

SPRING 2022

Northern Lights Learning Trust

The Venerable Bede News



Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. Once again, you can see that our pupils have been involved in all sorts of interesting activities that go way beyond the classroom. They really are a talented bunch! I particularly enjoyed the articles on poetry, mental health week, and the updates on school council.

Last term saw the departure of Mr. Goodman as Deputy Head Teacher. We all wish him good k

as he continues his career taking on the role of Head of School at Astley High School in Northumberland. We had a really strong field of candidates who applied for the role of Deputy Head Teacher when it was advertised. The successful candidate was Mr. J. Exley - one of our Assistant Head Teachers. I am sure that you will all join with me in wishing him every success in his new role in school.

We are now part of Northern Lights Learning Trust (see article below). I am confident that this provides our whole school community with a stable platform to grow continued success. We will keep you updated regarding further developments within our new Trust. The first of these, is that we are looking to recruit an additional 2 parent Governors to

support us on our journey. Anyone considering this essential role in School, should register their interest with me by using the contact form on the school website ([HERE](#)) by Monday 6 March. We can then have an informal conversation about the role. Please read this useful synopsis about what the role of a School Governor is ([HERE](#)).

Finally, as we approach the season of Lent, I would ask you to think about these words from *Matthew 6:21* "For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also"

Best Wishes

David Airey
Headteacher

MERGER SUCCESS!

After sharing the intention to merge with Northern Lights Learning Trust in the Summer 2022 edition of this newsletter, we are happy to announce that the merger has concluded successfully! Please enjoy excerpts from our press release:

"Merger brings 'powerful force for good' for education in the North East

Northern Lights Learning Trust and Dayspring Trust are combining ... and will comprise seven schools and 3,093 children and young people, from the ages of two to 16.

The merged trust, which has schools from Stockton and Hartlepool in Teesside through to Sunderland and Washington, will come together under the Northern Lights Learning Trust name...

... Gill Booth, Chief Executive and Executive Headteacher of Dayspring Trust, said: "We have already been closely working over the past six months in our

shared central office and are delighted that we have now formally joined together." Mrs Booth is to be Executive Headteacher within Northern Lights until the end of the summer term. From the start of the new academic year in September, she will be Interim Director of Education for the Dioceses of Durham and Newcastle...

... Neil Williams, Chair of Dayspring Trust, added: "The board of Dayspring Trust are committed to ensuring that we look for opportunities for all of our young people and staff to grow and have 'wise and generous living'. Merging two experienced boards of a primary trust and a secondary trust has strengthened our skills and expertise further. We are extremely passionate about working in partnership."

Northern Lights Learning Trust is recognised by the Department for Education as a Centre of Excellence as a Teaching School Hub and as an Early Years Stronger Practice Hub for the North East. This means the organisation works with teachers and school leaders across the region, providing professional development and expertise for schools and trusts locally.

Mrs Heaton said: ... "Consolidating both central teams creates an exceptionally strong offer to support all our schools, including school improvement, Health & Safety, safeguarding, estates management, finance, HR, communications and operations along with specialist support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities."

The merger will provide further opportunities for staff to develop and grow."

Turn to future editions of this newsletter to learn more as we all move forward as Northern Lights Learning Trust.



Northern Lights
LEARNING TRUST

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 2023

Contributed by Mrs J Chip

Children's Mental Health Week was launched in 2015 to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health. Now in its ninth year, it is hoped that more people than ever are encouraged to become involved and spread the word.

Children's Mental Health Week took place from 6th - 12th February 2023; and the theme this year was 'Let's Connect.' 'Let's Connect' encourages an inclusive approach to make meaningful connections for all, during Children's Mental Health Week and beyond. Human beings are intrinsically connected to each other, and human connection is vital for the wellbeing and survival of all individuals. Throughout life, we rely on those around us to meet our physical and

psychological needs, and we have a role in helping to meet the needs of others. People with positive connections to family, friends and others often experience better mental health than those who are less well connected. When our need for rewarding social connections is not met or we don't feel understood or cared for by those around us, we can feel isolated and lonely. This is why it is so important for our mental health that we connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways.

For Children's Mental Health Week this year, we are encouraging pupils to consider how they connect with others. Pupils will complete activities with their tutor and will consider how they make connections and how to ensure connections are healthy.

