ex-touring professionals and many are studying at college in America, something I eventually want to do.

Parent and Daughter Tennis 2019

Durham High Parent and Daughter Tennis got off to a soggy start with the Junior Championships. With a record number of entries from Junior House, the rain didn't phase the girls (or the parents!!) and they approached every game with enthusiasm and determination. Matches were well contested and all pairs thoroughly enjoyed playing against various opponents. The final winners were Millie Powell and Mr Powell with the Runners Up being Jess Wood and Mrs Wood. Following this, the Senior Tournament got underway with an extremely closely fought match between the Thompsons and the Hoppers. With end to end points it was an exciting affair! Meanwhile, the Andersons and Metcalfes enjoyed their first match adapting the rules and enjoyed every second! The winners were Laura Hopper and Mr Hopper and Runners Up, Katie Thompson and Mr Thompson. The evening was enjoyed by all and the rain didn't spoil our fun, with enjoyable matches, cream scones, strawberries and pimms. Thank you to all involved and well done to all girls and parents.



English Schools Track and Field Cup

A team of Year 7 and 8 girls competed in the first round of the English Schools Track and Field Cup at Monkton Stadium in May. All the girls competed in a track and field event and scored points which contributed to the team's overall total. Star performances came from Ade Obasohan who ran 13.1 in the 100m, Ava Local who ran 14.3 in the hurdles and Chloe Thompson with a 1m30 high jump. The DHS team finished in an amazing first place, well ahead of the runner-up, qualifying for the Regional Final.

It was a rainy day in June when the girls travelled to Hull where they performed with great determination to finish 5th in the region.



Pentathlon Success

Before half term, Ava Local (Year 8) took part in the U15 Durham National Schools Pentathlon Event. Ava competed in the shot put (7.25m), high jump (1.33m), hurdles (14.1secs), long jump (4.01m) and the 800m (2m50secs). With such exceptional results in every event, Ava finished in an incredible 4th place out of 80 girls and qualified for the next round in York.



City Athletics Championships

In the Durham City Athletics Championships, Year 8 and 9 girls competed in a range of track and field events, with several finishing in the top two and qualifying to represent Durham City at Monkton Stadium. We were impressed by all the girls' performances, but special mention must go to Ava Local (hurdles) Alex Julian (300m) and Mia Liddell (300m hurdles) who will compete at the County Athletics Championships.



Sports Day 2019

To everyone's relief, the rain stayed off on Monday 17 June for our Senior Sports Day at the Riverside Stadium and it was lovely to see so many family and friends turning out to show their support. In a highly competitive event, new school records were set by girls in each year group: Madeleine Liddell in the 200m, Issy Howe in the High Jump, Kirstin Greatorex in the Shot Put, Mia Liddell in the 200m and by Sixth Formers, Georgia Armstrong and Laura Hopper in the 800m and 1500m respectively.

Girls also had the opportunity to compete to be Championship Athlete in each year group by completing a run, a throw and a jump. Points were awarded in accordance with the English Schools Athletic scoring system and the winners were Madeleine Liddell in Year 7, Ade Obasohan in Year 8, Kirstin Greatorex in Year 9 and Mia Liddell in Year 10.

As usual, there was a great House spirit, with Booth triumphant yet again.





Junior Sports Days

We were absolutely delighted when all our Junior Sports Days went ahead this year in perfect weather.

Day 1 saw Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 showing off the skills they have been practising, to the delight of parents and grandparents.

Years 3 to 6 took part in a full day of sports the following day and, again, school records were broken: congratulations to Darcy in Year 6, who set a new record in the javelin, and to Harriet in Year 5 for setting a new record in the triple jump.

The usual competitiveness was evident in the afternoon's House events with Neville emerging victorious. The Victrix Ludorum was again a very tight contest; this year it was won by Harriet in Year 5, with Aleeza (Year 5) and Jessica (Year 6) joint runners up, while in third place was Darcey in Year 6.



Year 1 & 2





Junior Rounders

Our Year 4 and 5 rounders teams are proving to be both talented and plucky. While Year 5 were having fun in Bamburgh, the Year 4 rounders team stepped up to the challenge of taking their place in the Year 5 Newcastle Cluster Tournament. The younger girls played some outstanding rounders to win all their games except one which – frustratingly – they lost by only half a rounder to become tournament runners-up.

In an odd repetition of form, when the Year 5 team entered the Durham Cluster tournament, they also played extremely well, also winning all their games - except one - which they also lost by half a rounder to also finish in runner-up position.



Year 4 Tournament Winners

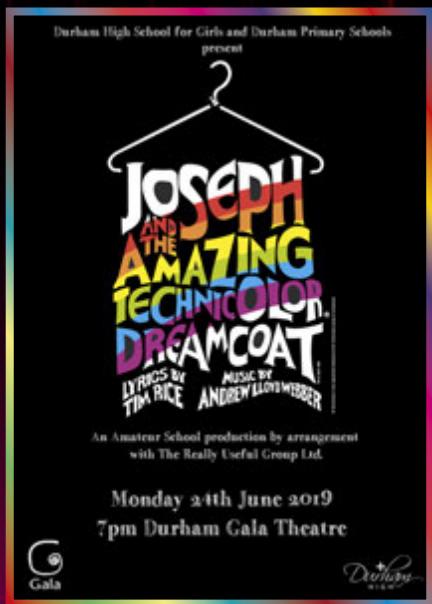
Later in the season, when we fielded two Year 4 teams in the Durham Cluster Rounders Tournament, both played well but Team 1 excelled, winning all their games to become tournament winners.



Year 5 Tournament Runner-up



Year 4 Tournament Runners-up



The high energy performance of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' in the Gala theatre in June had the audience smiling from start to finish.

Since 2008 we have staged a musical in the Gala Theatre involving our Year 5, along with local primary schools. The girls worked separately in their own schools, with the support of our Performing Arts staff, and the ensemble performance was then created in two days of intensive rehearsals at the High School.

Senior DHS girls led the performance, operated the sound and lighting and ran the show backstage to ensure a wonderful experience for the younger girls who worked incredibly hard and had immense fun.