



**EASINGTON**  
academy

# THE VOICE

## WINTER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019

## MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**We have certainly started as we mean to go on this term making impressive progress both in and outside of the classroom...**

In lessons staff have been putting latest research findings to the test by using SMART tasks to boost pupils' memory and our new, cutting edge interactive boards are making learning even more fun. Every student now has a personal Microsoft Office account and can access learning resources on their mobile devices via our student POD. Year 11 started their exam preparation in October with our revision evening where attendance from students and parents was very impressive!

Students have been encouraged to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular activities: book clubs, debating society, maths challenges, sports clubs and an Erasmus geography trip to Spain, to name but a few. Students also elected our new student council; this team will work alongside Easington staff to further improve our academy.

Our choir recently won the Durham Music Service's Christmas Choir competition; Erin and Keira achieved first and second place in the County Durham Future Chef competition and will now represent the region in February; our biggest cohorts to date achieved their bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh's awards and next year's group is even bigger!

Our sports teams continue to go from strength to strength with three of our students representing the county in football and our Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 futsal teams have reached the county finals. Our Year 7 and 8 girls' football team are also through to the final of the county cup.

As we all know, Christmas is a time for fun but also a time for thinking of others and we have certainly done this over the last couple of weeks. Our students have thoroughly enjoyed our '12 Days of Christmas', which has included lunchtime karaoke, cake sales, Christmas crafts, Christmas kindness, movie nights, Christmas concerts, Christmas dinner and even a Christmas classroom door competition! Staff were also keen to get involved and produced their own Christmas music video as a treat for our students in their final week assemblies. Through our cake sale, dress down day and food donations we have supported our local community and our Christmas message activity has provided the opportunity for students to remember those who are not with us this Christmas.

It is certainly now time for a well deserved rest; I look forward with great excitement to see what we can achieve together in the new year. Have a lovely Christmas.

*Mrs Hickman*

**Mrs N Hickman, Head of School**

# Shotton Hall



School Centred Initial Teacher Training

## Teacher training opportunities

Did you know that Easington Academy helps to train the next generation of new teachers and we're looking for new recruits to start in September 2020?

Through our membership of the The North East Learning Trust, we are a partner of Shotton Hall SCITT, the Trust's very own outstanding teacher training provider.

Trainees start their training at The Academy at Shotton Hall in Peterlee, then undertake placements in schools right across the North East, including here at Easington Academy.

Applications are now open for primary and secondary courses starting in September 2020 with bursaries of up to £26k available for certain subjects.

To find out about entry requirements and the opportunities available, as well as hearing from people who have taken the leap and changed career visit: [www.shottonhallscitt.co.uk](http://www.shottonhallscitt.co.uk)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**20 Dec** Break up for Christmas

**06 Jan** Return to school

**14 Feb** Break up for half term

**24 Feb** Return to school

**27 Feb** Year 8 parents' evening

**12 Mar** Year 8 options evening

**01 Apr** Year 7 parents' evening

**03 Apr** Break up for Easter

To keep up to date with all news and events please visit:

[www.easingtonacademy.co.uk](http://www.easingtonacademy.co.uk)



## Duke of Edinburgh's Award success

Earlier this term we had a fantastic time at our Silver and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award evening.

Students who took part in the award received their certificates and badges in recognition of their hard work and resilience.

The students have truly pushed themselves and demonstrated great determination during their expeditions as well as the other three sections they completed to achieve the award.

We would like to say a huge congratulations for gaining such a valuable award which will enhance future opportunities!

We're on Twitter & Facebook!



@easington\_acad



facebook.com/  
easingtonacademy

## THE JOKE CORNER

Why did no one bid for Rudolph and Blitzen on eBay?

Because they were two deer!

# Fun Christmas facts:

## Mince Pies

Although now mostly vegetarian, in Victorian times, mince pies were made with beef and spices.

## Tangerines

The tradition of putting tangerines in stockings comes from 12th-century French nuns who left socks full of fruit, nuts and tangerines at the houses of the poor.

## Wassailing

Carols began as an old English custom called wassailing, toasting neighbours to a long life.

## Stockings

Hanging stockings out comes from the Dutch custom of leaving shoes packed with food for St Nicholas' donkeys. He would leave small gifts in return.

## Christmas Trees

Nearly 60 million Christmas trees are grown each year in Europe.

## Noel

The word Noel derives from the French expression "les bonnes nouvelles" or "the good news".

## The Birth of Jesus

Many theologians estimate that Jesus wasn't born on December 25 but sometime in September between 6BC and 30AD.

## Turkey

Before turkey, the traditional Christmas meal in England was a pig's head and mustard.

## Banning Christmas

In 1647, after the English Civil War, Oliver Cromwell banned festivities. The law wasn't lifted until 1660.



## Ofsted rate Easington Academy as 'Good'

**We are pleased to announce the results of our recent Ofsted inspection in November during which Easington Academy has been judged to be 'Good'.**

Inspectors visited the school observing lessons and speaking to students and staff. They reported that "pupils value their learning", that "teachers help them to learn in purposeful ways" and that "teaching is well planned to help pupils remember important ideas."

They also praised the leadership of the school stating that "leaders do a lot to enhance pupils' personal development."

We will now work hard to implement their recommendations and keep improving the school.

You can read the full report on the Ofsted website at: [reports.ofsted.gov.uk](https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk)



## Artist of the term!

**Congratulations to Shannon Collings in Year 11 for producing exceptional work in her GCSE photography class.**

Shannon has shown dedication and a huge passion for the subject and we look forward to exhibiting your art work in the summer.





## Remembrance Day

**During a cold but very bright November morning, we held our annual Remembrance service with contributions from students, teachers, representatives from local churches and the police force and cadets from the Academy who wore their uniform with great pride!**

Our Executive Headteacher, Miss Spoors, read the poem For the Fallen by Laurence Binyon. Marcus McGloen, Oliver Fishburn and our Head of Music, Mrs Romaniuk, played The Last Post as the Union Jack was lowered by our Head Boy, Evan Ball and his deputies Aimee Pygall and Liam Syson.

Year 8 student, Eve Wardle, represented our school at Hetton Town Council's Remembrance service by playing The Last Post and was a great ambassador for our school.



## NELT rocks the Sage!

**Students from all nine schools in the North East Learning Trust joined together to perform at the Sage in Gateshead on Monday 16 December for a Christmas concert spectacular.**

Trust schools come together twice yearly to showcase their incredible talent to parents, staff and students. This is the second time the concert has been held at world-class venue the Sage in Gateshead - a great treat for performers! Check our website and social media accounts for photos of the concert.

## Young hero Lily

**Congratulations to our student Lily who has recently received the Seaham Young Heroes Award.**

Lily was nominated due to her commitment to helping The Robin Todd Centre in South Hetton. The award comes after the Chairman and Trustees of South Hetton and District Community Association appointed Lily as their first-ever junior volunteer.

Despite being only 11 years of age, Lily has continuously shown great enthusiasm towards her community centre and helping others within the village.

She often volunteers to set up rooms and stalls for meetings, events and fundraisers. She has even been known to deliver leaflets around the village to promote the work being done by both the community centre and the South Hetton Parish Council.

The community centre are extremely grateful for all of Lily's hard work and have faith that the future generation will keep the centre at the heart of South Hetton for years to come.

Well done - keep up the fantastic work!



## JOKE CORNER

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?

A mince spy!