Around five children in every classroom have a mental health difficulty and many more struggle with challenges from friendship issues to bereavement. School provides a range of support for pupils that may be struggling. This support includes Kooth online counselling and referrals to the school counsellor, CAMHS, CYPS, ELSA and our Emotional Resilience Nurse. If you have any questions, please contact our Lead Practitioner for Physical and Mental Health, Mrs Chipp.



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2022

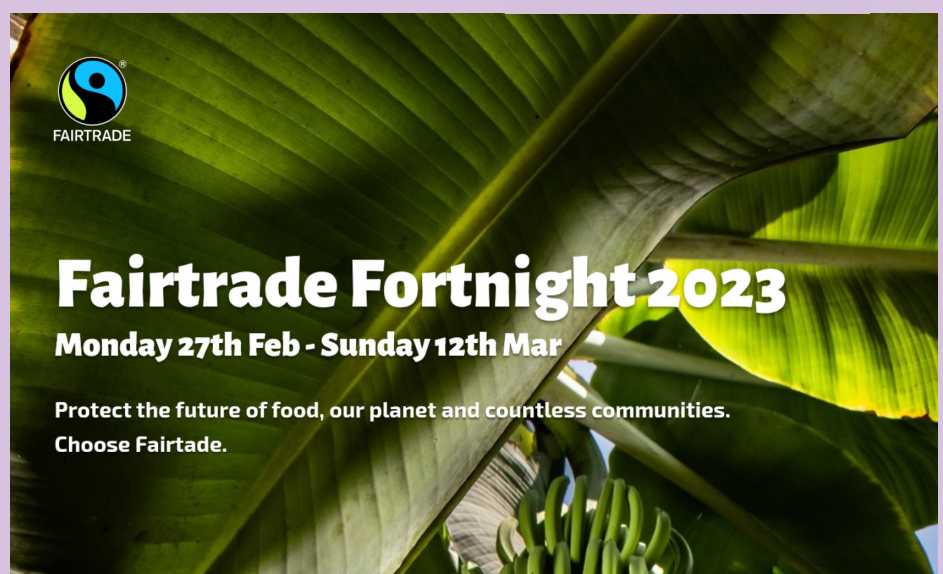
Contributed by Miss R Whinn

For two weeks every year, thousands of schools, colleges and universities come together to learn from the people who grow what we eat, drink and wear! Unfortunately, many of the people who do these jobs are often exploited and underpaid. That's why Fairtrade is so important, it allows the workers to be paid fairly for their work.

This year's theme for Fairtrade fortnight is all about how "choosing fairtrade can help save the future of our favourite treats."

We at Venerable Bede are going to celebrate Fairtrade fortnight the week we return from February half term

We are giving you an opportunity to think about your future, to look into the work Fairtrade does and its impact on those who need their help and protection to thrive.



YEAR 7 POETRY COMPETITION

Contributed by our English Department

Pupils in Year 7 were set a poetry writing competition with the theme of Joy in honour of World Poetry Day, coming up on 21st March. We asked Year 7 as their next topic of study is World Poetry when they come back to study English in the new half-term.

This is a module set to explore a range of backgrounds and cultures through the variety of styles that one may use within writing a poem. It covers holidays and events that are held across the world which are still celebrated to this day.

The competition was set upon an original poem, 'A Song of Joy' written by Walt Whitman. We used his poem to explore the meaning of joy and how this may feel, look like, or sound like to each individual. His poem mainly focuses on using techniques such as similes and metaphors. Year 7 have been focusing on the use of similes and metaphors across their learning within English this year so therefore we felt that it was a good opportunity for our amazing pupils to share their

learning through their voice.

As part of their entry, students had to write their own version of what they believed Joy to be by using similes and

winner! Our winner, who has dedicated their creativity and passion into their wonderful response, is Lydia!

Congratulations!

Their poem, 'A Song of Joy' by Lydia, captures the essence of what joy may truly feel like to the individual, using an array of vocabulary and techniques. We can see how much thought and effort went into their personal response and it reads delightfully.

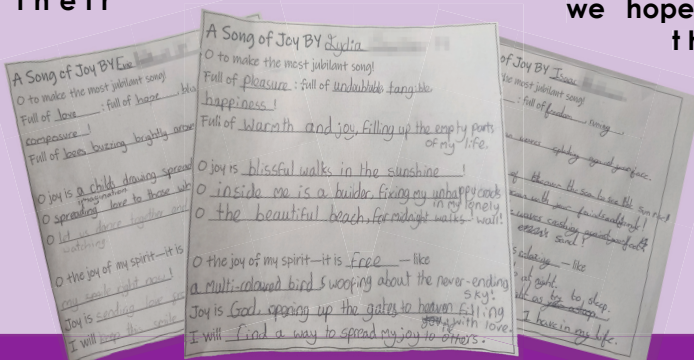
Looking ahead to World Poetry Day, 21st March, we encourage all of our pupils to admire and reflect upon the true meaning of a poem and to appreciate the wonders that can be held in such a short text!

Next half-term, we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March. Look out for our festivities and celebrations in the next newsletter!

A Song of Joy by Lydia
O to make the most jubilant song!
Full of pleasure: full of undoubtable,
tangible, happiness!
Full of warmth and joy, filling up the
empty parts of my life.
O joy is blissful walks in the sunshine!
O inside me is a builder, fixing my
unhappy cracks in my lonely wall!
O the beautiful beach, for midnight
walks!
O the joy of my spirit – it is free – like
A multi-coloured bird swooping
about the never-ending sky!
Joy is God, opening up the gates of
heaven, filling me with love.
I will find a way to spread my joy to
others!

metaphors in the same structure as Walt Whitman. Joy is also the Worship theme that Year 7 focus on and we hope that this helped them in their creative process.

We had a vast collection of submissions however there can only be one



MUSIC DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Contributed by Mrs R Bonner

VB'S GOT TALENT 2023

Once again we are going to celebrate the many and varied talents of our pupils!



We are holding our annual talent show, 'VB's Got Talent' on Friday 10th March, 7pm, at Silksworth Youth & Community Centre. The evening will feature a variety of musical performances from our rock bands, choir and a variety of

other acts. Tickets are on sale now on Parentmail via the website.

SEARCH FOR A STAR 2023

Sunderland Music Hub are organising their annual talent show competition, 'Search for a Star'.

We gave pupils the opportunity to sign up for an audition and the response was phenomenal! Acts ranging from singing, dancing, bands and instrumental performances all enthusiastically took part.

Auditions took place during the first half term after returning from the Christmas break and the winning act, who will represent Venerable Bede at the event will be announced in March.

The event will take place on April 25th 2023 at Sunderland College and tickets to attend will be available on the VB website.

MUSIC LESSONS

Once again, we've had a number of students sign up and begin lessons during the spring term.

They are proving extremely popular with still over 200 pupils accessing lessons on a weekly basis. If anyone is interested in starting peripatetic music lessons, please contact Mrs Bonner for further information.

EXAM SUCCESS!

Well done to Caleb Y9 who recently passed his Rockscool Grade 1 guitar exam with a merit!



SUNDERLAND EMPIRE THEATRE - THE LION KING MARCH 2023

On Wednesday 22 March 2023 We will be visiting Sunderland Empire Theatre for the evening performance of the musical 'The Lion King'. Pupils are very excited!

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Contributed by Mrs R Bonner

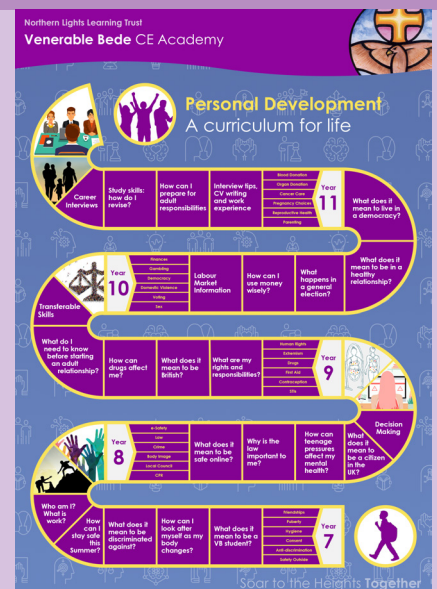
COUNTY LINES PRESENTATION

Following their presentation last year on malicious communications we have been fortunate to welcome back Northumbria Police who delivered a presentation and Q&A session about issues around exploitation, county lines and the effects these are having on young people in our region.

SEXUAL HEALTH PRESENTATION

Y10 tutor groups have taken part in a presentation on sexual health and well-being delivered by our

school nurse as part of their Personal Development curriculum.



CAREERS UPDATE

Contributed by Mrs G Carr

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIPS WEEK 2023



During the week of February 6th to 10th, we introduced pupils across the school to apprenticeships as part of National Apprenticeships Week 2023. During this week, tutors shared with their tutor groups what it means to be an apprentice; areas in which apprenticeships are offered and stories from apprentices about their experiences.

Throughout school, we have displayed information for pupils around the apprenticeships available that are linked to particular subject areas and encouraged them to follow links to find out more information.

Our Year 11 pupils have had the opportunity to listen to presentations from representatives of local companies such as Nissan, Cummins, BAE Systems and Gentoo. As part of this event, pupils had the opportunity to find out more about the work each company does, as well as the various, local apprenticeships available; ask questions about the necessary skills and qualifications and even apply for apprenticeships right then and there.



CAREERS DROP IN

Every Friday morning, Mrs. Carr runs a Careers Drop-in session in room 38 open to Year 11 pupils to support with post-16 applications; interview preparation and any other careers based queries. Pupils should sign up via their form tutor.

ANTI BULLYING & SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Contributed by Miss A Jackson

ANTI BULLYING

We are pleased to promote our Anti-Bullying group at The Venerable Bede CE Academy.

We are here to support any member of our school community who have experienced an incident of bullying.

For further information and support please access our AntiBullying Hub via the school website or contact Miss Jackson directly.

If you want to report an incident of bullying, please use the "Report now" button on the Anti Bullying Hub.

CLICK HERE

You can also visit the "Kooth" website for information or advice.

www.kooth.co.uk

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The Year 7 Form Council members have just been through the process of applying for a position on the School Council. After some consideration, the successful applicants were chosen. One pupil wrote in their application,

"As a loyal pupil of Venerable Bede, I always make sure I follow the school's 3 rules of being "Ready, Respectful and Safe. I am a good listener and I always help and support everyone. Which I would endeavour to do if I was successful in my application."

Another Form Council member wrote,

"I am confident in speaking in front peers and teachers and

in sharing my ideas." They continued, "I am good at listening to the ideas of others and being supportive of those ideas and working together to achieve the desired outcomes."



SPORTING ROUNDUP

Contributed by Mr R Atherton

SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS COMPETITION



After successfully qualifying from the Sunderland Schools sports hall athletics competition, our year 8 boys progressed to the regional finals where they represented Sunderland. The competition included the top two qualifying schools from all areas of Tyne & Wear and took place at Temple Park, South Tyneside. The event incorporated all athletics disciplines modified for the indoor facility. The track events included individual races and relays whereas the field events had a variety of jumps and throws. The level of competition was high and our boys were committed to perform their best throughout the event. Twelve schools were represented from across the region in which Team VB came away with a very credible fifth position. Throughout the

competition the pupils demonstrated superb sportsmanship and support for each other.

LIONESS UPDATE



Emily, our year 11 England football player has recently participated in the UEFA Development Tournament which took place in the Algarve, Portugal. Emily and her fellow England players played games against Germany, Netherlands and Italy. Emily described the competition as 'an amazing experience'. In the three games England drew 2-2 with Germany, lost 2-1 to Netherlands and won against Italy 2-0.

GIRLS FIVE A SIDE

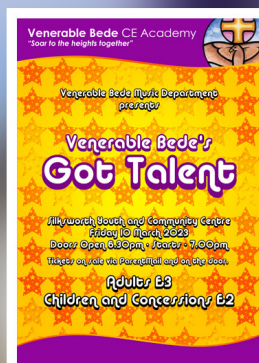
Year 7 Girls football - The girls competed in the final competition of the season, the under 12 futsal tournament. The girls were in a group with Kepier, Castle View and Dene Academy.

Unfortunately, it was not to be the girls' night and they did not progress to the next stage of the competition although the girls showed great determination and spirit throughout. The team have had a very good start to schools football and are looking forward to the new season in September.



BREAKING NEWS!

Macey in Year 8 has received some fantastic news. She has just been selected as part of the tumbling development programme at British Gymnastics. This is an amazing achievement and opportunity for Macey. We will continue to follow Macey's achievements in the next VB newsletter. Watch this space!



TICKETS ON SALE NOW!